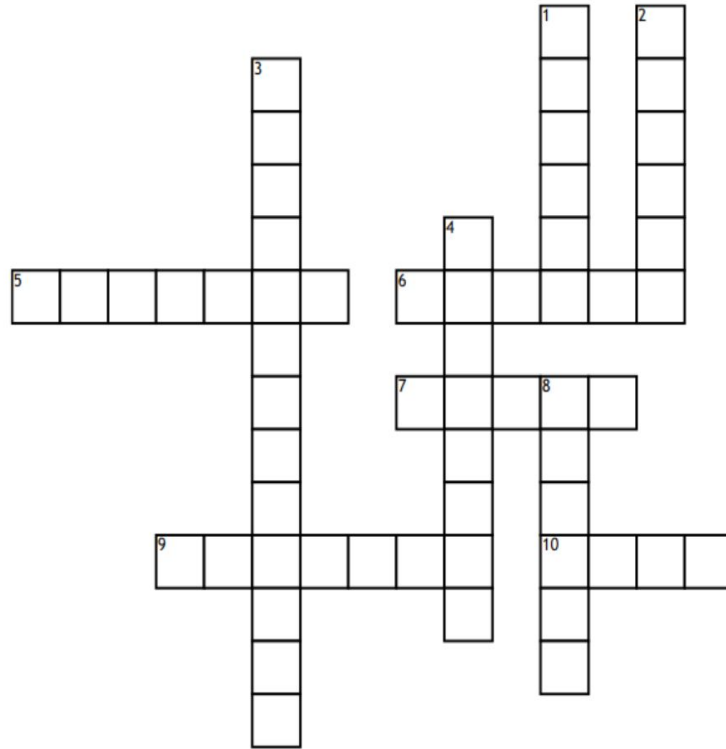


Forever Stalwart in Utah: "A Time of Refining"



Across

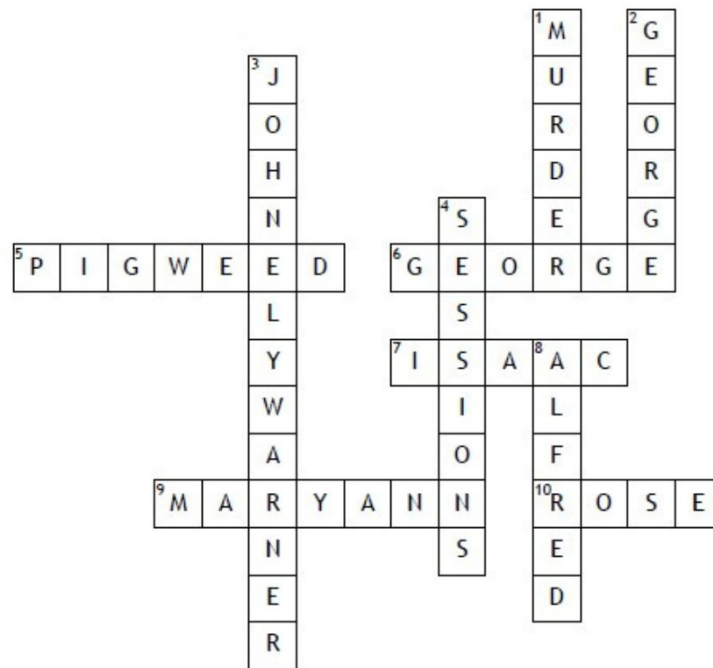
5. What life-saving plant grew south of the quarry Summer 1856? (Never before or Since!)
6. Who hand-chiseled the first grist mill in Sanpete County?
7. Whose baby did Chief Wakara demand to save the colony?
9. Who was Titus' second wife?
10. What was Diantha and Titus' adopted Indian girl's name?

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3. Who was the first white man killed by Indians in Utah?
4. In what Utah settelment did Morley and Billings first settle? (Later Bountiful)
8. Who was called to lead the Elk Mountain Mission?

Find clues to this puzzle in Volume Five Forever Stalwart: A Time of Refining.

Forever Stalwart in Utah: "A Time of Refining"



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Answers to Crossword Puzzle for Volume Five Forever Stalwart in Utah:
A Time of Refining

— The Story of the —

ELK MOUNTAIN MISSION

—
A PIONEER MISSION OF FAITH
AND ENDURANCE
—



ALFRED NELSON BILLINGS
AND THE 1876 COLONISTS

A MISSION OF FAITH

In the spring of 1876, under the direction of Church leaders, Alfred Nelson Billings was called to lead a mission to establish a settlement on the Colorado River, in southeastern Utah.

Forty-one men, with fifteen wagons, set out from the Sanpete Valley, crossing deserts and mountains to follow the Old Spanish Trail to the Crossing of the Colorado.

Their destination was Elk Mountain, a large mesa country overlooking the river—a place chosen for its good land, abundant timber, and opportunity to preach the gospel to the Lamanite (Ute) people.

Their faith was strong. Their calling was sacred.
The journey was long and difficult.



*“The Elders went forth to preach the gospel,
and the Lord worked with them.”*

— Doctrine and Covenants 42:7

THE MISSION AT ELK MOUNTAIN

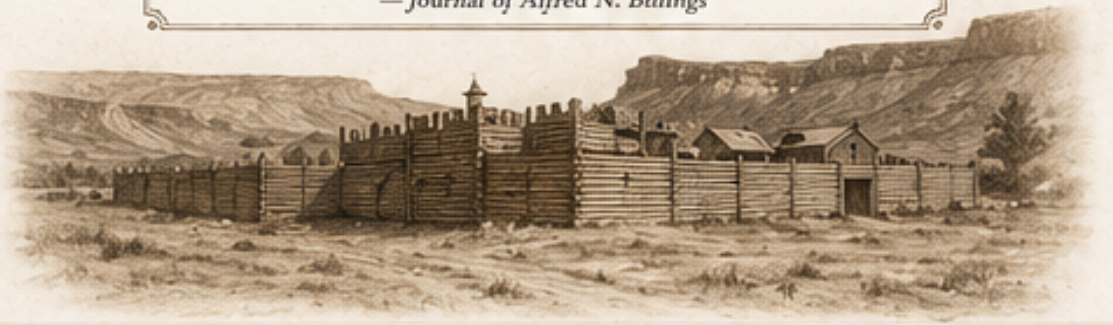
When the colonists arrived in late May, they found rich soil, plenty of water, and abundant timber. They immediately went to work.

- They planted crops—corn, potatoes, melons, and other vegetables.
- They built a fort for protection.
- They established homes and dug irrigation ditches.
- They set aside time for worship and the preaching of the gospel.

Early relations with the native Ute people were friendly. A number of them came to the mission, learned of the gospel, and were baptized into the Mormon faith.

"Many of the Lamanites were baptized, and it was thought that a great and good work was being accomplished."

— *Journal of Alfred N. Billings*



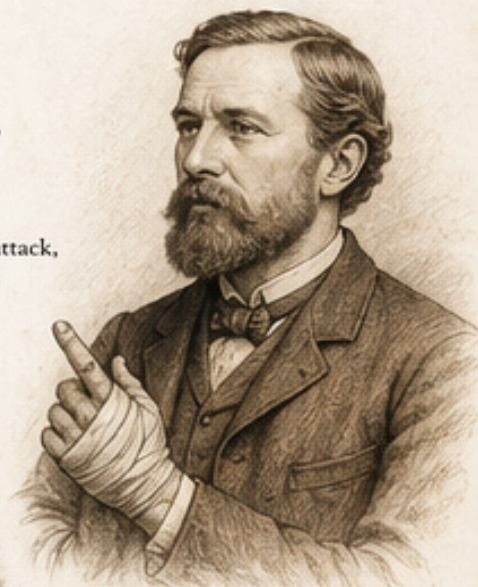
INDIAN TROUBLES

But as fall approached, trouble came. Tensions rose with some bands of Indians who objected to the settlement. Threats were made.

On September 17, 1876, the fort was attacked.

- A heavy fire was directed against the settlers.
- Three colonists—Robert Decker, Levi N. Bunker, and Alonzo F. Ward—were killed.
- Others were wounded.

Alfred N. Billings was shot in the hand during the attack, mutilating his forefinger. He never regained full use of his hand.



*Alfred Nelson Billings
Wounded in the hand,
September 17, 1876.*

THE MISSION ABANDONED

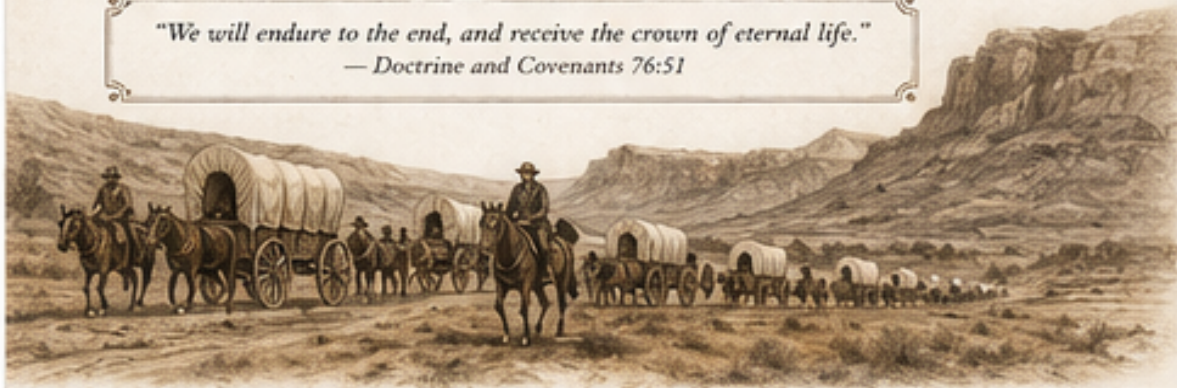
After the attack, the colonists knew they could not remain. The constant threat of further violence made it impossible to continue.

With heavy hearts, they prepared to leave the place where they had hoped to build homes, raise families, and build a community in the service of the Lord.

In October, the colonists, with their wagons and whatever belongings they could save, left Elk Mountain and returned to the Sanpete Valley.

Though the mission was short-lived, it was not in vain. The crops they planted, the fort they built, and the gospel they taught left a lasting witness of their faith and devotion.

*"We will endure to the end, and receive the crown of eternal life."
— Doctrine and Covenants 76:51*

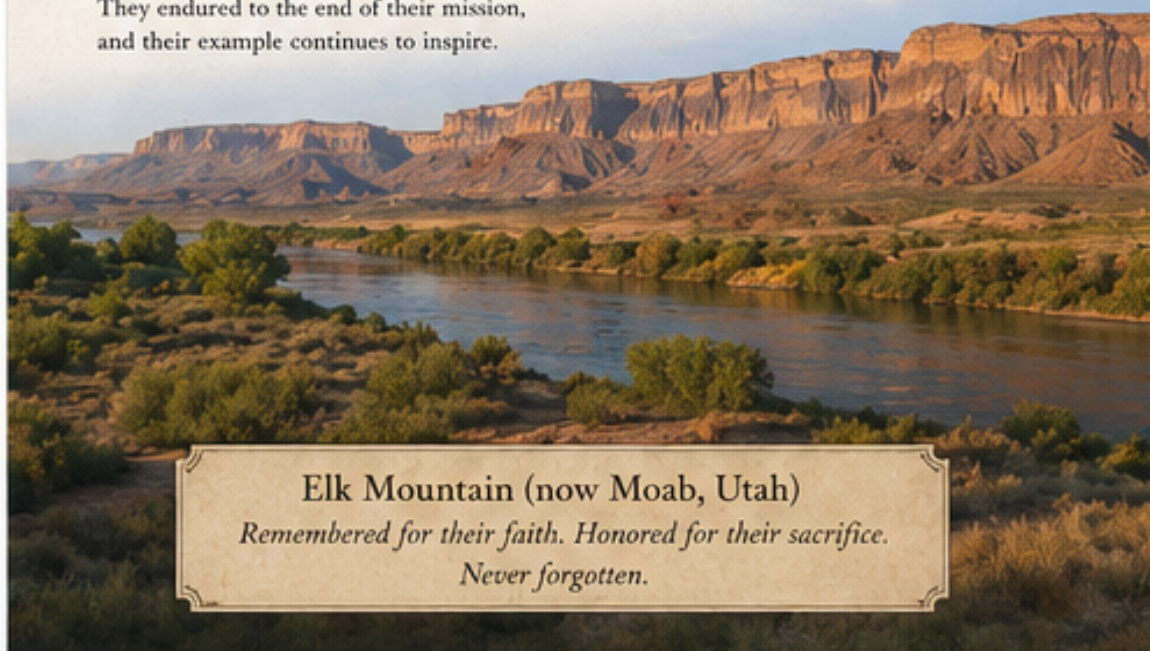


A LEGACY OF FAITH

The Elk Mountain Mission stands today as a tribute to the courage and faith of those 41 men who answered the call to go, to labor, to serve, and to testify.

They endured the journey, the hard work, the hopes, and the heartaches.

They endured to the end of their mission, and their example continues to inspire.



Elk Mountain (now Moab, Utah)
*Remembered for their faith. Honored for their sacrifice.
Never forgotten.*