

## DIARY OF ARZA ERASTUS HINCKLEY

(The following Diary is on file in the L.D.S. Church Historians Library in Salt Lake City, written by Arza Erastus Hinckley. The diary was placed in the Church files by his granddaughters in whose possession it had been preserved, Vida Cardon Adams and Blondel Cardon Porter, by consent of Vernon Hinckley.)

There was a boy that used to go outside of the gard for the cows at Far West at the time that we ware baricad by the mob in the fawl of 1838. This lasted about 12 days, when the main part of the mob returned and placed our men in a hollow square & one by one ware brought up at the point of a baonet to a little table with the priveledge of leaving the Church of Jesus Christ or sign over there property to pay the mob for mobing us, or leve the state fourthwith or be shot down.

The boys next publick servis was in Nauvoo in '45 labouring to complete the Temple as Pres. Young or Apostle Young, as then we had no President, told us to finish the Temple as soon as we could & prepare to go West & come around to the starting point Independents Jackson Missouri. We laboured on that during the summer & on the Nauvoo Hous in the fawl until stricken down with ague. The next publick labour was driving 2 teams with Church Records from Piskey [Mt. Pisgah] to Council Bluffs on very scanty rations that we had a meal for six husky boys one thin Johnecake baked in a small frying pan in the morning & a small very small kittle of mush with very little besides a little milk. Arrived at Missouri River in June. Went down to Misouri after some supplies. Faired sumtusly that trip. Came back. Helped to ferry first teams over the River. After which Col. Allen came to us with a rechwisssion for a Battalion of 500 men to go to Mexico and defend our flag and honor of our country & as we ware exiles & would soon be upon Mexican soil. Thomas Benton was authorized to cawl out the Malissia of Missouri & Ioawa & wipe us out upon the condition of our refusing to. But at the call of our grate leader General Brigham Young 502 of us inlisted, this boy with the rest. After our General B.Y. said to us Go, my boys, as he used the fraze & do your [duty] as Saints & soldiers & you shall never have to fire a shot at your enimes.

Now the history of the march of these men, there feats and hardships is written in the history of that people. Finaly will mension [or I only] only a few items & results. The situation of the people at the time of inlisting - The cawl was for 250 times our quoto of men. We ware forbidden an asilum [asylum] in any of the territory of the United States. This was about our fifth time. We ware scattered 400 miles on the road & in extreme poverty & mostly very destatute, yet we had covenanted to move all that desired to come out. To help outfit was the most able bodied of the people that ware gathered up on the road for 200 miles, leving many families along the roadside without a man to look after them, thus leving an exceedin heavy burthan upon those of them who ware left behind as well as upon those who took up there march for California, the distance of 2,600 miles, who sent back there wages from there different times of there receving there money, sent it back to feed the saints, to feed the needy & went on with the battalion and went on destatute. As our boys situation was a sample we will

mension his condition, as on the 20 of Dec. '46 crossing a mountain 10,000 ft. high west of Pueblo, Colorado, he had on a hickory shirt, blue drilling pants, wool hat, pr. of socks & shoes, no coat, no vest, bedding & Macanaw blanket & such was there love for the church.

Now as to the worth of this campaign -- the saints lives ware saved, the poor ware fed & clothed, our flag was honored and Mexico seeded about 1,000,000 square miles of territory to the States, thus portraying some of the gratest feets of the men in there defense and support our country which under the circumstances ther has been no paralel.

We find our boy now in his 21st year discharged in Grate Salt Lake City, destatute, molding the second 400 adobes in Utah. Next on his way to Missouri River, sometimes living on roos [rose] buds [hips], prickly pears, meeting a few trains of emigrants between the Green River and Sweet Water to the tune of 6 or 8 meals, his Aunt giving him 2 quarts of corn on Pacifick Spring, & with his only 50 cents he bought 2 lbs of flour. From ther on some portion of the time he had some meal, & the last 100 miles there had been teams come out to meet them.

After this journey he has been lost from the year '50 when he is found again in Salt Lake City. Starts in 1851 to drive team for the Church. Continues most of the time in this vocation when on March the first he marries. His occupation continues about the publick works & President Wells untill 1867, with some few items of hardship endured. Went out to meet the first handcart company 400 miles and the last one 300 miles. Met some of the men out when ? of them a fleeing home. In 1863 met 8 of Coners command at the mouth of Parley's canyon, (as he with a boy 14 years old ware drive a flock of sheep.) The soldiers ware in a wagon which they stopped. The first one out nocked the boy topsatervy over the dugway 20 ft. or more down, and boy sending the soldier down after the boy in like condition. He droped 2 or 3 more of them in like maner, but the soldiers got around him. One of them jumped in behind him and caut around the back & got down on the ground under him bard (?) him with there heads downhill when all got on top of him & beat him & left him for ded, and some of the effects of that beating is felt the this day, Feb. 1896, in dimness in my head that I stager as I walk.

(End of this Diary of Arza Erastus Hinckley)