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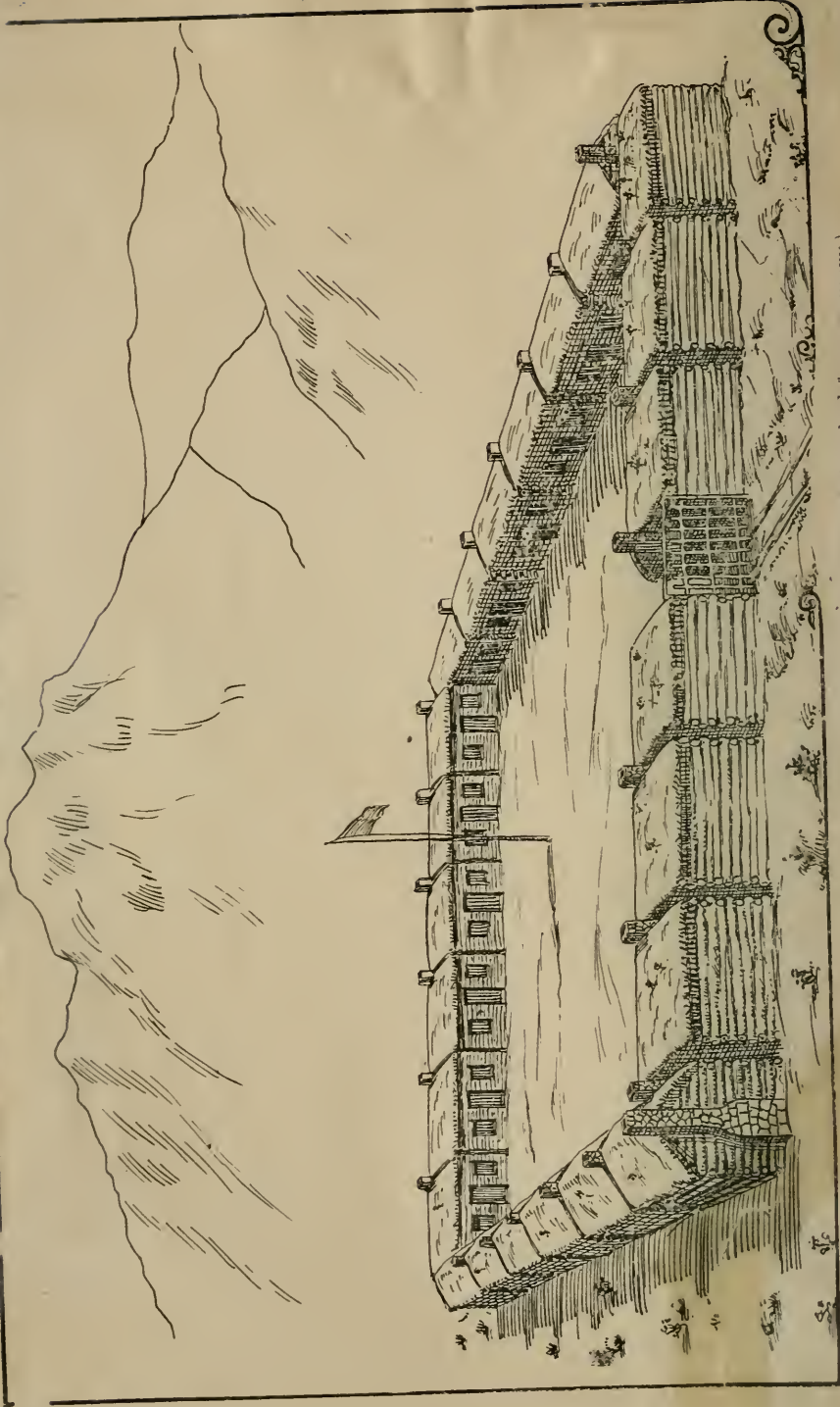
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THE OLD FORT, BUILT IN THE AUTUMN OF 1830 (sketched from memory)

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A BRIEF HISTORY

OF

SPRINGVILLE, UTAH,

FROM ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT

SEPTEMBER 18, 1850, TO THE 18TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1900.

---

FIFTY YEARS

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*"Blow ye the Trumpet, Blow, for the Year of Jubilee"*

COMPILED AND WRITTEN BY

DON CARLOS JOHNSON

PRINTED BY

WILLIAM F. GIBSON, SPRINGVILLE

SEPTEMBER, 1900



into insignificance compared to those of the hand-cart company.

This autumn previous to the appearance of the hand-cart company, Thomas Child came to Springville, and has been a diligent and faithful worker ever since. Others who came were: Fred-

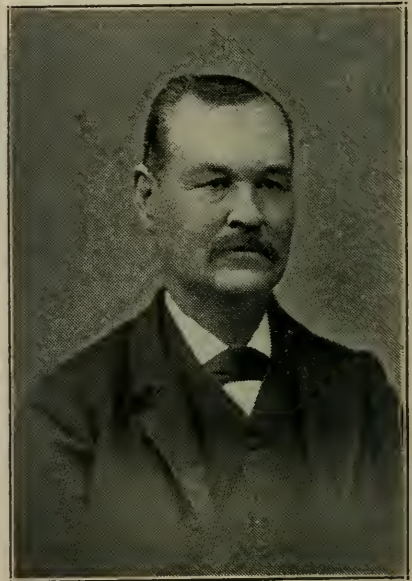
erick Weight, our choir leader for many years; James D. Reynolds, one of our first village tailors, and Mrs. Catherine Boyer and family. The three sons, John, Philip and Francis, have been identified with our city in many capacities since.

## CHAPTER XI.

THE year 1857 opened auspiciously. Our town began to take on airs of permanency. It had been thought, by some, that we would not remain long in Utah, but would move on to some other point, or journey back to Jackson county, Missouri. On the 14th of March, 1857, occurred the first tragedy to blot our fair history. We would fain pass over this dark spot, and let the foul crime be blotted from the minds of men, but like Banquo's ghost—"it will not down." There fell at this time three men; two in the middle of life, and one just having entered his man's estate. One of the victims was "Duff" Potter, a Mormon counted in good standing, and the other two, who were apostates, were Wm. Parish and his son, Beatson. The elder had been a Mormon, and in the early history of the church, his name had figured prominently. The son had also belonged to the church, but for some cause, had, like his father, withdrawn from the faith. They intended going to California and had started on their journey, it is said, that fateful night.

In that early day and, indeed, until quite recently, the word apostate, stood for all that was vile. To call a man an apostate was the epitome of all that was evil. The elder people seemed to have forgotten that they themselves were apostates from the faith of their fathers, and that a man may change his religious views, and yet not

be a knave. But little has ever been ascertained as to who were the perpetrators of the bloody deed, but what has been learned the following narrative will show. It is still remembered that "Duff" Potter and William Parish had been bitter enemies to each other, since coming from their home in the east. Parish was a bold outspoken man and did not attempt to conceal his hatred for his old-time enemy, which naturally made him the object of sus-



LYMAN S. WOOD



SEMIRA WOOD

picion and dislike to some of the more zealous of the faith. It appears that Potter and one Abram Durfee pretended to apostatize, in order to get into the confidence of the Parishes. The conspirators met the Parishes, whom they completely deceived, and made them believe that they were also desirous of leaving Utah and escaping into California. Thus the scheme worked along until spring opened, when a day was fixed for their escape from Mormondom. The Parishes had some fine horses, which they had concealed beyond the "cane patch," south of town, and they were to slip away in the evening; secure the horses and by morning be far upon their journey. It was arranged by the conspirators, who evidently had outside confederates, that their families should be left behind, until such time as they could be sent for in safety. One evening, the word came to the "Little School House," where a meeting was in session, that two men had been killed, a mile and a half south of town, just east of the main road. A posse was hastily sent to the scene of slaughter, where they found the three men dead. Potter and Parish, who lay

near each other, showed signs of a bloody, hand-to-hand encounter. Their guns and pistols lay close by, while their blood-stained knives told the awful tale. Both were cut horribly. Beatson Parish had run seventy-five yards from the spot where he received a shot in the heart, and was found dead in his own blood. Young Orin Parish, who was of the party, ran for his life and made his escape, but so great was his excitement that he seemed to know but little; except that as they were walking rapidly along, in single file, they were suddenly fired upon by several men in ambush, who then made a rush, and as he was not hurt he ran, following his brother, who soon fell. He jumped over a fence into a cornfield and made his way in safety to his mother's home, and could never afterward identify any one as having had any hand in the awful deed. The bodies were brought to the school house and the next day were buried. All those, who were supposed to have had a hand in the shocking affair, have gone to their final account and there we will leave them. The Parish horses were attached for debt, but were released, and later in the year Mrs. Parish and her family left Springville forever.

On the 4th of April the semi-annual municipal election was held and the returns showed the election of the following officers: Mayor—A. F. McDonald; Aldermen—Noah Packard, Myron N. Crandall, Wilbur J. Earl and Abram Day. Councilors—Lorenzo Johnson, Gideon D. Wood, William Huggins, Uriah E. Curtis, Simmons P. Curtis, II, H. Kearns, Noah T. Guyman, Spicer W. Crandall and John M. Stewart. Recorder—John M. Stewart. Chas. Drury was appointed July 12th 1858, vice John M. Stewart, resigned. Marshal—Cyrus Sanford. 1856-7

During the year 1858-7 some of the male members of the community began to follow the "fashion of the