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# Civil War Saints: Research Update

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# Civil War Saints

BY KENNETH L. ALFORD

KENNETH L. ALFORD ([alford@byu.edu](mailto:alford@byu.edu)) IS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CHURCH HISTORY AND DOCTRINE AT BYU.

**T**HIS YEAR MARKS THE MIDPOINT OF THE sesquicentennial observance of the American Civil War. Although Utah Territory was physically removed from Civil War battlefields, the war had a deep impact on the area and its inhabitants. *Civil War Saints*, published by BYU’s Religious Studies Center and Deseret Book in summer 2012, takes a fresh and comprehensive look at Latter-day Saints and Utah Territory during the Civil War.

Even before *Civil War Saints* was published, I could tell that it was not going to be the end of my research regarding Latter-day Saint involvement with the Civil War. In the months that have followed the book’s publication, my research efforts have multiplied into several varied, but related, Civil War projects.

## FINDING ADDITIONAL LATTER-DAY SAINT CIVIL WAR VETERANS

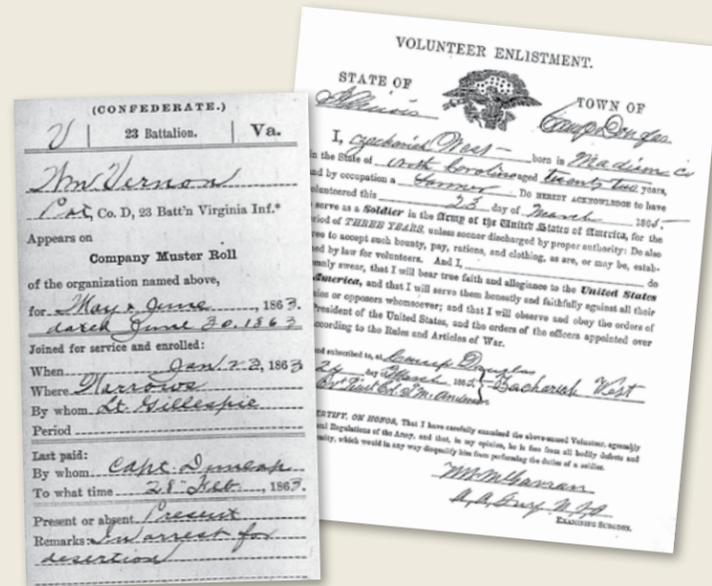
*Civil War Saints* includes the most complete list published to date of Latter-day Saints—both Yankees and Confederates—who served in the Civil War. By the time *Civil War Saints* was published, my research team and I had discovered 384 LDS Civil War veterans (310 Union soldiers, sailors, and marines; 71 Confederate soldiers; and 3 soldiers, known as “Galvanized Yankees,” who fought first for the Confederacy, were captured, taken to a prisoner of war camp, and then took an oath of allegiance to fight for the Union). Our veterans list was a great start, but it was not complete. I invited readers to notify me if they had leads or information regarding possible additional Civil War veterans.

During the past year, I have been contacted by many readers who shared family history information about possible Civil War veterans. Many also wrote asking us to confirm, if possible, family folklore regarding a rumored Civil War ancestor. We have applied the same documentary and research standards to these additional soldiers as we did to the veterans listed in *Civil War Saints*. During

the past year we have added twenty-seven more Civil War veterans (two-thirds are Confederate soldiers) to our growing list. Tables 1–3 summarize their baptismal dates and Civil War military service.

The discovery of one of the recently added veterans required us to create a new military service category. William Vernon, 1832–1895, fought first for the Confederacy with the 23rd Battalion, Virginia Infantry. After an aborted attempt to desert in June 1863, he successfully deserted two months later. Vernon later voluntarily enlisted and fought for the Union in the 118th Regiment, Indiana Infantry.

We were also able to add a fourth Galvanized Yankee to our LDS veterans list. Zachariah West, 1841–1906, served as a private on both sides of the war—first with the



Left: This company muster record notes that Confederate soldier William Vernon tried to desert on June 30, 1863 but was captured. He later successfully deserted and joined the Union army. (National Archives)

Right: After serving time in a prisoner of war camp, Confederate soldier Zachariah West took an Oath of Allegiance in March 1865 and served in the United States Army. Library of Congress.

64th Regiment, North Carolina Infantry (Confederate) and then with the 6th Regiment, US Volunteer Infantry (Union). West was baptized before the war in June 1858 (the same month the Utah War ended); Vernon was baptized after the war in July 1880.

Please contact me if you have any LDS Civil War veterans in your family tree!

When Baptized	Additions	New Totals
Before the Civil War	9	188
Before the Civil War (presumed)	—	18
During the Civil War	2	18
After the Civil War	16	186
Baptismal Date Uncertain	—	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>411</b>

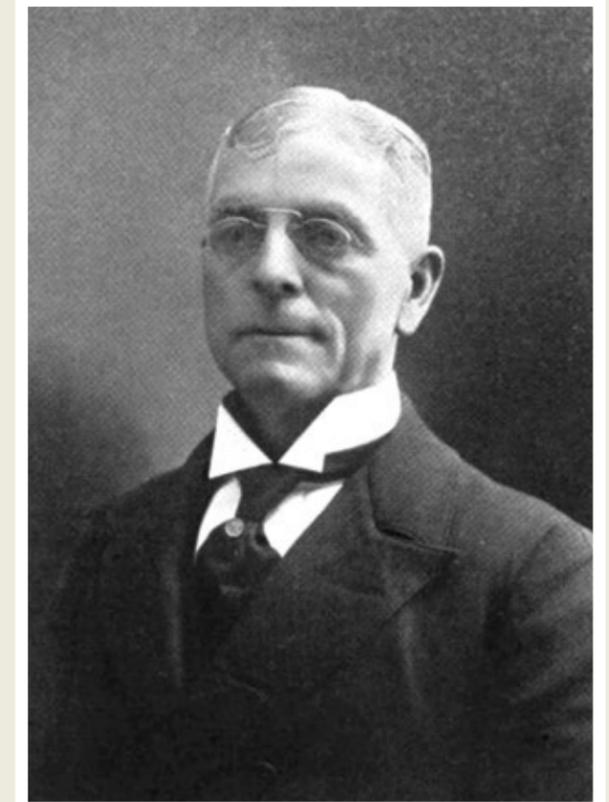
Table 1. When LDS Civil War veterans were baptized as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Military Affiliation	Additions	New Totals
Union	7	317
“Galvanized Yankee”	1	4
Voluntarily Fought for Both Sides	1	1
Confederate	18	89
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>411</b>

Table 2. Military affiliation of LDS Civil War veterans.

Service Branch	Additions	New Totals
Union Army	7	303
Union Army (presumed)	—	6
Union Navy	—	6
Union Navy (presumed)	—	1
Union Marines	—	1
Union and Confederate Army	2	5
Confederate Army	17	88
Confederate Army (presumed)	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>411</b>

Table 3. Service branches of LDS Civil War veterans.



Seymour B. Young served as a corporal in the Lot Smith Utah Cavalry Company in 1862. He was also one of sixty-six Civil War veterans who represented Utah in July 1913 at the fiftieth reunion commemorating the Battle of Gettysburg. Young later served in Church leadership as one of the seven Presidents of the Seventy. Utah State Historical Society.

## THE 1862 LOT SMITH CAVALRY COMPANY

Utah Territory provided only one active duty military unit during the entire Civil War. During the evening of April 28, 1862, Brigham Young received a War Department telegram sent “by express direction of the President of the United States” requesting one cavalry company to guard the Overland Trail. The unit, under the command of Captain Lot Smith, was raised and mustered in two days and departed Great Salt Lake City the following day.

While working on *Civil War Saints*, I obtained a copy of an 1862 pencil pocket diary faithfully kept by Harvey Coe Hullinger, a private in the Lot Smith Utah Cavalry Company. We transcribed the diary, and I originally intended to include it as an appendix in *Civil War Saints*. In the months prior to publication, though, I became aware of a few other 1862 diaries and logs kept by soldiers of the Utah Cavalry Company. Those manuscripts have



Charles Warren and Daniel Ball met twice near the “Bloody Angle,” shown here—in July 1863 during the Battle of Gettysburg and fifty years later during the 1913 reunion. Library of Congress.

also been transcribed and are being prepared for publication in a book about the Civil War service of the Lot Smith Utah Cavalry Company.

### 1913 GETTYSBURG REUNION

July 2013 marked the sesquicentennial of the battle of Gettysburg. It was also the centennial of the July 1913 Gettysburg battle commemoration; many of the 53,407 veterans who attended in 1913 actually fought there in July 1863. After some appropriation twists and turns, the Utah legislature promised to fund sixty-six Civil War veterans from Utah to attend the reunion—fifty-seven Yankees and nine Confederates. Twenty-one of Utah’s attendees fought at Gettysburg (eighteen Yankees and three Confederates).

This research project involved teaming with Ken Nelson, a FamilySearch collection manager and reference consultant in the Church’s Family History Library, to uncover and share the story of Civil War veterans living in Utah who attended the 1913 Gettysburg Reunion. One of the many interesting side stories we discovered involved Confederate Charlie Warren, who enlisted as a fourteen-year-old orderly in the 28th Regiment, Virginia Infantry. During the 1913 Gettysburg Reunion, Warren shook hands near the “Bloody Angle” with Union veteran Daniel O. Ball, a former gunner from Battery A, 4th US Artillery. Little did either know that they had met before on Cemetery

Ridge—during the July 1863 battle. Of the experience, Warren said, “I had little trouble in finding the place for it was well marked with a monument and two cannon. As I was looking over the old gun I heard a man say he manned the same gun on that day just fifty years before.” After comparing memories, Warren and Ball determined they “had matched weapons during the thickest of the fight. I was a lad of fourteen years old and six months at the time and of course I was smaller and lighter than the gunner who proved afterwards to have been my new friend Ball. He bowled me over with the swab stick he had been using on the gun and I attacked him with one old sword bayonet, the only weapon I had. After the melee I came out with a bayonet wound in my forehead and Ball was shot through the arm.”<sup>1</sup> The resulting article, titled “‘The Brave Men, Living and Dead, Who Struggled Here’: Utah Veterans and the Gettysburg Reunion of 1913,” was published in the Summer 2013 issue of *Utah Historical Quarterly*.

### FURTHER RESEARCH

Research on additional topics related to Utah Territory and the Civil War will result in future publications and conference presentations. Through continuing research on this important and interesting historical period we are able to increase our understanding of the influence that the Civil War has had on Utah and the Church.

The publication of *Civil War Saints*—as well as the follow-on research, conference presentations, and publications outlined here—was made possible because of generous support from donors who support Religious Education at Brigham Young University. Student research assistants and I spent many hundreds of hours in painstaking and detail-oriented research to find and document the Latter-day Saint Civil War veterans whose stories we have been able to share. The kind of research represented here provides students with needed financial assistance to continue their schooling as well as valuable research and work experience. I appreciate the financial support that makes this research possible and strive to be a good steward of the funds received. ✂

1. “Shakes Hands Over Cannon with Foe of 50 Years Ago,” *Salt Lake Herald-Republican*, August 31, 1913.

# “I Will Hasten My Work in Its Time”: Mexico School Becomes an MTC

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ON JANUARY 29, 2013, FORTY-NINE years after the Church’s high school in Mexico City was in operation, Elder Dan Johnson, the Mexico Area President, said the school would become a Missionary Training Center following graduation in June. To the emotional students and faculty, Elder Jeffrey R. Holland gently taught, “Tears are the price we pay for love.” He asked, “Do you believe God knows everything?” and then answered, “I do too.” Continuing, he asked the students if God knew when ground was broken nearly half a century earlier that “this day would also come.” To which he answered:

He did. Of course he did. And in fact, that day may have been done and that school started in order that this day could come. Because we need an MTC immediately, we need it now. And if we started to build one tomorrow it would take us three years, and millions of dollars. . . . I believe God knew this day would come the day we broke ground for this school. . . . This is a dramatic moment in Church history. You have lived to see your role in one of the most historic moments in the Church.<sup>1</sup>

In 1958, David O. McKay, after receiving requests from Church leaders and members in Mexico to start schools for the Mexican members, assigned a committee under the direction of Elder Marion G. Romney of the Quorum of the Twelve to propose how to best meet the education needs of the Saints in Mexico.<sup>2</sup> Based on their report, President McKay and the Church Board of Education began taking action.<sup>3</sup> Within five years, nearly thirty elementary schools were in operation throughout Mexico, along with a secondary school in Mexico City, known first as “El

Arbolillo” and now as Benemérito de las Américas.<sup>4</sup> In the groundbreaking ceremony for “El Arbolillo” held on November 4, 1963, Elder Romney prophesied:

This school for which we are breaking ground today is destined to become a great Spanish-speaking cultural center. Its influence will reach far beyond the valley of Mexico. . . . It will be felt in all of Latin America, including South America. Hundreds of thousands of people will come here. Going out from here, they will help



Left to right: Joseph T. Bentley, Ernest LeRoy Hatch, Argicol Lozano Herrera, and Elder Marion G. Romney break ground for Benemérito on November 4, 1963. Photos courtesy of Barbara E. Morgan.