

HOW CAPTAIN BROWN DIED.

The Story in Full as Told by Deputy Sheriff Belnap.

Brown Was Always in the Lead on the Chase — Discovered the Robbers and Called to Belnap and Cardon—The Tragedy Occurred in a Deep Canyon.

Deputy Sheriff Joseph Belnap returned from Willard last night, and to a representative of The Standard he told the story of the killing of Captain Brown in detail this morning.

He said, beginning at the trouble of the hold-up at Brigham City:

The robbers were at Brigham City all day Saturday and in the evening they bought some crackers at a little grocery store there. They went on the road and sat down and ate their lunch, and waited there until after dark, alongside the road. They intended to hold up the first man they saw coming along. Finally they started along the road, and a short time after they heard some one coming behind them. They turned around and went back and met him. It was the man Hanson. They put their guns in his face and told him to put up his hands. He had a pack in one hand and a bucket of milk in the other, and told them he could not do it. The robber who is now dead took the bucket from his hand and then the pack was laid down on the ground. They then made him get through the fence inside a field, where they compelled him to lay down, and they bound and gagged him. They tied his hands, feet and knees together, and then they stuffed his handkerchief in his mouth. The pack contained samples of silverware, and the bucket contained milk. They searched the man and took from him his watch and \$1.90 in cash; then the younger one took his shoes and laid a wrap over his feet, and after drinking the milk they went on. Hanson broke the string around his knees and then worked loose and hurried to his home, where he got a pair of shoes, and then went to Brigham City, where he notified the officers.

Sheriff Cardon and Deputy Sheriff Thompson got into a rig and drove to the Hot Springs, notifying Constable Wells at Willard as they went along. The robbers meanwhile had crossed the O. S. L. track and headed for the Springs, taking with them the booty. The officers reached the Springs half an hour ahead of the robbers, and were watching for them as they came down the O. S. L. track. The sheriff and his deputy and a young man from the Springs walked out the track as they saw them coming, and as soon as the officers spoke they broke into a run up the county road. The officers were close after them, and when the robbers got on a line with the stable north of the Springs they looked like they were going to escape, and the officers fired, and they began to shoot at the officers. They kept running up the main road until they came to a point of rocks about a hundred yards north of the Springs. They were in hiding then and the officers' ammunition was exhausted. This was about 10 o'clock. The robbers had fired three or four shots apiece from behind the point of rocks, and then the officers ran back out of the way. The robbers then jumped out and followed the old road in a northeast direction up the mountain. They went in this direction until they reached Cragun Bros.' lucerne pasture. They went from there almost in a northern direction until they were directly east of Wedell's ranch. From there they turned directly east to the foot of the mountains, and climbed to the backbone of the ridge. They went clear to the top, just northeast of Wedell's ranch. They turned and went down the next ridge north, about 150 yards north, and below the top of the mountain, where they found a cedar tree. They got some cedar boughs and sat there until Sunday morning.

Immediately after the officers had taken to their heels after their ammunition had given out, they went to the Springs and telephoned to the police station at Ogden for assistance. Captain Brown was on duty and he answered the phone. He called up Sheriff Layne, and they called up Deputy Belnap and Deputy Bailey. Brown told the sheriff he would go if the chief would let him off. The four met at the Utah Loan and Trust corner later, and there they divided up, Bailey and Brown taking the Harrisville road, and Belnap and Layne going the North Ogden road to the Springs. Brown and Bailey reached the Springs ahead of Layne and Belnap, and there they were met by Cardon and Thompson at daylight.

There they organized themselves into parties of two each, Bailey and Brown going directly east over the hill, Cardon, Thompson and the young man from the Springs taking the track of the robbers, and Layne and Belnap going north on the main road to the cold springs and then up the mountain. At the lucerne patch Layne and Belnap met Deputy Thompson and the young man from the Springs. From there Layne and Belnap went north toward Wedell's ranch and Thompson and his man going northeast. At Wedell's ranch Layne left Belnap and started back to the Springs to water his horse, and Belnap went to the Chamberlain ranch. There he arranged for dinner, and as he stepped out and was looking down the mountain he saw two men coming toward each other, and one waved his hat. Up to that time they were not on the trail. The men met and went on down the mountain, and Belnap and Thompson after them. When they reached the Springs they discovered that the men they had been trailing were Layne and the man from the Springs, and that Layne had waved his hat because he had found the trail. This was at a point where we had parted before we went to Chamberlain's ranch.

Brown and Bailey had returned to the Springs before we did.

We all went to the Springs for breakfast, and after breakfast Thomp-

son went to the lucerne patch where he had left his horse and we all got into buggies and rode to the point where Sheriff Layne had found the trail. There we again divided up, Sheriff Layne and Deputy Bailey going back to the road with their buggies, after arranging to skirt the hill, notify everybody they saw, and meet Brown, Cardon and Belnap after they went around and over the foothills. The latter party caught the trail of the robbers up to where they camped all night and until Sunday morning, and they spent a few seconds there looking for the trail from there. Belnap found that trail, and they were after the men and down the mountain as fast as Billy Brown, who was always in the lead, could go. The robbers were headed down the mountain, and the officers had followed their trail about 100 yards, when according to the story of the live robber, they first knew they were on their trail. When they arrived at the tree Belnap says, "Here are their tracks and they are as fresh as ours," and all knew they were very close upon them. A few moments later they saw them running down the mountain toward the west, and "we shouted to them to stop, and they would not do it. Billy Brown was ahead. He was always ahead. Here Cardon called to Billy two or three times to not go so fast, and to not get so far ahead. We kept this pace up for about half a mile, over ridges and rocks, and we had lost sight of our men. They were running down a ridge, the same we were on. Billy was about twenty-five yards ahead, and we reached the edge of a cliff, or the edge of the ridge. There was a steep drop of about 15 feet, and Billy went down it in a rush, and called to us, "Here they are, boys," and then we came to the top of the ridge. Billy called to them to halt and throw up their hands, and I called from above for them "to hold up their hands and give themselves up, that they would not be hurt." When they heard us, both had guns in their hands, and they were about seventy-five yards from Cardon and I, and about fifty yards from Billy. All of us were in the open, and none of us, robber or officer, could have hidden within a number of yards. The canyon faces west, and Billy had to hold on to brush, the hill was so steep. As they turned and raised their guns to shoot all three of us shot, Billy a little ahead of Cardon and I. The big fellow dropped, and as he dropped the young fellow shot at Billy and missed. As the young robber started to shoot again Billy was off his balance, but he and Cardon shot and missed and I pulled my Winchester on him and pulled the trigger, but I had forgotten to throw the old shell out and the hammer struck the exploded cap, and just at that second the robber fired and Billy gave a sharp cry and fell forward. The robber had aimed with his revolver resting on his left arm and took steady aim. Cardon and I both shot at him as he dropped behind the rock near where his brother lay, and I fired again as he raised his head, chipping the rock and throwing it in his face. We called to him to surrender, and he cried out, "You have killed my brother," and I called to him that he "had killed a better man than half a dozen such as he." He was called to again to surrender and he put up his left hand. We told him to put up both hands, and a moment later he put them up and I covered him with my Winchester. Cardon held his gun on the robber who had dropped, because we thought he might be feigning, and when we got up close I tossed Cardon my cuffs and he ironed the live one. The other was dead. I left Cardon with the live robber and went over to see Billy, and he was dead. He fell face forward and went down the side of the hill about twelve feet. He tried to get up after his first fall.

I left Cardon with the men then and started down the hill toward the foothills, and there I met Constable Wells, who had watched the fight through field glasses. I told him, and then Bailey and Sheriff Layne that Billy was killed, and they went after the bodies, the sheriff getting a buggy to bring Billy's body down, while the robber was strapped over a horse. Billy's body was carried down the mountain by Sheriff Layne, Deputy Bailey and several others. "A braver man never lived, and he died like the

bravest. He was not reckless. It would have been the same if any man had seen them. He ran onto them and he stood his ground, and he got his man."