A TRIBUTE
by
President B. H. Roberts

John Morgan was one of the most outstanding men of his generation. He has left to us one of the richest legacies of all those honored dead who in their lifetime were instrumental in establishing in the Earth in this the Last Dispensation of the Fullness of Time, the Gospel of the Redeemer of the World.

A Prince! A Prince was he. He was like some of the underground springs that flow in the Earth and then bye and bye, crop up to carry out the purposes of God. That was John Morgan. A Prince in the Spirit World and princely here.

I have met no man who surpassed him in the possession of those fine qualities of manhood and powers which are universally admired. I loved him with all my heart and when he passed away, I could not rid myself of the feeling that there was a vacancy at my side where he had constantly stood from the first day of our acquaintance, when I, as a mere lad, enrolled in his school.

John Morgan communicated that wonderful spirit, of which he was possessed, to many. There are hundreds of eminent and successful men in Utah today who
John Morgan a debt of gratitude for that which he conferred upon them through his remarkable influence; through the Morgan Commercial College which he established and then later as the president, for many years, of the Southern States Mission, and also as one of the General Authorities of the Church. The number who were benefited by his influence are unknown, but they could run into the thousands.
As president of the Southern States Mission, John Morgan made occasional visits, in the Eighties, to the San Juan Stake of the L.D.S. Church, in Southern Colorado.

Mr. Morgan moved about during his visits to the several wards - Menassa, Ephraim, Richfield and several smaller groups. I lived at Ephraim.

Of course, on each visit President Morgan addressed the Saints. On Sundays he spoke in Sunday School and sometimes in afternoon and evening meetings. His words were always eloquent and convincing. No one in the audience ever tired when John Morgan spoke. His reservoir of new thought appeared to me to be inexhaustible. If he with purpose repeated some profound thoughts, they were always richly and beautifully clad. In short, he was both eloquent and profound.

His tone of voice was rich and mellow. His intonation was perfect, his pronunciation free from flaw, his enunciation always clear and concise. His sentences were well balanced and effectively pointed.

His sermons were logical and relentless. He didn't use notes. He didn't need them. His rich thoughts were apparently carrying their turn. They were at tongue's tip.

Mr. Morgan's bearing was always erect, graceful and dignified whether he was in the pulpit or on the street. He appeared to be cheerful but never frivolous. I do not recall ever having heard his "crack" a joke in his sermons but his words were always thought-provoking and his facial expression genial and kind.

He was friendly and cordial to high and low alike, but never dully so.

He was easy of approach but not of the "every" type. A little child usually re-
ceived an affectionate pat on the head and a gentle greeting. I know.

Mr. Morgan was an immaculate dresser, with his stately Prince Albert and slightly varied vest and trousers. His head of fine wavy hair drew favorable comment and his well-groomed beard seldom escaped notice.

To say that Mr. Morgan had a military figure and movement might place a suggestion of sternness that was not a characteristic. But his poise was always graceful whether standing or walking or even sitting.

In a crude way I have depicted Mr. John Morgan as I saw him through a boy's eyes. I listened to his words enraptured. They left a lasting impress on my life. On memory's pages John Morgan is an outstanding character.

D. H. Christensen

Member of the Board of Regents for many years
JOHN MORGAN - AS I KNEW HIM

As a young man I knew John Morgan quite intimately.

He was a man of stocky physic; sturdily built and approximately five feet-nine inches tall. He had broad shoulders - his physical strength and power were very apparent.

His was an excellent example of leadership which he assumed and displayed in Utah's early history.

My first acquaintance with him was at the time he was conducting his Business College on South Temple in the Old Museum Building which was located where the Beneficial Life Insurance Co. building now stands on the southwest corner of South Temple and Richards Street. My brother, Waldemer Van Cott attended his school at that time.

Later, I knew him as a member of a Board of Examiners to examine applicants seeking certificates to teach school. The examinations were given in the old Fourteenth Ward Meeting House on the south side of 1st South between West Temple and 1st West Streets.

His eyes were inclined to be brown, fading into gray. His complexion was ruddy and flushed with health. His hair was auburn - with a tendency toward a reddish hue.

He was characterized in his bodily movement by intelligence and energy - truly he was a man of action. I always regarded him as one of the really great leaders in the field of education in the Territory of Utah.

Signed

Oscar Van Cott

Summer, 1952.
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Summer, 1952.
JOHN MORGAN was born in Greensburg, Indiana on the 8th day of August, 1842. His parents were Gerrard Morgan, Jr. and Anna Eliza Hamilton Morgan. His grandmother, Sarah Sanderson Morgan, a widow, emigrated in 1823, with her family from Nicholas County, Kentucky, to Indiana, and were among the early Pioneers of the City of Greensburg. The family of Gerrard Morgan, Jr. and Anna Eliza Hamilton Morgan were as follows:

William Woodson Morgan
John Morgan
Leonidas Morgan
James Morgan
Luella Morgan
Gerrard Morgan

His Great grandparents, John Morgan and Mary Barnes Morgan, were born in Goochland, Virginia, in the early part of the 17th century and lived there during the Revolutionary period and participated in that great conflict. The Morgan line continues back in Virginia to 1630 when John Morgan, the common ancestor of the Virginian Morgans, arrived in America with his two brothers, from Wales.

His father was a farmer and consequently the son spent his early life in that occupation. His meager scholastic education was obtained from the log schoolhouse in that vicinity. He was industrious and studiously inclined. In about 1855, his parents moved with their family to Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois, where John Morgan grew to young manhood.

At the time Abraham Lincoln was practicing law in Springville, Sangamon County, Illinois, but a short distance from the Lincoln home was the home of Nicholas Groesbeck and his wife, Elizabeth Thompson Groesbeck and their family, including a little daughter, Helen Melvina Groesbeck, a child about three years of age. Thirteen years later, Helen M. Groesbeck and John Morgan were to meet in Salt Lake City, Utah, and become husband and wife.

At Mattoon, Illinois, on the 6th day of September, 1862, John Morgan enlisted in the newly organized 123rd Regiment of Infantry of Illinois and in that military contingent saw active service throughout the remainder of the Civil War; principally in the operations of the western command. He participated in many of the skirmishes necessary to halt the guerilla activities of the famous Confederate Cavalryman, "Morgan-the Raider". General Morgan was a distant relative of John Morgan and was recognized as one of the great and successful generals of the Confederacy.

In the battle of Mt. Selma in Alabama, he received his only serious injury during his entire military service. The Union Forces were making a charge up the Mount when the Color-bearer of the 123rd Regiment was shot and killed. A soldier nearby grabbed the flag and carried it on up the hill; but he, too, was mortally wounded. John Morgan, being near by, grasped the battle flag from the dying soldier's hand and continued up the hill with the attack; when, near the
top, he, too, was seriously wounded by being shot in the leg. Then, on his hands and knees, he crawled the remainder of the distance and planted the flag on the mountain top which by then had been captured by the Union Forces. This old battle stained flag was presented to him at the conclusion of the battle for his heroism and is now a valued treasure in the Morgan family. He also participated in the battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge and as a cavalry member in the force that led Sherman in his march to Atlanta, Georgia. He was honorably discharged from the service with his Company on the 28th day of June, 1865 in the City of Nashville, Tennessee.

He then returned to his home in Illinois; spent some time visiting his family and friends and then proceeded to the State of New York where he enrolled as a student in the Eastman located at New York. He completed his course of study at this college in a period of six months; returned to his home for a short time and then proceeded to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, intending to go into business with a former comrade who served with him in the 123rd Regiment. While discussing their plans the two young men were offered employment in the driving of a herd of Texas Beef cattle across the plains to Salt Lake City for William Jennings, who conducted a large meat establishment in that City. Deciding that they would like to see some of the world, they accepted this offer and in late summer started their journey, with their herd of cattle, across the plains to the Rocky Mountains. They arrived in Salt Lake City on December 23, 1866.

It was the intention of the two young men to continue on to California, but John Morgan became so enamored with the beauty of the Mormon settlement; the cleanliness of the city and the apparent excellent character of the people whom he met, that he decided to remain and establish in Salt Lake City a Business College to be known as the Morgan Commercial Business College. This he did and so popular was the Institution that it grew rapidly in size and importance and many of the future leading citizens of the State received there-at their only scholastic education.

On the ______ day of ___________187____he became a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and on the __24th day of October___1868, married Helen Melvina Groesbeck and the following children were issue of that marriage:

Helen Melvina Morgan  
Elizabeth Morgan  
Eliza Morgan  
Ruth Morgan  
John Morgan  
Flora Morgan  
Gale Morgan  
Bessie Morgan  
Gerrard Earl Morgan  
John Hamilton Morgan  
Nicholas G. Morgan

On January 25, 1884 he married Anna Mildred Smith, who was born in Stafford, England, March 7, 1860. From this union the following children were born:

Annie Ray Morgan  
Myrtle Morgan  
John Albermarl Morgan  
Ivy Morgan  
Joseph Smith Morgan
On June 7, 1888, he married Mary Linton, who was born from this marriage the following children were born:

Linton Morgan
Harold Morgan
Matthias Cowley Morgan

On the 20th day of October, 1876, he left Salt Lake City for Illinois and Indiana to do missionary work for the said Church. For one year he was actively engaged in this work when under direction from President Brigham Young he travelled south to Rome, Georgia and in that State and adjoining territories, made a remarkable record in converting and baptizing people into the Church. On the 20th day of November, 1877 he assembled eighty of the newly converted Mormon people and started westward as immigrants into Colorado. They arrived at Pueblo, Colorado, a few days later and in the spring of 1878 this group became the nucleus for the first settlers in the San Luis Valley and in the establishment of the settlements of Manassas, Sanford, Ephraim, Morgan and other minor settlements.

On the 2nd day of August, 1878, John Morgan was sustained as President of the Southern States Mission, newly organized, and for ten years he continued in this capacity when he was succeeded by William Spry, later Governor of the State of Utah.

On May 31, 1883, he was sustained as counselor to George Q. Cannon in the General Superintendency of Sunday School Union Board of the LDS Church. On August 6, 1883, he was elected County Superintendent of Schools of Salt Lake County and on the same ticket was elected to the Legislature of the Territory of Utah. On December 12, 1883, he organized the first Salt Lake County Teacher's Association. In the Legislative Assembly held in the winter of 1884, he was responsible for the introduction and passage of the first law establishing the Public School System in Utah. On October 5, 1884, he was sustained as one of the First Seven Presidents of Seventy of the Church, thereby becoming a General Authority of the Church, which appointment he held until his death.

On October 1, 1889, he recommended the establishment and was placed in charge, by the General Authorities of the Church, of the Bureau of Information which since said time has become one of the larger missions of the Church.

When in 1890 the people of Utah divided on party lines, John Morgan became one of the outstanding leaders of the Republican party and until his death was recognized as perhaps the most influential power in that organization.

It was he whom the Territorial and Church Leaders sent to Washington to arrange for the introduction of bills in the Congress of the United States for the granting of Statehood to Utah. It was he who was sent by the Church Leaders to intercede with President William H. Harrison and his Cabinet Members for a more lenient and fairer treatment of the Mormon problem at a time when all Church property had been escheated to the Government and all said property was under the control of a Federal Receiver. It was John Morgan, who, with the assistance of B. H. Roberts, went to New York and other large centers and interceded with the
leading editors of the great metropolitan daily papers informing them of the Mormon viewpoint of the problems in Utah, and in all of these various activities he rendered splendid service in behalf of his people and his State.

Yet, in the full maturity of splendid manhood; with a life rich in achievement and a record which will forever command the high admiration of men, John Morgan died in comparative early manhood while visiting in the little settlement of Preston, Idaho, on the 14th day of August, 1894.
John Morgan, second son of Garrard Morgan and Ann Eliza Hamilton Morgan, was born August 8, 1842, in Greensburg, Indiana. At the age of 13 years his family moved to Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois in what is known as the Lincoln Country. His father's farm adjoined the Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln farm near Mattoon.

On September 6, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company I, 123rd Regiment of Illinois. He served until the end of the war and was awarded distinguished recognition for heroic service in action in the Battle of Selma in Alabama. He was honorably discharged as sergeant June 28, 1865.

In January, 1866 he entered Bestman's Commercial College in Poughkeepsie, New York. On graduation therefrom in the spring of 1866, he with a companion drove a herd of beef cattle from Kansas City to Salt Lake City. On arriving there, he decided to stay while his companion continued on to California.

Shortly afterwards, he opened the Morgan Business College which proved highly successful.

On December 21, 1867, he was baptized and confirmed a member of the L.D.S. Church by Robert L. Campbell. He was appointed with George Goddard and John B. Maiben on June 12, 1872 to organize the Deseret Sunday School Union and on October 8, 1875 was called on a mission for the Church.

November 25, 1877, John Morgan emigrated seventy of his converts to the San Luis Valley in Colorado and organized the towns of Manassa and Ephriam, Colorado.

June 1 to June 4, 1878, he wrote the "Plan of Salvation Tract" in Georgia. On August 9, 10, 11, he organized the Southern States Mission and was sustained as President until 1888.

He visited with David Whitmer in Clay County, Missouri on April 13, 1882. Whitmer bore strong testimony on the Book of Mormon.
On May 31, 1883, he was appointed 2nd Assistant General Superintendent of Deseret Sunday School Union with George Q. Cannon as Superintendent and George Goddard as First Assistant.

On August 6, 1883, John Morgan was elected a member of legislature and was made chairman on the Committee of Education. He prepared and introduced the free school bill which became a law. He was also elected County Superintendent of Schools of Salt Lake County.

December 2, 1883, he organized the first Salt Lake County Teachers Association and on February 13, 1884, secured passage of the Public School Bill in Legislature. On March 2 of that year he was elected Regent, University of Deseret.

October 5, 1884, he was appointed a member of the First Council of Seventy.

October 1, 1889, by appointment of the First Presidency, John Morgan organized and set up the first Bureau of Information on Temple Square.

January 12, 1892, he met with President Harrison in Washington, D. C. to discuss statehood for Utah.

January 17, 1892, he prepared and had Senator Teller of Colorado introduce a Bill in the U. S. Senate granting statehood to Utah. Bill was defeated.

September 18, 1891 with John Henry Smith, he was given leadership in organizing Republican Party in Utah and Arizona.

August 14, 1894 John Morgan died in Preston, Idaho at the age of 52 years.
In Memoriam

JOHN HAMILTON MORGAN

SOLDIER
EDUCATOR
STATESMAN
CHURCHMAN

The Plan of Salvation, given to the children of men by an all-wise Creator, affords mankind the opportunity of eternal progression, development and happiness. He has pointed the way and opened the gates of Heaven and bade us enter into Life Eternal.
From my earliest childhood, I have had a deep and reverent appreciation of my father—John Morgan.

I was under ten years of age at the time of his passing and, therefore, had had but meager opportunity for close association with him. But the good and honored name he bequeathed to me and my family has proved to be of inestimable value.

Nicholas G. Morgan, Sr.
A TRIBUTE

By D. H. Christensen

JOHN MORGAN

February 20, 1947

As president of the Southern States Mission, John Morgan made occasional visits, in the Eighties, to the San Luis Stake of the L.D.S. Church, in Southern Colorado.

Mr. Morgan moved about during his visits to the several wards—Manassa, Ephraim, Richfield and several smaller groups. I lived at Ephraim.

Of course, on each visit President Morgan addressed the Saints. On Sundays he spoke in Sunday School and sometimes in afternoon and evening meetings. His words were always eloquent and convincing. No one in the audience ever tired when John Morgan spoke. His reservoir of new thought appeared to me to be inexhaustible. If he with purpose repeated some profound thoughts, they were always richly and beautifully clad. In short, he was both eloquent and profound.

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Mr. Morgan’s bearing was always erect, graceful, and dignified whether he was in the pulpit or on the street. He appeared to be cheerful but never frivolous. I do not recall ever having heard him “crack” a joke in his sermons but his words were always thought-provoking, and his facial expression genial and kind.
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In a crude way I have depicted Mr. John Morgan as I saw him through a boy's eyes. I listened to his words enraptured. They left a lasting impress on my life. On memory's pages John Morgan is an outstanding character.

(Signed)
D. H. Christensen
JOHN H. MORGAN’S
LIFE IN BRIEF

1842

JOHN HAMILTON MORGAN
Born in Greensburg, Indiana, the son of Garrard Morgan III and his wife Sarah Henderson Morgan.

1855

In the spring of 1855, Garrard Morgan, III and his family moved westerly and located near the pioneer settlement of Mattoon in Coles County, Illinois. It was at Charleston, the county seat of Coles County that the Morgan family attended the Lincoln-Douglas Debate (one of the series) held on the 18th day of September, 1858.

1862

At the age of twenty years, on the 6th day of September, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company I, 123rd Regiment of Illinois Infantry. He served with distinction in the Union Army until the end of the Civil War. He was appointed a corporal of said company on August 1, 1864 and as Color Sergeant on December 31, 1864 and was honorably discharged from service with his company on June 28, 1865 at Nashville, Tennessee.

1865

September

Enrolled as a student in the Eastman Commercial College at Poughkeepsie, New York and on completion of the course he went to Murfreesboro, Tennessee to go into business with a young man, also an accountant, who had served with him in the Army during the Civil War.
1866

June

John Morgan and his associate, at this time, were offered a contract by a representative of William Jennings of Salt Lake City to drive a herd of Texas cattle from Kansas City to Salt Lake City. This offer they accepted and soon afterwards left for Kansas City where they received the cattle and started westward to the land of the Mormons.

1866

December 23

They arrived safely with their cattle. Mr. Jennings, their employer, was away on their arrival which delayed them several days. During this period, John Morgan became interested in Salt Lake City and its people and decided to stay and open up a commercial college patterned after his alma mater. His companion continued on his journey westward to California.

1867

January

Organized "Morgan's Commercial College." It was first held, for a few weeks, in the old "Deseret Museum" building located on the SW corner of Richard's Street and South Temple. He then moved his school to a building owned by Nicholas Groesbeck located at what is now 257 South Main Street (Kress, S. H. & Co.).

1867

December 23

Baptized and confirmed a member of the L.D.S. Church by Robert L. Campbell.
Young Men’s Re-Union Ball.

Mr. A. M. E. and Ladies,

The honor of your company at a Select Ball to be held in

Morgan Commercial College,

On THURSDAY Evening, January 26, '71,

IS RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED,

TO COMMENCE AT 7 O'CLOCK.

Committee of Arrangements:

ALMA DUNFORD,  H. D. FOLSOM,  G. W. CROCKWELL.

Floor-Manager:

H. D. FOLSOM.

$1.00 Per COUPLE,  ADDITIONAL LADY 50 Cts.
1868
October 24
Married Helen Melvina Groesbeck, daughter of Nicholas and Elizabeth Thompson Groesbeck in the Old Endowment House.

1870
September 1
Occupied the new Morgan College Building at 144 West First South where this college reached its greatest success with an enrollment of 689 students and seven instructors in 1872. It also became a social center.

1872
June 12
Having become an ardent advocate and supporter of the Sunday School cause, he was appointed on a committee with Elders George Goddard and John B. Malben, to formulate a General Superintendency and Deseret Union Board for the Sunday Schools of the Church.

1875
October 20
Received his Patriarchal Blessing from Patriarch John Smith in which he was promised: “Seek to know the will of the Lord and His Spirit will direct thy course for it shall be thy lot to travel much for the Gospel’s sake and assisting in gathering scattered Israel.”

1878
August 11
Presided over first Southern States Mission Conference. It was held in Haywood Valley, North Georgia on August 9, 10 and 11, 1878. At this conference he was sustained as President of the Southern States Mission. Among Elders present, Parley P. Pratt and Edward Stevenson.
1878
September to 1879
March
Elder Morgan labored in Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama converting and baptizing many people.

1879
March 23
With large group of converts, Elder Morgan left Georgia and Alabama for the San Luis Valley where they arrived by rail on March 27, 1879, where he selected the townsite of Manassa and arranged for the people to settle there.

1879
April 5
At 8:30 p.m. arrived home in Salt Lake City "weary, tired and almost sick after an absence of thirteen months."

1879
August 21
Accompanied by the great pioneer apostle, Erastus Snow, John Morgan returned to San Luis Valley where they met Bishop Hans Jensen.

1879
August 26
"Met at the water’s brink" where, after singing and prayer, President John Morgan baptized fifteen persons.

1879
August 27
In company with Apostle Erastus Snow, he drove to the site of a new settlement and gave it the name of Ephraim.
1879
August 31
Held meeting at the home of Hans Jensen and set apart Elder S. E. Berthelson, as President, and John Allen and S. S. Sellers as Counselors in the newly organized San Luis Stake of Colorado.

1880
March 31
Returned to Southern States, building up the mission, until December 1881, when he returned home.

1882
January 9
Elected Engrossing Clerk of Utah Legislature where he was employed until March 11, 1882 learning much about legislative procedure.

1882
April 11
Returned to continue his labors in Southern States Mission.

1882
April 13
At 6 a.m. arrived in Kansas City where he met Elder M. F. Cowley with whom he proceeded to Richmond, Ray County, Missouri where he met David P. Whitmer, Sr., one of the three witnesses to the Book of Mormon. A long instructive conversation was had with this witness to the divinity of the Book of Mormon who bore anew his faithful testimony to the truthfulness of the work and the authenticity of the Book of Mormon. They were treated very kindly by David Whitmer. That same day they also called on General A. W. Don-ephan who at one time saved the life of the Prophet Joseph and had an interesting talk with him. They also visited the Missouri jail in which Joseph and Hyrum were confined.
1883
May 31
He was appointed Second Assistant in the General Superintendency of the first Deseret Sunday School Union Board with George Q. Cannon as General Superintendent, George Goddard, First Assistant and John Morgan, Second Assistant.

1883
August 6
Elected member of Utah Territorial Legislature. Appointed chairman of House Committee on Education and as such, drafted and introduced a Bill in the Legislature improving the effectiveness of the school law of 1880.

1883
September 19
In company with Apostle Francis M. Lyman, attended San Juan Stake Conference at Bluff, Utah, and decided that settlement should be made permanent.

1883
December 2
Organized first Salt Lake County School Teachers Association.

1884
February 18
Secured passage of Public School Bill in Legislature which initiated the free school system in Utah.

1884
March 2
Elected a Regent of the University of Deseret by the joint session of the Territorial Legislature.
1884
October 5
Was appointed one of the First Council of Seventy and so sustained at the General Conference of the Church.

1888
June 15
Moses Thatcher, John Henry Smith, John Morgan, William B. Preston, A. F. McDonald and J. M. Peterson organized at Manassa, Colorado, the Mexican Colonization and Agriculture Company for the settlement and development of Mexico.

1889
October 1
Having previously recommended the establishment on Temple Square of a Bureau of Information, he was appointed by the First Presidency of the Church to organize same and place it in operation. Notification of his appointment was conveyed to him by President Lorenzo Snow. He forthwith carried out his assignment.

1890
September 1
Started construction of the Morgan Hotel, which when completed, was one of the largest and finest hotels in the intermountain country at that time.

1891
September 18
With John Henry Smith, was given leadership in organizing the Republican Party in Utah and Arizona.

1892
January 12
Having been appointed to go to Washington, D. C. and secure, if possible, statehood for Utah, he on this day, had lengthy interview with President Harrison at the White House on this subject.
1892
January 17
Prepared Bill granting Statehood to Utah and arranged with Senator H. M. Teller of Colorado to introduce same in the U. S. Senate. This Senator Teller did.

1892
January 18
Met with Senators Carey and Warren and Congressman Clark from Wyoming. Had difficulty, but finally arranged to have Congressman Clark introduce Statehood Bill in House of Representatives.

1894
August 14
Died at the age of 52 in Preston, Idaho.

John H. Morgan in later years
A TRIBUTE

By President B. H. Roberts

John Morgan was one of the most outstanding men of his generation. He has left to us one of the richest legacies of all those honored dead who in their lifetime were instrumental in establishing in the Earth in this the Last Dispensation of the Fullness of Time, the Gospel of the Redeemer of the World.

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UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND THE
JOHN H. MORGAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

603 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
The above plaque is on the monument shown on the front cover.

The monument was unveiled and presented to Salt Lake City at 7:30 p.m., May 8, 1959.

It is located at 257 South Main Street.