

THE TINTIC WAR.

The so-called Tintic War was a local disturbance in the north end of Utah County. It arose from the stealing of an ox from a herd of cattle on the west side of Utah Lake, in charge of Abraham Hunsacker of Goshen.

On February , Sheriff Wall of Provo set out from that place with a posse of ten men to arrest the Indian thief. The result proved to be a general fight with the tribesmen of the culprit, who were encamped in Cedar Valley. Reinforcements being necessary, the sheriff called on the Lehi militia. A company of fifteen men under command of Captain Willes and John S. Lott responded, some of whom were William Clark, James Lamb, John Glynes, John Karren, John Catlin, George Winn, William Skeens, Joseph Cousins, Frank Molen, Sylvanus Collett, and Alonzo D. Rhodes.

Leaving Lehi on the morning of February , and crossing Utah Lake on the ice, the little company proceeded to the Lone Tree Ranch to guard the cattle which were kept there. To their dismay, they discovered that they were already too late; both herders, Henry Moran and Washington Carson, had already met their death at the hands of the militant savages. There remained only to drive the cattle north to Chimney Rock Pass and camp for the night, James Lamb and John Glynes having been sent, in the meantime, to inform the people at Cedar Fort of the sad fate of the two herders.

Camp having been pitched, an animal was killed and the party fed. During the meal, Joseph Cousins jestingly remarked, "If the Indians kill me, I wish to die with a full stomach." Because of the intense cold, a roaring fire was made. Cousins and Sylvanus Collett, being delegated to secure wood, proceeded to a nearby bunch of trees to cut some.

They were busily engaged when Collett, glancing up, saw an Indian peering out from behind a tree not far away. Shouting to his companion, "Run, there is an

Indian," he hastily fled to camp. Not so with Cousins. He seemed rooted to the spot, unable to help himself. The savages made quick work of him, mercilessly shooting him down and scalping him. The massacre of Cousins proved to be but the prelude to a general attack.

Crouching behind wagon boxes and whatever shelter they could obtain, the men returned the fire as best they could. The intervention of nightfall was a great relief to them, however, because the little party was almost helpless before the greater number of Indians. As it was, John Catlin was killed and George Winn mortally wounded. Fearing a continuation of the attack, the company retreated to the lake shore, four miles away, carrying the wounded Winn in their arms. Alonzo D. Rhodes crossed the lake on the ice and reached Lehi the next morning.

A relief company immediately returned with him and accompanied the dispirited party home, two of their number dead and one hopelessly wounded. The funeral of these three heroes was held on February.

A larger force in a few days effectively put an end to the "Tintic War." Such were the troubles which the early settlers of Lehi had with their savage neighbors. Precaution and vigilance meant safety to them, the lack of it would have resulted in the loss of life and property. The so-called "wars" of those early days may appear trivial and petty to modern eyes, but in the days of Lehi's founding they meant life or death.