



Message From The President



Dear Mormon Battalion Association Members,

By the end of this month, our new Webpage will be fully loaded. We intend to add items that are of interest, educational and accurate. We will need your help to continue hosting this site. Please let us know if you could lend some Webpage support to us. Our dedicated research team has completed some marvelous work. Almost \$2000 has been donated since the first of the year, to continue to fund that important research, and we ask that if you can help us, to please do so. We're looking to grow your association and encourage you to invite friends and especially,

descendants of the original members of the Mormon Battalion, to come and join with us. The Mormon Battalion Association is a fully documented 501 c 3 non-profit organization, which means that any and all contributions are tax deductible. Thanks to all of you for your continued support and confidence.

God bless you.

Jerome Gourley, President

The Fifth Woman Who Made it to California

Compiled by *Correcting the Record Project* in collaboration with the MBA

Research has clearly documented four women who made it all the way to California. However, in an interview in her old age, Melissa [Burton] Coray states that five women went all the way to California, including the name of Nancy Brown Davis who was not with the battalion.

Mormon Battalion



Lnd Melissa Burton

Melissa Burton Coray,
Laundress

Colonel Cooke records that he gave permission for five women to continue past Santa Fe.

"...five wives of officers were reluctantly allowed to accompany the march, but furnished their own transportation." (Journal)

"At the earnest request of two captains and three sergeants, their wives were permitted to accompany the expedition." (Official Report)

Past researchers have identified Sophia Tubbs as the fifth woman, suggesting she returned to Pueblo with the Willis sick detachment. However, there is no documentation for that assumption. She is still Sophia Gribble (not married to Tubbs until after the march). Willis makes no mention of a woman with his detachment in his later report to the LDS Church Historian in about 1860. And Tubbs and Gribble were privates, not officers or sergeants as described by Cooke. New research suggests that Mary Clark Steele Brown is that fifth woman. Captain Hunter and Captain Davis and Sgt Coray, Sgt Ebenezer Brown and Sgt Edmund Brown and their wives would be consistent with the statement by Colonel Cooke that two captains and three sergeants were allowed to bring their spouses along.



Mary Clark Steele Brown,
Family

The Thomas Bullock Roster documenting those arriving with the detachments in Salt Lake from Pueblo provides an early piece of evidence. Only one Mary Brown is listed on the Bullock roster which is Mary McRee Black Brown with her son. Mary Clark Brown (often referred to as Agnes Brown) is conspicuously missing on that roster.

Mary Clark Steele Brown, wife of Edmund Brown, is traveling with her entire family including her husband who is a sergeant, two of his sons from his previous marriage, one who is a soldier (William) and the other (Edmund) is an officer's servant, and her two sons (George and Isaiah Steele) from her previous marriage. Her brother (Joseph Clark) and two nephews (Joseph and Riley Clark who are sons of another brother) are also with them. Edmund and Mary with her brother are traveling in Company E. All the rest are in Company A. None of them are in the sick detachments. And later, Edmund and all three of Mary and Edmund's sons in the Battalion reenlist in the Mormon Volunteers. Their mother was with them and no reason to travel to Utah to find their wife and mother.

She is found in the 1850 California census record with Edmund, Isaiah, William, and Edmund Jr. Edmund and Mary remained in California until Edmund died in California in 1872. Mary died in Provo the following year where she was

living with a son after her husband's death. An important document, Mary's obituary, appeared in the Deseret News which stated she was one of four women who accompanied the command. As in other sources referring to the women who marched the entire distance, the number of women was confused. Two soldiers spoke at her funeral including William T Follett who was in Company E with Edmund and Mary. One final document provides a critical piece of evidence. A pension record submitted in San Francisco describes an injury that Mary's son, Isaiah, incurred while in the Mormon Volunteers. It states he was taken to his mother's home in San Diego after the injury.

Together as a whole, these documents provide a solid foundation for this new discovery that Mary Clark Steele Brown was the fifth woman who made it to California.



Susannah Louise Moses Davis,
Family

Mormon Battalion



Fam Phoebe Draper

Phoebe Draper Brown,
Family

Mormon Battalion



Fam Lydia Ann Edmonds

Lydia Ann Edmonds Hunter, Fath

Mary Ann Kirk
Executive Secretary

175th Anniversary
Logo & Patch



We are suggesting this logo be used by our Association during this 175th Anniversary year. It can be used as a logo on our correspondence, as a patch for uniforms, on tee shirts, or in any other ways we can all think of. Let the staff know what your ideas are for utilizing it. Email me at gpc100@sbcglobal.net with your thoughts.

Greg Christofferson
Vice President