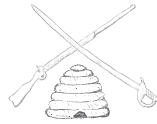




Official attendees to the Forty-Third National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic held in Salt Lake City, Utah, in August 1909 wore this ribbon to signify their delegate status. The flower in the middle is a sego lily, Utah's state flower. The medal at the bottom honored the centennial year of Abraham Lincoln's birth.

(Courtesy of David Safranski)



CHAPTER 19

Ardis E. Parshall

“THIS SPLENDID OUTPOURING OF WELCOME”

SALT LAKE CITY
AND THE 1909 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT
OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Thirty-eight men and seven women left Salt Lake City in August 1908 with a mission: to capture an army and bring it back to Utah. Their targets were the quarter million members of the Grand Army of the Republic, meeting in national encampment at Toledo, Ohio, and their mission was to convince that army to hold its 1909 convention in Salt Lake City. The ranks of that association of Union veterans of the Civil War were thinning by the passing of aged veterans, but the Grand Army was still a formidable political and social power. Its national encampments—1909 would be its forty-third such annual gathering—were prizes eagerly sought by cities that competed with promises of unsurpassed hospitality.¹

Salt Lake City may have seemed an unlikely host for an encampment: Utah had played a negligible role in the Civil War, and twenty

years earlier Mormons were refused Grand Army membership even though they may have given honorable military service years before religious conversion. Utah's Grand Army enrollment was barely 350, nearly all of whom had moved to Utah after service elsewhere. Yet Salt Lake held undeniable attractions for the largely eastern organization: the romance of the Wild West was in full flower in those years before the First World War. The natural wonders of the Great Salt Lake and curiosity about Mormons were almost irresistible draws. And finally, the timing was right: most surviving veterans were past seventy years of age and conscious that if they did not visit the West at this invitation, they might never have another opportunity. Utah boosters played off that sentiment by repeating the story of the Grand Army man who was turned away from the gates of heaven



"GAR March," with photo of John Held's Band. (Library of Congress)

because he had never visited Salt Lake. "You had your chance at paradise," Saint Peter told him, "and you let it get away."²

George B. Squires, a Massachusetts native who had served with a Connecticut unit at Gettysburg before moving to Salt Lake, extended the formal invitation at Toledo: "There will be no trouble that we are not willing to go to, there will be no obstacle which we will not overcome; we will take care of you, and we will make you think you have had the time of your lives before you get out of Utah." New Yorker James Tanner, national GAR commander in 1905–6, stood

on the wooden prostheses that replaced the legs he had lost at the Second Battle of Bull Run and endorsed the bid. His emotional speech recalled an earlier trip west, when a group of gaunt and weathered miners, learning that Civil War veterans were on the train, lined the tracks near a nameless desert water stop, bared their heads, and gave "three cheers for the boys what did."³

Salt Lake City won the encampment by a vote of 461 to 104 over Washington, DC, its only competitor. Within hours of Salt Lake's selection as host city and his own election as commander in chief, Henry M. Nevius of New Jersey, who had lost his left arm defending Washington, DC, in July 1864, made plans to visit Salt Lake. To minimize expenses, only four of his

staff living west of Chicago were appointed to accompany him. Before their tickets were bought, however, they received an invitation from Fisher Harris, secretary of the Salt Lake Commercial Club, enclosing an unsolicited check to cover travel expenses of Commander Nevius and his entire staff. With that first action, Salt Lake gave proof of its pledge to take care of the old soldiers as no city had ever done before.⁴

Something under one year—from the September 1 award to the opening of the encampment on August 9—was all the time given to Salt Lake to prepare. Most of the

work would be organized by the Commercial Club, which was also responsible for raising the sixty-thousand-dollar cost of the encampment from government, business, and private subscriptions. Overall supervision belonged to the one-armed Commander Nevius. Realizing the plans of the executive committee fell to Salt Lake citizens—mostly volunteers, largely members of the Women’s Citizens Committee, who promptly organized subcommittees on accommodations, music, decorations, medical care, entertainment, security, and every other needful thing.⁵

Time may have been short, but Salt Lake used it to advantage and by the first days of August was ready to welcome the Grand Army and all their accompanying organizations: the Ladies of the GAR, the Woman’s Relief Corps, the Sons of Veterans, the Daughters of Veterans, and the Associations of Army Nurses, Ex-Union Prisoners of War, Naval Veterans, and Civil War Musicians—an estimated sixty thousand in all.⁶

Yet, as short as the interval of time was between winning the encampment and hosting the veterans, it proved too long for some. Amanda Ross Ramsey, a Salt Lake member of the GAR auxiliaries Woman’s Relief Corps and Ladies of the GAR, had been a nurse during the Civil War while her husband served with the 130th Illinois Volunteers. Mrs. Ross served on the citizens’ committee preparing entertainments for women visitors, but she died on April 28. Her daughter Emma Ramsey Morris stepped in to fill her mother’s assignments, as well as singing at numerous events during the encampment itself: her solo performances of “The Flag Without a Stain” and “The Star-Spangled Banner” became signature features of the August campfires and church services.⁷

Then on August 4, just as the veterans began to arrive in Salt Lake, Frank Hoffman died. Hoffman, a veteran of the 29th Ohio Infantry, was a member of Salt Lake’s McKean post of the GAR and a past commander of the Utah Department. A Utah resident and lawyer since 1869, Hoffman had planned to greet his comrades as a member of the official welcoming committee; instead, thousands of early-arriving veterans stood at attention in the streets or marched in a funeral procession for Hoffman on August 8, with music provided by the visiting Ladies’ GAR band, as he was laid to rest at Mount Olivet.⁸

The first veteran arrived unexpectedly, coming not over the Denver & Rio Grande but down Emigration Canyon. Corporal John W. DeHaas and his wife had set out from Oklahoma in April by horse and buggy, camping along the road. The unorthodox appearance of the old “Bucktail,” former member of the 149th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry who had fought at Gettysburg, delighted Salt Lake, and the couple were welcomed as guests in a private home.⁹

Among the tens of thousands attending the encampment were a number who had close ties to Utah residents or who were of more than usual interest to local people. Among these were Gilbert H. Pulver of Vilisca, Iowa, originally of New York, who saw Civil War service at Shiloh, Vicksburg, and Corinth with the Third Iowa Volunteers. Pulver, who still carried a bullet in his right shoulder as a souvenir of Shiloh, stayed with his son Charles S. Pulver in Salt Lake’s Avenues district. Another visitor of interest to Salt Lake residents was DeLos Robinson, a veteran of the 129th Illinois Infantry, visiting from Sheridan, Illinois. Robinson was a grandson of John Young, the oldest brother

of Brigham Young; he had spent part of his childhood with the Mormons in Kirtland and had known or had ties by blood and marriage to many Utahns. This was his first visit to Utah. A prominent returning visitor was the Reverend Thomas C. Iliff, former pastor of Salt Lake City's Methodist Church and past chaplain of both the Utah Department of the GAR and of the national organization. Iliff had enlisted in the Ninth Ohio Cavalry when he was only fifteen, serving throughout the war, and had been with Sherman in Georgia. He had attended the Toledo encampment in 1908, speaking on behalf of Utah's bid to host the 1909 event, and would speak at several of the campfires and in church services while in Salt Lake.¹⁰

The bulk of the visitors, of course, arrived via railroad. What began as a corporal's guard on Saturday, August 7, became battalions on Monday, August 9, as train after train—some scheduled but mostly specials—stacked up at the railroad terminals. Every train was greeted by a brass band, at first either the Ladies' GAR Band or John Held's official encampment band. Along with military marches and patriotic songs, the bands all played the official "GAR March" composed by Salt Lake resident Harry Montgomery especially for this encampment. As the hours passed and bands arrived from Price, Ogden, and Springville, carloads of veterans were escorted to their hotels by marching bands. Some delegations brought their own music with them—Cook's Fife and Drum Corps from Denver, the Lyndonville Band from Vermont, the Modoc Singers from Topeka—and impromptu parades were held in the streets. For the entire week of the encampment, these bands serenaded organizational headquarters and played on street corners. The

Salt Lake music committee, headed by Tabernacle organist John J. McClellan, had hired twenty-five bands and singing groups, while additional bands arrived with the visitors.¹¹

As Salt Lake's guests marched with the bands, they paraded through streets that were dressed especially in their honor. Most public and business buildings were decorated inside and out with flags, bunting, and huge portraits of presidents and Union generals. Downtown streets were crisscrossed by wires from which flapped American flags and the banners of the army and navy signal services.¹²

A minor scandal concerning those street decorations had rocked Salt Lake a week earlier. The proposal had looked quite promising: rows of closely packed flags alternating with electric lights creating a canopy along several downtown streets. But when the eastern decorators arrived, they were stunned to find streets twice as wide and blocks twice as long as any they had encountered before; they had nowhere near enough banners to decorate as promised. The local committee understood the error and quickly revised their expectations but rebelled when decorations began to go up. Many of the flags were old, ragged, and water-stained. Salt Lake residents unfamiliar with military signal flags were indignant that American heroes should be asked to march under "foreign" banners. They threatened to tear them down, declaring that "God's blue sky" was a more fitting tribute. The decorators quickly removed the worn and dirty American flags, explained the nature of the signal flags, and asked to decorate a sample intersection. Thousands visited that intersection, and with general approval decorating went forward.¹³

Salt Lake was especially proud of its electrical decorations, including the strings of bulbs



Marching band and street decorations, Salt Lake City. (Deseret News, August 10, 1909)

across the streets and the illuminated flag attached to the Brigham Young monument.

Newly arrived visitors queued up at information booths where they were directed to available rooms. About five thousand were lodged in hotels and rooming houses. A few thousand found free lodgings in elementary schools, where Salt Lake provided all-night janitors to regulate the ventilation: windows were opened to catch cool evening breezes and were gradually lowered throughout the night to protect guests from cold desert mornings. Another five thousand camped in their side-tracked Pullman cars. One enterprising veteran checked himself into the hospital, where he could have room and board and be waited on by a trained nurse, all for twenty dollars for the week.¹⁴

The greatest number by far, however, were directed to guest rooms in ten thousand private homes. For weeks, the housing committee had canvassed the town, soliciting rooms, urging

families to free their best beds for guests. Mrs. W. H. Jones, with the help of a single stenographer, had prepared cards for all offered rooms, noting address, streetcar line, whether bath or breakfast was included, and price—which in no case was allowed to exceed fifty cents per night or one dollar with private bath. Prices were suggested for meals as well, but families were encouraged to act as hosts rather than innkeepers whenever possible.¹⁵

Wherever the visitors stayed, they were given directions and very often escorted to their rooms by the high school military cadets, who quickly became the heroes of all. These boys, neatly uniformed and organized into around-the-clock shifts, answered questions, gave directions, carried luggage, and helped lost souls find their rooms again when the Salt Lake street-naming system confounded them. They served as runners when bands were summoned to receptions. They helped visitors on the street who needed spectacles left in their

rooms or medicine left in Wisconsin. In short, they became the willing hands, eyes, and feet of every needy visitor, and virtually every farewell letter published in Salt Lake's newspapers



*Lighted flag at Brigham Young monument.
(Deseret News, August 11, 1909)*

expresses gratitude for the unfailing courtesy of Salt Lake's army of high school boys.¹⁶

Hospitality had been urged upon Salt Lakers for weeks before the encampment. They were determined to be known not just for cordiality but for honesty and fairness. Profiteering would not be tolerated—the menu of every eatery in town was collected, and threats were issued that should profiteering occur, a uniformed policeman would be stationed by the restaurant door to warn patrons against entering.¹⁷

While overcharging for a meal was not precisely a crime, Salt Lake knew that genuine criminals were certain to follow the Grand Army crowds. Known local criminals were ordered out of town the week before

the encampment. With little formality, suspicious persons apprehended during the week were given twenty minutes to leave town or be jailed. Detectives were borrowed from cities throughout the country to help Salt Lake detectives spot pickpockets at train depots and turn them back. Seventy-five temporary policemen were hired for crowd control—and while editorial cartoons teased that the duties of the special policemen were likely to be limited to helping ladies straighten their hats, they were needed to guard nearly deserted neighborhoods during the most popular events of that week.¹⁸

And there were certainly numerous events to entertain the old soldiers and their friends. Besides the scheduled business meetings of all groups associated with the Grand Army, there were receptions to the commander in chief, to the old army nurses, to visiting Eagles and Odd Fellows, and to guests from the former homes of transplanted Salt Lakers. There was sightseeing on the streetcar lines—which donated ten thousand free tickets—and personal tours for army nurses, arranged by a committee who solicited the loan of every available automobile, especially if the owner could also furnish a driver. Saltair admitted veterans and their wives free, as did the Salt Palace's bicycle racetrack. Utah's Hawaiian Troubadours performed. There were campfires every evening in both the assembly hall and the armory building, with speakers, music, and war reminiscences. The Tabernacle Choir gave free concerts. There were fireworks atop Ensign Peak each night and a parade featuring cowboys and Indians from the Wild West show that performed all that week. Then, too, there was visiting with old comrades and spinning war tales



Former Civil War nurses attending 1909 encampment. (Forty-Third Annual G.A.R. National Encampment Souvenir Book of Views)

for wide-eyed children who followed the visitors everywhere.¹⁹

Thirsty visitors could drink at the newly installed water fountains on Main and State Streets or find a saloon for more serious refreshment. (Bars, closed by law at midnight, in fact stayed open later as long as everyone was discreet.) Veterans could pick up their mail at a temporary post office established in a downtown hotel. They could chat with friends on lawn furniture placed on the sidewalks by local businesses. Public "comfort stations," plumbed to empty directly into the sewers, were set up over manhole covers on many downtown streets. For guests wearied by heat or altitude, the Lion House and other downtown Latter-day Saint buildings were furnished with couches and electric fans, ice water and lemonade, and hostesses who could double as nurses. Banners draped across the buildings urged visitors to come in and rest.²⁰

Guests could stroll through Temple Square, where they could view floral designs created especially in their honor. If they were curious about Mormon matters, they could chat with the twenty-five additional guides deployed by the Church to handle the crowds. Should they be so inclined, they could purchase copies of an anti-Mormon pamphlet published by the *Tribune* and offered for sale outside the gates on South Temple.²¹

Some of the Grand Army men indulged passionately in the fad of collecting and

trading badges. Many wore ribbons and medals proclaiming earlier encampments they had attended. Street merchants hawked buttons identifying hundreds of military units. The Utah committees contributed their share to this hobby by providing souvenir badges commemorating the Salt Lake encampment. The official badge came in three parts: a gold top bar with eagle and cannon, a silver drop featuring a blue-enameled sego lily, and a final bronze drop celebrating the centennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth. This basic design was modified as needed: the badge for the Association of Civil War Musicians, for instance, replaced the Lincoln pendant with one carrying the image of a harp. For a few very distinguished guests, the badges were molded of Utah gold, Utah silver, and Utah copper.²²

Other souvenirs were distributed. The official souvenir booklet featured photographs of Salt Lake scenes and portraits of prominent Grand Army and Utah personages. A "bootleg" booklet—one bitterly protested by the concession holder of the official souvenir—was available by the end of the week and featured scenes of the encampment. Visiting ladies were presented with souvenir autograph albums, fans, and postcards. The Salt Lake schools presented Commander Nevius with a large silk flag sewn by the children themselves.²³

The visitors returned these favors with gifts of their own. The Ladies of the GAR donated an oil portrait of Abraham Lincoln for the City and County Building. The Association of

Civil War Musicians, who, along with most of the other bands, had been quartered at Lafayette Elementary, presented a six-foot panorama photograph to that school.²⁴

The centerpiece of every Grand Army encampment was the grand parade of veterans. Salt Lake hosts were concerned for the safety of marching soldiers—especially after noting that two years earlier, in Milwaukee, five veterans had dropped dead while on parade. The soldiers were older, the altitude higher, the August sun hotter, and the visitors more tired by a longer journey than in previous encampments.²⁵

Before the parade on Wednesday, August 11, the soldiers needed to be fortified by a good meal—ham sandwiches, pickles, and a cup of sweetened coffee. Miss Lucy Van Cott, head of the university's Domestic Science Department, had charge of the lunch. She secured donations of ham from Salt Lake packing houses and pickles from ZCMI. Ogden pledged one thousand loaves of bread. Cache Valley provided the butter, and Park City donated sugar. There was one snag—some things haven't changed in one hundred years, and Miss Van Cott should have known better than to ask Provo to donate the coffee. The city council refused, but private citizens, eager to be as patriotic as the rest of the state, came up with four hundred pounds.²⁶

To aid any marcher who was overcome during the parade, Red Cross nurses were

stationed along every block. A wave of their flags would bring a waiting horse-drawn or automobile ambulance, and the fallen marcher would be rushed to the emergency hospital set up on the sixth floor of the Boston Building, which Dr. W. F. Beer had equipped with an operating room and cots for recovering from heat exhaustion. The Sons of Veterans would circulate among the marchers as well with buckets of water and lemonade.²⁷

The soldiers assembled early on Wednesday morning. The parade began upon three blasts from the *Tribune* whistle. Prominent Grand Army officers on horseback preceded carriages carrying distinguished Utah officials and honored guests including a few surviving veterans of the 1846 Mexican War. Following them came the active duty soldiers from the 15th Infantry stationed at Fort Douglas, who the week earlier had practiced their drills downtown to accustom their horses to the newly asphalted Main Street. Following these preliminary groups came all the units in the Grand Army of the Republic, organized by state delegation and interspersed with the dozens of visiting bands. Crowd estimates varied, but, on the conservative side, 100,000 onlookers lined the one-mile parade route down Main Street.²⁸

These onlookers cheered as the passing soldiers were pelted by flowers. While Salt Lake homeowners had planted thousands of packets of flower seeds that spring, a late frost



Army musicians headquartered at Lafayette School. (Forty-Third Annual G.A.R. National Encampment Souvenir Book of Views)

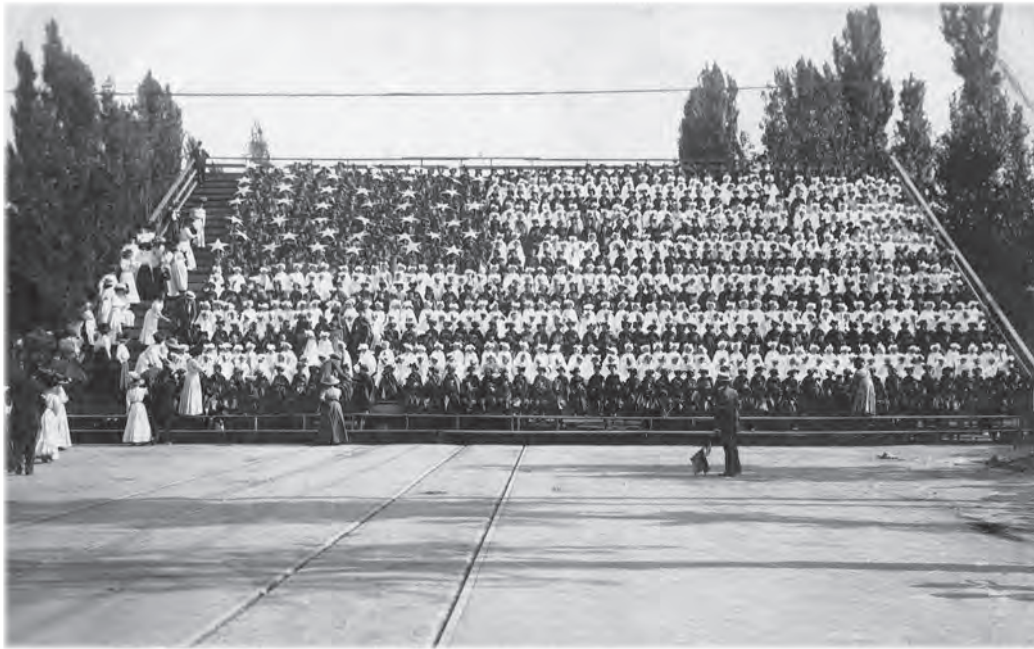


Cover of official encampment souvenir booklet. (Courtesy of Ardis E. Parshall)

followed by heavy flooding had destroyed most of Salt Lake's crop—but Garland in Box Elder County had shipped in a full train-car load. Park City children had combed the hills for wildflowers; the Blind School at Ogden had grown gardens especially for the encampment. As the parade passed down Main Street, the crowds laughed at the Oklahoma soldiers carrying oversized baby bottles signaling their status as the Union's newest state. They were moved by the sight of the long-haired Montana veteran who was supported by the stronger arm of his best friend—a man wearing an old Confederate uniform. They cheered for the Iowa men who carried ears of corn, and dozens of Salt Lake girls ran out to kiss the one who carried a red ear. The spectators who cheered themselves

hoarse during most of the parade fell silent in respect when the former prisoners of war marched by, carrying banners identifying the Southern prisons they had survived.²⁹

The old soldiers marched from the Brigham Young monument at the head of Main Street down to Seventh South, where, because of the width of the streets, they were able to turn around and march up the other side of the road—the first time in their history they were able to watch their own parade. During their march they waved to the crowds, danced with each other during short delays, and possibly stood their tallest as they passed cameras making one of the first motion pictures of any Salt Lake parade. The movie film was processed overnight and displayed for the rest of encampment week,



Living Flag, Main Street at 700 South. Postcard. (Courtesy of Ardis E. Parshall)

and copies were soon distributed to movie houses around the country.³⁰

Among the groups of parading soldiers who received special notice from the crowds of onlookers were a few black veterans, marching with delegations either from the states where they now lived or with whom they had once served. The Grand Army had been a remarkably egalitarian organization from its beginning, with black veterans accepted into the same posts with their white comrades. Ferdinand Shavers, a former servant of Abraham Lincoln, marched with the Colorado delegation; seven black veterans marched with the Louisiana soldiers ("only seven black men, but what a message their presence bore!" noted a journalist), one with Arkansas, and several more with Mississippi.³¹

Before turning back at Seventh South, the old soldiers paused to view what was billed as the greatest single feature of encampment

week: the Living Flag, composed of seventeen hundred Salt Lake children, posed on a grandstand the width of Main Street, dressed in ankle-length capes and mobcaps of red, white, or blue cheesecloth, some carrying silver paper stars above their heads. These costumes had been sewn by the local Woman's Relief Corps and by the women of the Church's Relief Societies. The children sang patriotic songs and recited the Pledge of Allegiance and, directed by Professor W. A. Wetzell of the Salt Lake School District, danced to mimic the waving of a flag in the breeze. Even allowing for excess of sentiment expressed by the newspapers, the Living Flag was without doubt an emotional, spectacular success.³²

Plans called for the Living Flag to fall into the line of march when the last group of soldiers turned to retrace their steps up Main Street. The mid-August day, however, was clear and sunny, with little breeze, and temperatures soon climbed to ninety-seven



Living Flag parade, Main Street, August 15, 1909. Postcard. (Courtesy of Ardis E. Parshall)

degrees. The children, with no protection from the sun and despite the water and lemonade constantly passed to them, began to droop and finally to drop. The flag continued singing as one child after another passed out and was carried to the ambulances. But when the children began to faint in numbers too large for the ambulances to keep up with, and as their watching parents broke through restraining ropes and threatened to collapse the grandstand as they reached for their children, Professor Wetzell dismissed them, many being then carried to the shady lawn of a nearby house reserved especially for the Living Flag. In all, some sixty children and forty marching veterans were taken to the emergency hospital, while an untold number of others fell out but revived with medical attention on the parade route.³³

Because so many were disappointed by not seeing the Living Flag, a parade was held

the following Friday in the cool of early evening, the only performers being the costumed children of the Living Flag and the bands that accompanied them.³⁴

While most visitors came for the parade, the campfires, and the camaraderie, the encampment was, technically, a business meeting for the Grand Army and for many of its affiliated organizations. Delegates from state organizations met in conference at their temporary headquarters established in hotels, churches, and civic buildings throughout the city. Delegates to the GAR meeting heard Commander Nevius report his year's efforts to influence national legislation regarding soldiers' pensions, the maintenance of "old soldiers' homes" and cemeteries, the funding and design of a monument to Benjamin F. Stephenson (a surgeon who had served with the 14th Illinois Infantry and who had founded the Grand Army in 1866), and other issues of particular interest to the organization. Delegates to the



A group of GAR men and women pose for a photograph with the Wisconsin group drum corps on, August 11, 1909, in Salt Lake City. The man at the right of the image is holding a sign which says, "The Badgers Come / With Fife and Drum / To make things hum / As in 1861 to 1865 / With Gun, Drum & Fife / We are still alive." (Utah State Historical Society)

business meetings of the various organizations also elected officers for the coming year.³⁵

One business meeting of particular interest to Utahns was that of the National Association of Army Nurses. Time had reduced that association's ranks to a mere twenty-six members, twenty-two of whom attended the encampment in Salt Lake City. That organization elected as their president for 1909–10 Mrs. Mary Roby Lacey, a resident of Salt Lake City since 1906, who, as a seventeen-year-old bride, had nursed her soldier-husband John Roby in a Pennsylvania military hospital early in 1861 and had gone on to serve as an army nurse until the

close of the war. She had worked with Clara Barton on the still-smoking Antietam battlefield and recalled later presidential visits to the hospital: "Lincoln would come to our ward, and bending over the cots where the wounded soldiers lay, would speak words of encouragement." Mrs. Lacey had been one of the Utahns to present Salt Lake's invitation to the Toledo encampment in 1908 and had worked tirelessly as a member of a committee dedicated to ensuring that her sister nurses would enjoy their visit to Utah in 1909, including personalized souvenirs, a visit to the Saltair resort, automobile tours of the Salt Lake Valley and nearby canyons, and

construction of a special grandstand from which the nurses could watch the parade in comfort.³⁶

The campfires, receptions, and business meetings of the encampment continued until Saturday, August 14, and some groups, notably the old musicians, were having such a good time that they stayed another full week. Most soldiers, though, left within a day or two of the parade. Salt Lake City quickly turned its attention to other matters, beginning with the dedication of the Cathedral of the Madeleine the day after the encampment closed. But before closing this chapter of its history, Salt Lake tallied the costs and the gains: sixty thousand visitors had been welcomed and entertained within budget and to all reports beyond everyone's expectations. Those visitors, assured the editors of the *Deseret News*, “know now that the people of Utah are as patriotic, as loyal, and as warm-hearted . . . as any citizens anywhere. They know that Utah, notwithstanding slander, is an American state in every sense of that word.”³⁷

Corporal James Tanner reminded his hosts that “if it had not been for the fight I made at Toledo, Salt Lake would not have had the encampment, and I went to Salt Lake feeling that I had considerable at stake. . . . I came home perfectly satisfied and glad

that I had done as I did.” The Grand Army's chaplain in chief reported to his Tennessee newspaper that “they treated us . . . royally. . . . I am quite sure they have been abused more than they deserve.”³⁸

Five years later, an encampment visitor wrote to a Salt Lake friend, “We will never forget you people and what you did for us while in your city during the G.A.R. encampment. We haven't had such good treatment before we came there and never expect such a good time again. The old veterans have a warm spot in their hearts for you and your people.” Commander Nevius declared that it was “not in words alone that the welcome has come to the hosts of the Grand Army. This splendid outpouring of welcome, of hospitality by the people of this city and state has filled our hearts with delight. . . . We feel that on the shores of the great lake we have a home.”³⁹

Three generations have passed since Salt Lake's Main Street witnessed the marching of 7,500 Civil War veterans, half a continent away from the scenes of their battles. Salt Lake City has played host to a number of gatherings since then—but few, perhaps, involved such wholehearted support by the citizens of Utah as did that week in 1909 when the Grand Army was welcomed to Zion.

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NOTES

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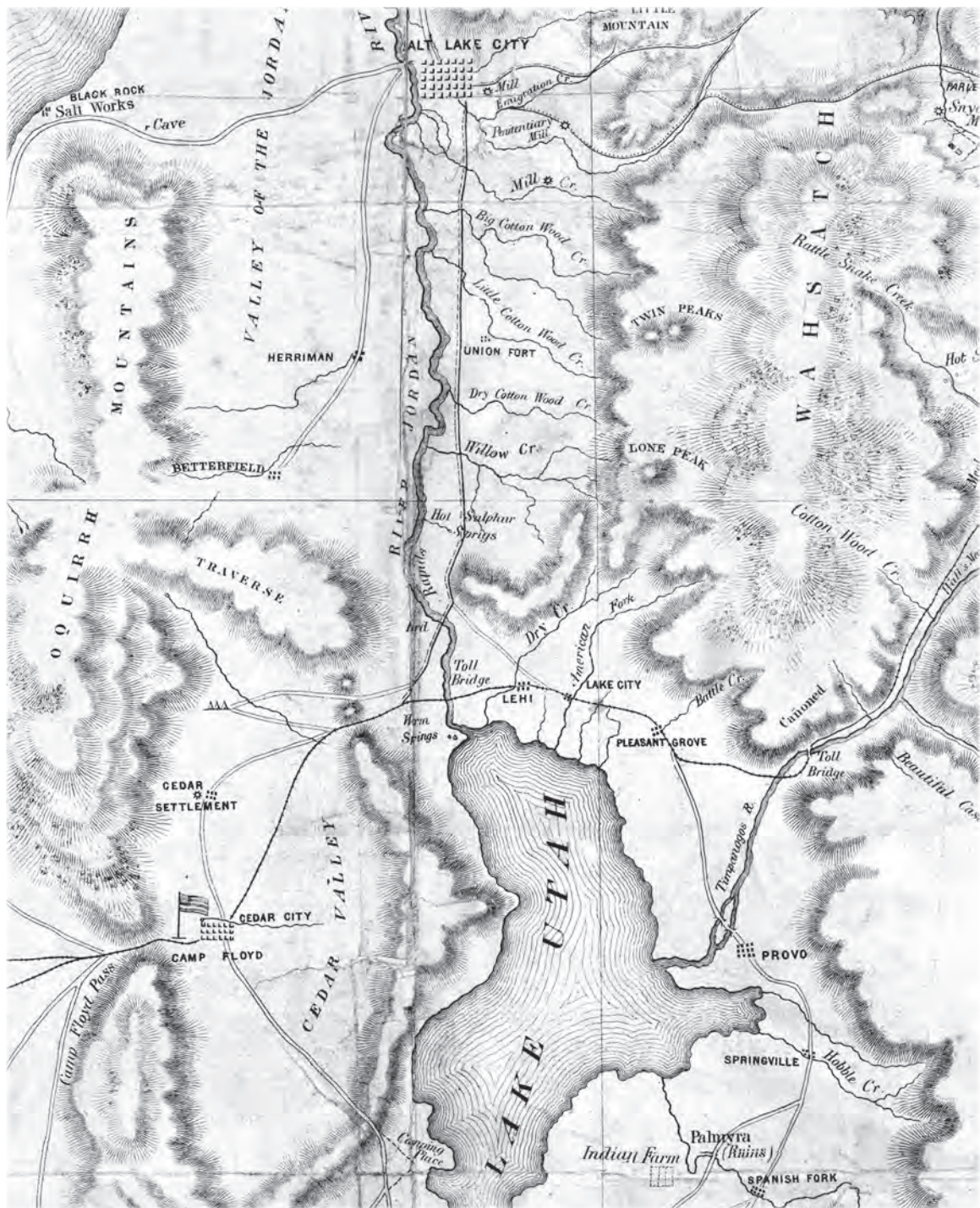
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This detail of a map of Utah Territory, entitled "Preliminary map of routes reconnoitred [sic] and opened in the Territory of Utah / by Captain J. H. Simpson . . . under the orders of Brigadier General, A. D. [sic] Johnston, commanding the Department of Utah," was completed in 1859 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and published by the Government Printing Office in Washington, DC.
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