

FUNERAL OF GILBERT BELNAP

At Hooper Thursday, March 2, 1899,
Large Number Present.

The funeral services over the remains of the late Gilbert Belnap were held at Hooper, Thursday, March 2, 1899. The services were presided over by Bishop W. W. Child, and music was furnished by the Hooper band and the Latter-Day Saints choir. The band played an air as the remains were carried in and out of the meeting house, and the services were opened by the choir singing "Hark From Afar." Elder G. H. Fowers followed with prayer and the choir sang No. 58 of the Latter-Day Saints Hymnal.

Elder Austin C. Brown was the first speaker, and told how he, as a little babe, had crossed the plains in the same company with the deceased, how his father had died during the trip, and how Mr. Belnap had aided and cared for the bereaved ones during the journey. He had a great love for the deceased—almost as a father.

Elder Parker was counselor to Mr. Belnap for eighteen years, during the whole of the time that he was bishop of Hooper ward, and he spoke feelingly of the good qualities of his departed brother. He had labored along with him for thirty years in both temporal and spiritual affairs.

Elder H. W. Gwilliam made a few general remarks, and he was followed by Bishop Robert McFarland of West Weber. He had known the departed brother since the '50s, when he lived in Ogden. He told of his visits to Ogden and of his experience with Mr. Belnap. He adjured those present to profit by the experiences of the noble man who had gone before. He was a man of unswerving purpose, firm and earnest in his labors, whether in temporal or spiritual work. He told of his many experiences in the early days with the Indians, and many other incidents to show the character of the man the people honored by their being present to pay their last respects to his memory.

Bishop W. W. Child was the last speaker, and his remarks were brief. He spoke of Mr. Belnap as the father of the settlement. The leader in both temporal and spiritual matters; a man who had never had an enemy of whom he had heard. A man among men, and one whose life might well be emulated by all the young.

The choir sang "Rest in Peace," Elder A. T. Christianson pronounced the benediction, and the funeral cortege was formed which escorted the remains to the Ogden cemetery, where they were interred.

GILBERT BELNAP.

Gilbert Belnap was the son of Rosel Belnap and Jane Richmond, and was born in Hope, New Castle district, upper Canada, December 22, 1821. His father and mother had died by the time he reached his 10th year, and he came from Canada to New York and afterward to Ohio. He met with the Mormon people at Kirtland, O., and was baptised into the church on Sunday, September 11, 1842, at that place. Shortly after this, in company with others, he took a wagon to Wellsville, O., and there took a steamer to Nauvoo, Ill. In 1844 he was working for President Brigham Young. He was with the guard which went with Joseph Smith when they laid down their arms at the request of Governor Ford of Illinois, and was on guard at the door of Joseph Smith's room, sleeping on the floor, the night before he was killed. That day he went with Governor Ford down to Nauvoo to assure the Mormon people that Governor Ford would protect them, and during the absence Joseph Smith was killed. On December 21, 1845, he married Adeline Knight at Nauvoo. Her father, Bishop Knight, was then presiding bishop of the church. In February, 1846, they left Nauvoo and traveled to Omaha, where they lived at Winter Quarters. Here two sons, Gilbert R. and John M. were born. John M. died while crossing the plains, and Gilbert R. was sheriff of Weber county for several terms. June 15, 1850, they started across the plains and arrived at Salt Lake in September of the same year. A few weeks later he removed his family to Ogden. He was elected a member of the common council, being later selected and made marshal. In February, 1851, the city was incorporated and he was again made marshal. In 1852 he was married to Miss Henrietta McBride. In 1853 he was prosecuting attorney of the Second ward of Ogden, and in 1855 he was both attorney and marshal. He was appointed city sexton, and attended the first burial in the city cemetery. He resigned in April, 1855, when he was called on a mission to the Salmon River by Apostle Snow, now President Snow. He returned in 1857 and went out with Low Smith to meet Johnson's army. In April, 1858, he moved his family to Springville, returning in 1860, when he was again elected prosecuting attorney, serving until 1862, when he was elected sheriff of Weber county. He held this position for four terms, until 1870. In 1869 he removed to Hooper, where he has since lived. At that time there were but four houses in sight. In 1873 he was appointed county selectman to fill a vacancy. In 1876 he was elected assessor and held the office until 1882. He was appointed presiding elder of Hooper in 1869, and made bishop when the ward was organized in 1870. He held the bishopric until 1888, when he resigned because of failing health, resulting from a paralytic stroke in 1874. He has been an active worker in all lines of business during all of his life, and he quit this earth at peace with all. He leaves two wives and fifteen children to mourn his loss. He was the father of seventeen children, had 114 grand-children, twenty-two of whom are dead, seventeen great-grand-children, of whom five have passed away.

At the time of his death there were present at his bedside three daughters and six sons, his two wives, and the mother of his first wife, who is aged 94 years. The sons and daughters are as follows:

Gilbert R., John M. (dead), Joseph, William J., Mrs. Martha J. Harmon, Oliver, Francis M., Hyrum, Augustus W., Volney (dead), Mrs. Isidore E. Stoddard, Vincent K., Amasa, Mrs. Adeline L. Lowe, Mrs. Mary Low, Miss Lola A. Belnap.
