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The Lot Smith Company: Utah Goes to War

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When the American Civil War is studied, it is almost always the major battles and campaigns that draw our attention and focus our interest—Manassas, Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, Antietam, Gettysburg, and many others. In remembering a war that cost hundreds of thousands of lives, it is often easy to overlook lesser known contributions to the war effort. This chapter is the story of one minor, but still important, story from the Civil War—an account of the only military unit from the Utah Territory called to active duty during the War.

**Utah’s Attitude Regarding the Civil War**

With the outbreak of war, the federal government found itself, as President Lincoln noted, “in the midst of unprecedented political troubles.”¹ As the national crisis began, communication between the east and west sections of the country was sometimes interrupted—with telegraph service sometimes being out of operation for several days at a time.² Indian attacks on mail and telegraph stations left the nation without cross-country communication, threatening further confusion on both sides of the country.³

Given geographic realities and Washington’s attitude, Utah’s active participation in the Civil War was limited. While other states were seceding to the Confederacy, Utah sought to join the Union and become the thirty-fifth state. Utah’s applications were denied, reinforcing the view that the Civil War was primarily a problem of “the States.”⁴ Shortly after the telegraph reached Salt Lake City in October 1861, though, President Brigham Young publicly declared that “Utah has not seceded [from] the Union, but is firm for the Constitution and law of our once
happy country.” Church members often felt mixed emotions regarding the war because they felt that the nation had denied them the protections of the Constitution, which the Saints considered to be Divinely inspired. The Saints made the best of their situation—settling in Utah over Texas, California, or Oregon—and had done Herculean work to make the land habitable. Because of their hard work, the Saints hoped to be left alone by the United States—a welcome change from the torment and interference they had come to expect at the hands of the federal government.

**Asking for Utah’s Assistance**

After 1861, telegraph lines spanned the width United States and enabled news to be sent thousands of miles almost instantaneously. Then, as now, rapid communication was highly valued. Working telegraph lines and open mail routes supported Union victory and the well-being of the nation. After suffering several Indian attacks and fear of attack by the Confederate Army, the Trail required increased protection.\(^6\)

The Overland Trail—which carried people, mail, and telegraph lines—stretched from Atchison, Kansas to Salt Lake City, Utah. General James H. Craig, Brigadier General of Volunteers, received orders on April 16, 1862 that made him responsible for protecting the Overland Trail.\(^7\) The Trail had been plagued for months by Indian attacks that disrupted travel and communication.\(^8\) Soldiers were now required to protect the Overland Trail.

Mustering a unit from Utah to protect the Trail made good sense. Not only did the Union have access to a people who wanted to prove their loyalty to the United States, but the Mormons were also largely frontier people, used to living on barren and unsettled land. Utahns were well-suited for the job of protecting the mail, telegraph, and emigration routes.
THE CALL TO SERVE

In April 1862, three weeks after the Battle of Shiloh, President Lincoln turned to Brigham Young to muster men to protect the Overland Trail. The idea may have originated in a letter from General Lorenzo Thomas to General James W. Denver, a Brigadier General stationed at Fort Leavenworth. The letter, dated April 11, 1862, suggested that Brigham Young would be ideal to contact because of his interest “in the telegraphic communication with Salt Lake and from his known influence over his own people, and the Indian tribes” around Salt Lake City. Thomas’s letter acknowledged that Brigham Young was “not a functionary recognized by the United States Government” and that any formal request for troops should probably be sent to the Governor of the Territory.

The idea for direct contact from Lincoln to Young, rather than to Governor Stephen Harding, also came from U.S. Congressman Milton Latham of California. In an April 26, 1862 letter, Latham proposed that Lincoln should ask Brigham Young to provide soldiers to protect the Overland Trail. Latham suggested that because of recent trouble with Indians destroying mail stations and making the mail route unsafe “authority [should] be given to Brigham Young to raise and equip one hundred men for ninety days’ service in protecting the [telegraph] line.” In addition to Congressman Latham’s suggestion, it was practical to ask Brigham Young for recruits because there was no official governor in the Utah Territory at that time. Governor John W. Dawson had fled the state, and Lieutenant Governor Frank Fuller was serving as the Acting Governor. The new Governor, Stephen Harding, did not arrive until July.

General Lorenzo Thomas, Adjutant-General of the Army’s Department of the Pacific, and the War Department recognized that the real power to get things accomplished in Utah lay in the hands of Brigham Young and not the federally appointed leadership. Brigham received a
telegram asking for soldiers on April 28, 1862, two days after Congressman Latham’s suggestion to President Lincoln.

Washington, April 28, 1862

Mr. Brigham Young, Great Salt Lake City.

By express direction of the President of the U.S. you are hereby authorized to raise, arm, and equip one company of cavalry for ninety (90) days’ service.

This company will be organized as follows: one Captain; one first Lieutenant; one second Lieutenant; one quartermaster Sergeant; four (4) Sergeants; and eight (8) Corporals; two (2) musicians; two (2) farriers; one Saddler; one Wagoner; and from fifty-six (56) to seventy-two (72) privates. The company will be employed to protect the property of the Telegraph and Overland Mail companies in or about Independence Rock, where depredations have been committed, and will be continued in service only until the U.S. troops can reach the point where they are so much needed. It may, therefore, be disbanded previous to the expiration of the ninety (90) days.

It will not be employed for any offensive operations other than may grow out of the duty hereinafter assigned to it. The officers of the company will be mustered into the U.S. service by any civil officer of the U.S. at Salt Lake City, competent to administer an oath. The men will then be enlisted by the company officers. The men employed in the service above named will be entitled to receive no other than the allowance authorized by law to soldiers in the service of the U.S. Until proper staff officers for subsisting these men arrive you will please furnish subsistence for them yourself keeping an accurate account thereof for further settlement with the U.S. government.

By order of the Secretary of War,
L. Thomas, Adjutant-General.  

The message granted direct authority for President Young to recruit men for active duty military service. The soldiers called were to arm and equip themselves as well as provide their own horses and firearms for the campaign. Perhaps such a small unit was mustered because General Thomas believed that “a large force is [not] necessary,” and raising a small force from Utah “offer[ed] the most expeditious and economical remedy to the obstructions of the mail route.”

Brigham acted upon the telegram within the hour. Writing, “at even date,” to Daniel H. Wells, his first counselor and the commanding officer of the Utah Militia (also known as the Nauvoo Legion), Brigham explained the situation. Young and Wells decided to accept the
government's call. The next order of business was to determine who would command the company. At that moment of military need, Colonel Robert T. Burton, commander of the elite Nauvoo Legion Lifeguards, was leading the Utah militia protecting the mail route from Indian attack in Northern Utah and Wyoming at the request of Frank Fuller, the Acting Governor. General Wells contacted another officer, Colonel Fullmer, but he too was unavailable. With Colonel Burton and Colonel Fullmer unavailable to answer the call from President Lincoln, General Wells selected another experienced officer—Lot Smith.

LOT SMITH—UTAH FOLK HERO

Lot Smith was something of a folk hero in the Utah Territory. Described as a “red head [with] a red face, a straight form, a military bearing… and a gleam in the eyes that bespoke a high temper and an absolute absence of fear,” Lot Smith looked the part of a soldier. According to one member of the Lot Smith Company, “he was gentle as a woman and as brave as a lion… a citizen… a soldier, and also… a missionary of the Church.” With prior service in Indian wars, the Utah War, and as an active member of the Nauvoo Legion, Major Smith was well-respected and admired within the Territory. (Lot Smith, who served as a major in the Nauvoo Legion, will be referred to as Captain Smith throughout this paper because the letter commissioning the Lot Smith Cavalry authorized only the rank of captain for the commander. Accepting the government’s call was actually a demotion for Captain Smith.) His most important previous assignment came during the Utah War when he disrupted and delayed the progress of the United States Army under Colonel Albert Sidney Johnston. Lot Smith was a territorial hero and a man the Church could rely upon to get a job done.
**Brigham's Response**

After General Wells and Captain Smith mustered local men into service (in less than two days) and borrowed animals For additional information, please see the chapter herein regarding the establishment of Camp Douglas, including some from the notable O. Porter Rockwell, Brigham sent the following telegram to General Thomas:

Great Salt Lake City, April 30, 1862.

Adjutant General Thomas, U. S. A. Washington, D. C.

Upon receipt of your telegram of April 27, I requested General Daniel H. Wells, of the Utah militia to proceed at once to raise a company of cavalry and equip and muster them into the service of the United States army for ninety days, as per your telegram. General Wells, forthwith issued the necessary orders and on the 29th day of April the commissioned officers and non-commissioned officers and privates, including teamsters, were sworn in by Chief Justice John F. Kinney, and the company went into camp adjacent to the city the same day.

Brigham Young

At first look, it may seem unusual that President Young took nearly two days to officially respond to the government's request for military service. The delay, though, was characteristic of Brigham Young. Rather than telegraphing the government with a promise of future action, he chose to respond after the action had already been completed.

**Instructions to the Lot Smith Company**

The same day that Brigham Young answered the government's request, the First Presidency, in a letter dated April 30, 1862, clarified and outlined the duties of the Lot Smith Company. The First Presidency directed the men under Lot Smith to “recognize the hand of Providence in [the Saints’] behalf” and to place the wages from the Army as secondary to their purpose. The men were to act as emissaries of the Church, to “establish the influence God has given us… be kind, forbearing, and righteous in all your acts and sayings in public and private… that we may greet you with pleasure as those who have faithfully performed a work worthy of
great praise.” Doing so would enable the men to “again prove that noble hearted American
citizens can don arms in the defense of right and justice, without descending one hair’s breadth
below the high standard of American manhood.” Counsel was also given to abstain from “card
playing, dicing, gambling, drinking intoxicating liquors, or swearing” and to “be kind to [their]
animals.” Expectations were expressed that the Company “would improve the road as you pass
along, so much so as practicable diligence in reaching your destination will warrant, not only for
your own convenience but more particularly for the accommodation of the Mail Company and
the general travel,” showing the First Presidency’s concern for continued cross-country
communication and future Mormon immigration.26

In a final piece of ecclesiastical advice, the Company was directed that each “morning
and [in the] evening of each day let prayer be publicly offered in the Command and in all
detachments thereof, that you may constantly enjoy the guidance and protecting care of Israel’s
God and be blest in the performance of every duty devolved upon you.” With the salutation
“your fellow laborers and Brethren in the Gospel,” the First Presidency formalized their approval
of the Lot Smith Company’s mission.27

DEMONSTRATING LOYALTY

Ben Holliday, proprietor of the stage and U.S. mail line that extended from St. Joseph to
San Francisco, sent a telegram to Brigham Young thanking him for the service that the Mormons
would provide. Holliday promised that “just as soon as these Utah volunteers are located along
the line, I will proceed to replace my coaches, horses, drivers, and rebuild and man the destroyed
mail stations from the North Platte River and Independent Rock to Salt Lake City.”28 The mail
and telegraph would be fully operational, pending the arrival of soldiers on the plains. The ability
to communicate between the east and west coasts of the United States would not be seriously
interrupted again during the Civil War—in part because of service rendered by the Lot Smith Company. The importance of the lines of communication between the East and the West should not be underestimated. Delivery of the mail in the 1860s was not the organized system our nation enjoys today. When mail and telegraph lines were interrupted, communication slowed to a crawl.

Mr. Holladay’s motives for keeping the telegraph open were not entirely patriotic. As owner of the Holladay Mail and Telegraph Company, Holladay’s financial losses could have been severe, even crippling. During the spring of 1862, for example, Indians were held responsible more than $50,000 worth of damage and destruction to animals, supplies, and wagons equipment, as well as the deaths of several mail company employees. Holliday had already been forced to alter his stagecoach route to accommodate the heavy losses he was incurring in Indian Territory.

Protection of the Trail and delivery of the mail, though, were not the sole incentives for accepting the invitation to serve; many Latter-day Saints believed that the government’s call had a larger purpose. Within two weeks after the Utah volunteers enlisted, President Wells publicly stated that the call of the Lot Smith Company was divinely inspired, and he reaffirmed that the Saints would continue to demonstrate their loyalty to the United States—despite the government’s past interactions with the Saints.

It is all right with regard to those expeditions going forth, and will result for the benefit of this people… and in this way we prove ourselves before God, that we are ready to do his will, and to do his bidding. The requisition was made by the proper authority at Washington, and was readily responded to, as has always been the case when a call has been made through the proper channel, and the compliance with this call will result in good. Our brethren will perform their duties and do honour to their country. It is our country; we are citizens of the American Government, and we have a right to act for the preservation of its institutions, and we have always done it whenever called upon, and we have shown ourselves ready to respond to our duty as good citizens, no matter what usage we have received in return. This proves a weapon in the hands of this people for their
defence. Let us feel contented to respond to every call that comes from the proper source, let us do it with full faith and confidence believing that it is right.\textsuperscript{32}

THE MARCH TO FORT BRIDGER

At 1:00 p.m. on May 1, 1862, the Utah Cavalry (as the unit was later designated) embarked on their military assignment.\textsuperscript{33} At nightfall the men gathered to pray. After a futile attempt to travel through Parley’s Canyon the next day, the Company traveled north and east through Emigration Canyon, east of Salt Lake City. At 9:00 a.m. the following morning, they met with Brigham Young and Daniel H. Wells.\textsuperscript{34} The two Church leaders spoke to the troops regarding spiritual, as well as practical, matters. This “Canyon Discourse” was largely a re-iteration of the First Presidency’s April 30 letter to the Company. Brigham Young spoke to the men frankly regarding their mission: “I desire of the officers and privates of this company, that in this service they will conduct themselves as gentlemen, remembering their allegiance and loyalty to our government, and also not forgetting that they are members of the organization to which they belong.”\textsuperscript{35} He cautioned the soldiers never to indulge in intoxicants of any kind and warned them against “associating with bad men or lewd women.” President Young also counseled:

Another thing I would have you remember is that, although you are United States soldiers you are still members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and while you have sworn allegiance to the constitution and government of our country, and we have vowed to preserve the Union, the best way to accomplish this high purpose…is to shun all evil. ... Remember your prayers ... establish peace with the Indians ... always give ready obedience to the orders of your commanding officers. If you do this, I promise you, as a servant of the Lord that not one of you shall fall by the hand of an enemy.\textsuperscript{36}

President Young wanted the Utah soldiers to be viewed as loyal, obedient, patriotic, and thoroughly American—not dependent on Church leaders for direction, counsel, or action. The Church leaders may have also hoped that the Company’s good example would create positive
impressions and some favorable press reports in the East. Brigham also recalled the example of the Mormon Battalion and how their service had benefited the Church at large.

The march to Fort Bridger was difficult. The company “encountered ten feet of newly fallen snow,” and in many places the roads were almost impassable. Despite the fact that there were food shortages, Indian problems, snow, challenges crossing rivers and streams, and oceans of mud to contend with, there was “little murmuring in the camp.” Dr. Harvey C. Hullinger, the company’s doctor and self-appointed diarist, noted that “only the Latter-day Saints could have surmounted these difficulties and remained cheerful.”

As they had been counseled, the Lot Smith Company improved the trail on their way to Independence Rock. One of their major contributions was bridge building—at one point they built three bridges in just four days. They traveled on many washed out roads and had great difficulties in their travel to Independence Rock. As the group followed the Bear River, they found “many of the mail stations were still smoldering when [they] came upon them. Wagon loads of United States mail had been scattered and destroyed by the Indians.” This provided the Company somber first-hand evidence as to why they had been enlisted by President Lincoln. Ironically, at the same time the Lot Smith Company was actively protecting the Overland Trail, “Mormons” were being blamed for destruction of the mail.

**Life at Independence Rock**

After a twenty-six day march that tested the men physically, they arrived at Independence Rock, located in what is today south-central Wyoming. There they joined Lieutenant Colonel William O. Collins, commander of the Eleventh Ohio Cavalry (previously designated as the Sixth Ohio Cavalry), who had also been assigned to protect the Overland Trail. The Eleventh Ohio Cavalry had met several Indian groups, but had avoided military conflict to that point. The
Eleventh Ohio and Lot Smith Cavalries were jointly responsible for protecting the Overland Trail and keeping peace with the Indians on the Plains.\textsuperscript{45}

The Utah Company’s initial contact with Army leadership created a favorable impression. The first days in camp provided them with several opportunities to demonstrate their ability to work and follow orders. The Latter-day Saint soldiers were soon ordered to investigate and rectify Indian horse thefts that had occurred three days earlier at Ham’s Fork, Wyoming. Lot Smith, together with twenty men and four pack animals, was sent to Ham’s Fork in late May. They traveled 150 miles in only two days. When the soldiers reached the Green River, Captain Smith decided that pursuing the Indians any further would entail a “very considerable risk of life,” and he gave up the chase.\textsuperscript{46}

The month of June was spent in camp at Independence Rock with no significant military action. Dr. Hullinger’s diary recorded that he “drew two sketches of Devil’s Gate,” built a bridge “that the Church trains could cross,” and cleaned their pistols, and guns.\textsuperscript{47}

During June, Lot Smith sent several telegrams to Brigham Young. The first telegram, sent June 16, reported on many items of interest to the First Presidency. Captain Smith noted that General Craig was “much pleased with the corral and houses [the Lot Smith Company] was building at Devil’s Gate … and desired us to contribute as much as possible to our own comfort, and render all the assistance possible to the Mormon Emigration.” General Craig “was much pleased with the promptness of our people attending to the call of the General Government…spoke in high terms of our people generally… [And] informed me that he had telegraphed President Lincoln to that effect.” Captain Smith quoted General Craig as having commented that “[the Utah] Cavalry were the most efficient troops he had for the present service” and recommended that the President “engage our services for three months longer.”\textsuperscript{48}
General Craig, though, did not actually ask Secretary of War Edward Stanton to “re-enlist the Utah troops for a limited time” until August 23 (nearly a month after the initial ninety day enlistment had expired).49

A subsequent telegram from Lot Smith, dated June 27, 1862, focused largely on the Army’s relations with the local Indians. Smith wrote that the Army “is decidedly against killing Indians indiscriminately;” the Army, he said, would not act against any Indians unless they had ample evidence and just cause for an attack. Lot also brought up the musings of the Army concerning re-enlistment, saying Colonel Collins “allow[s] we are best suited to guard this road, both men and horses; they are anxious to return, and if they have any influence, I imagine they will try to get [us] recalled and recommend [us] to furnish the necessary guard.”50 The men were desperately needed. General Craig wrote to General James G. Blunt, brigadier general of volunteers and given command of the Department and Army of Kansas on June 26 that he was “using the company of Utah troops in that region, but they are not sufficient.”51 On August 25, Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War, authorized General Craig to “raise 100 mounted men in the mountains and re-enlist the Utah troops for three months, as requested in your telegram received to-day.”52

The Lot Smith Company did not have their enlistment extended, though. On August 25, General Craig received word from Stephen Harding, territorial governor of Utah, that Brigham Young would not extend the men’s enlistment. General Craig was told “not expect anything for the present. Things are not right.”53 On the same day, President Young sent the following telegram to the Adjutant-General, Lorenzo Thomas at Washington D.C.

Governor Harding has received a telegram from Brig. General Craig at Laramie, for the re-enlistment of Captain Lot Smith’s Company and their being marched to Laramie. Please inform me whether the Government wishes the military of the Territory of Utah to go beyond her borders while troops are here from other states who have been sent to
protect the mail and telegraph property.\textsuperscript{54}

Brigham Young was not anxious to resend the Lot Smith Company to protect the Overland Trail when a similar order had been given to Colonel Patrick E. Connor and the California Volunteers who were en route to Utah.\textsuperscript{55} It is not clear whether General Thomas answered President Young’s telegram, but Brigham maintained his position, later stating that “if the Government of the United States should now ask for a battalion of men to fight in the present battle-fields of the nation, while there is a camp of soldiers from abroad located within the corporate limits of this city, I would not ask one man to go; I would see them in hell first.”\textsuperscript{56}

General Craig assigned the Lot Smith Company responsibility for “the first crossing of the Sweetwater to Green River, considering it would be more to [the Company’s] advantage to be near home.”\textsuperscript{57} The Lot Smith Company moved to Fort Bridger during June 1862 to protect the trail between Green River and Salt Lake City.\textsuperscript{58}

**Tracking Down a Horse Thief**

At the beginning of July, the Company was ordered to pursue five U.S. Cavalry deserters. Captain Lot Smith and First Lieutenant J.Q. Knowlton deployed with a squad of nine men to apprehend the deserters. When they embarked on July 4, 1862, Captain Smith directed Lieutenant Knowlton to make contact with Washakie, chief of the Shoshone Indians, who was rumored to live around Bear Lake. Chief Washakie was considered extremely hostile toward emigrants.\textsuperscript{59}

With the “persuasion… of a loaded revolver,” the Utah soldiers convinced a Shoshone warrior to direct them to Chief Washakie.\textsuperscript{60} After entering the Indian’s camp, the eleven-man group was informed they could meet with Chief Washakie, who lived across Bear Lake. While
crossing the lake, it was discovered that Indians had stolen a horse from Samuel W. Richards, a citizen of Salt Lake City. Recognizing the stolen horse, Lieutenant Knowlton captured it and fought the Indian thief, who ultimately succeeded in stealing it back. Following that brief skirmish, the men continued south, entered the Indian camp, and were welcomed by the Chief. Washakie told them “he was no longer acknowledged as the Head Chief of the Snakes.” Lot Smith and his men still sought to improve relations with the Shoshone, and from all appearances, the Chief desired good relations with the Army.\footnote{61}

When he heard that a horse had been stolen, Washakie ordered the horse be given to Lieutenant Knowlton. The Chief showed his disapproval by having the thief severely whipped. In another show of good faith, Washakie provided provisions for the soldier’s return march to Fort Bridger. He placed a fifty-pound bag of flour on the ground and gave half to the soldiers. Washakie also entrusted the soldiers to take one of his relatives to Fort Bridger for medical attention.\footnote{62} After the detachment returned to Fort Bridger on July 13, Captain Smith reported to Brigham Young by telegram that the Company had followed the First Presidency’s counsel to “establish peace with the Indians.”\footnote{63}

\textbf{THE COMPANY’S LAST MISSION}

The night of July 15, Indians raided the ranch of Jack Robinson, a prominent settler near Fort Bridger and stole nearly 300 of his horses and mules. The Lot Smith Company responded to a request to recover the animals. Sixty-one members of the company tracked the animals through the Snake River Valley.\footnote{64} The trip took longer than planned; the Company ran out of provisions and was forced to live on wild strawberries. A group of twenty-one men under the direction of Lieutenant Joseph Rawlins returned home “by way of Fort Bridger” and arrived in Salt Lake City on August 2, 1862.\footnote{65}
The remaining members of the Company continued their difficult and dangerous search through the Tetons. While following the Snake River, they were forced to swim nearly 200 yards in deep water with a swift current. As the detachment crossed the river, Private Donald McNichol lost control of his horse, which was unwilling to swim across the strong current. Suddenly, McNichol was pulled beneath the water’s surface. To the horror of his fellow soldiers, they watched helplessly as his body was carried downstream. After a desperate search, McNichol was declared drowned; his body was never recovered. Because McNichol did not die in combat, President Young’s promise that “not one of you shall fall by the hand of an enemy” was still fulfilled.

In a somber mood, the soldiers continued their trek down the Snake River and toward Salt Lake City. Lot Smith felt particularly distraught by the loss of Private McNichol. He lost his appetite almost entirely, and one night “walked the camp all night, broken hearted, because of the death.” With their supplies nearly exhausted, the company passed their original federal service separation date—July 29, 1862. The Company was ordered to return home “so that there may be no loss of … supplies used more than could be called for by the ninety days’ service.” The soldiers under the direct command of Lot Smith returned to Salt Lake City on August 15, 1862—107 days after they initially left Salt Lake City. After reaching their destination, Captain Smith told his men that “as far as he was concerned [they] were dismissed.”

**LEAVING A LEGACY OF SERVICE**

Heber C. Kimball, Brigham Young’s first counselor, spoke to the men upon their return. President Kimball reportedly told the men tearfully that the Company had been a “ram in the thicket,” given as a sacrifice to prove the loyalty and love of the Latter-day Saints for the United States. Kimball told the Company that they had “saved Israel” with their service.
day Saints had shown good faith by protecting American interests and communication lines
during a time of war.

The Lot Smith Company was honorably discharged on August 16, 1862. Together they earned
more than $35,000 for wages, horseshoeing, blacksmithing, and other expenses incurred over
their three-and-a-half months of service—a boon for cash-deprived Utah. Daniel H. Wells
noted that Mormons “have always [served] whenever called upon, and we have shown ourselves
ready to respond to our duty as good citizens, no matter what usage we have received in
return.” Brigham agreed with President Wells, stating that he had agreed to send the men “to
prove our loyalty to the Constitution and not to their infernal meanness… to fight the battles of a
free country to give it power and influence, and to extend our happy institutions in other parts of
this widely extended republic. In this way we have proved our loyalty. We have done everything
that has been required of us.”

The Civil War continued for another three years and cost the nation dearly. The service of
the Lot Smith Company did not influence the outcome of the war, but Utah’s only official
military contribution during the Civil War provided an opportunity to demonstrate the loyalty of
the Latter-day Saints collectively and the members of the Lot Smith Company individually as
they faithfully served their country.

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1 Abraham Lincoln. "President's Message," National Republican (Washington, DC), December
4, 1861, 1.

2 Fredk. Steele to Major-General Halleck, April 22, 1862. The War of the Rebellion: A
Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I Vol.
3 See Aurora Hunt, *The Army of the Pacific: Its Operations in California, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, plains region, Mexico, etc. 1860-1866* (Glendale: California, 1951).


5 "The Completion of the Telegraph," *Deseret News* (Salt Lake City), October 23, 1861, 5.


9 Latter-day Saints took notice that on April 6, 1862, Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston was killed during at the Battle of Shiloh (also known as the Battle of Pittsburg Landing).


13 The Territorial Governor of Utah, John W. Dawson had fled the state on December 31, 1861 after an alleged attack on his life. See "Governor Dawson’s Statement," *The Deseret News* (Salt Lake City), January 22, 1862.


16 Edward W. Tullidge, In *History of Salt Lake City: by authority of the City Council and under the supervision of a committee appointed by the council and author* (Salt Lake City: Star Printing Co. 1886), 254-258.

17 Brigham Young to Daniel H. Wells, Brigham Young Letter Books, April 28, 1862, Church History Library, Salt Lake City, UT.
Letter to Colonel A.L. Fullmer, April 28, 1862. Utah Military Files, Utah State Archives, Salt Lake City, Utah. The authors have so far been unable to find additional information regarding Colonel Fullmer.

Lot Smith, a newspaper clipping penciled “12-8-23” by George H. Crosby, Lot Smith Papers 1856-1892, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT.


In a case of historical irony, in 1862 Lot Smith fought for the United States, while Albert Sidney Johnston fought for the Confederacy. Surely, this irony was not lost on Latter-day Saints. See "The Rank of General," *The Semi-Weekly Shreveport News*, 7 February 1862, 1.

Letter from Daniel H. Wells to O.P. Rockwell, April 28, 1862. Utah Military Files, Utah State Archives, Salt Lake City, Utah.


Edward W. Tullidge, *History of Salt Lake City: by authority of the City Council and under the supervision of a committee appointed by the council and author* (Salt Lake City: Star Printing Co., 1886), 256.

Letter to Captain Lot Smith and Company, April 30, 1862, in Lot Smith Papers 1856-1892; L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT.

Letter to Captain Lot Smith and Company, April 30, 1862, in Lot Smith Papers 1856-1892; L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT.

Kate B. Carter, "Utah During Civil War Years," in *Treasures of Pioneer History Volume 5* (Salt Lake City: Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, 1956), 391.


J.V. Frederick, *Ben Holladay, the stagecoach king; a chapter in the development of transcontinental transportation* (Glendale, California: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1940), 168.

Aurora Hunt. *The Army of the Pacific: Its Operations in California, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, plains region, Mexico, etc. 1860-1866* (Glendale: California, 1951), 186.


For additional information please see the chapter herein on Mormons and the Civil War press.


54 Brigham Young Letter to Adjutant-General Thomas, Brigham Young Letter Books, Church History Library, Salt Lake City, UT.


57 Letter to Brigham Young from Lot Smith, Lot Smith Papers 1856-1892, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT.


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63 Margaret May Merrill Fisher, C. N. Lund, and Nephi Jensen, "Chapter One." In Utah and the civil war being the story of the part played by the people of Utah in that great conflict, with special reference to the Lot Smith expedition and the Robert T. Burton expedition (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1929), 25.

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