Killed - None
Wounded - None
Fooled - Everybody
What was it?

- Mormon War
- Utah War
- Utah Expedition
- Johnston’s Army
- Buchanan’s Folly
- Buchanan’s Blunder
- Contractor’s War
- Echo Canyon War
The Protagonists

President Brigham Young 1801-1877

President James Buchanan 1791-1868
Causes

- Polygamy
- Mormon defiance of federal authority
- Friction with non-Mormon federal officials
- Mormon domination over federal courts
- Geographical importance to the main emigration routes to the West
Put Albert Johnston in charge
Sent them to the Utah Territory
Replaced Brigham Young with Alfred Cummings as Governor
US Army Commanders

BG Albert S. Johnston
Cdr, Army of Utah

LTC St. George Cooke
Cdr, 2nd Dragoons
Two Utah men, Charles Decker and Jesse Earl, went into the soldiers’ camps posing as travelers from California. What they learned while mingling with the uninformed and boastful enlisted men and junior officers only fueled Mormon fears that the army was coming to hang their leaders and abuse their women.
This fear led to one of the most horrific events in Utah’s history. The massacre of over a hundred people.
Made up of people from Missouri and Arkansas

Had planned to buy food in Utah

Came just as the Utahans had received word about Church leader, Parley P. Pratt, being killed in Arkansas

Some people who perhaps weren’t really part of the wagon train bragged about killing Joseph Smith

Became frustrated as they worked their way south and still could not buy food

Stopped at a water hole- Later Paiutes had animals die from water at that hole
Mountain Meadows

Wagon Train
Frustration
Fear for Family

Utahans
Experience
Fear for Family
Only 18 Children Were Spared

- Only those young enough to not be able to tell the story were spared
- They were cared for by settlers
- The relatives of those killed were told that the Fancher party was attacked by Indians
- All but 4 children returned East to relatives
John D. Lee’s Execution
1999 Monument
Fancher/Baker Wagon Train

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John D. Lee
1900 Monument
1999 Monument
The Army Continued to Advance
Nauvoo Legion Commanders

LTG Daniel H. Wells  Major Lot Smith
‘Our orders were not to engage in battle with [the soldiers] nor to take life, but to hinder them in every possible way we could.’

Major Lot Smith later said he’d been ordered not to hurt anyone except in self-defense. Even when the soldiers grew more aggressive, Mormons did not return fire.
Utah’s forces burned the grass for up to a mile on either side of the road, making it inconvenient for troops to find forage for their stock and draft animals.

Night ‘serenading’ parties using tin pans, tied and dried raw hides and bake-oven lids for ‘musical instruments’ disturbed the soldiers’ sleep and stampeded their mules and cattle. This tactic was particularly effective on snowy, windy nights when visibility was poorest.
The single most damaging and controversial operation of the winter campaign was the burning of three army wagon trains with 500,000 pounds of government supplies. The 27-year-old Major Lot Smith became a Utah legend for leading these audacious raids.
Scouts were sent from the Army to see how conditions were into the Salt Lake valley.

Their reports kept the Army from advancing.
Echo Cañon—The Mormon Defences.
The 100 militiamen in Echo Canyon built 350 campfires along the hillsides to convince scouts that it was occupied
- The built a wall on a hill top above Mormon Flats
- They placed dummies and sticks with hats inside the walls which they would move around
- Branches painted black to represent guns would be stuck out of the windows
- People coming through the canyon believed that the fort was occupied by Nauvoo Legion Forces
Fort Wells
As the new Governor, Albert Cummings, came into the canyon, Infantry and cavalry formed single-file lines of 25 on either side of the roadway. As the governor’s carriage passed by, they would sneak ahead behind the lines under the cover of darkness and sagebrush, presenting themselves repeatedly to their new governor.
The Army was convinced that it would not be smart to enter the canyon so they chose to stay and winter in Wyoming.
The Mormons had previously purchased Fort Bridger. Smith and his men burned it in anticipation of the army’s inhabitation.
Negotiations

Captain Stewart Van Vliet
Colonel Thomas J. Kane
Governor Alfred Alfred Cumming
Commissioners:
  Senator Lazarus W. Powell
  US Marshal Ben McCulloch
Neither side was willing to accept defeat.

Agreement was that the soldiers could enter the Salt Lake Valley but could not stop in Salt Lake.

Guards from the Nauvoo Legion stay to watch over the homes in Salt Lake with orders that if one soldier breaks ranks and enters a home, they will burn the city.
People in Salt Lake had covered the Temple site, had emptied their homes and filled them with sage brush and straw, and had ‘Moved South’
March Through Salt Lake
Conspiracy Theories

Divert attention from “bleeding Kansas”

**Bleeding Kansas**, sometimes referred to in history as **Bloody Kansas** or the **Border War**, was a series of violent events, involving anti-slavery and pro-slavery “Border Ruffian” elements, that took place in the Kansas Territory and the western frontier towns of the U.S. state of Missouri roughly between 1854 and 1858. These incidents were attempts to influence whether Kansas would enter the Union as a free or slave state.
Deliberate attempt to scatter Federal forces
Undertaken to enrich commercial friends
Camp Floyd
James Buchanan Cabinet
US Secretary of War John Floyd served under James Buchanan

He was a Southern Sympathizer

Albert Johnston called Camp Floyd after him

Charges come out the day he resigns from Secretary of War that he had misdirected funds to contractors and guns to the South. Neither charge will be fully investigated and his guilt (or innocence) is still a hotly debated subject

He becomes a General in the Confederate Army
There are no sources for lumber, no big trees around Fairfield so the Army built Camp Floyd from Adobe Brick. They could not make enough brick fast enough so they contracted with locals. They paid a penny a brick. They eventually paid $16,000.00 for brick.
The area was hard to live in

- It was dusty. Some of the soldiers write about having more than a foot of dust on the parade grounds.
  - The Cooks would set the Officers’ Table with the plates upside down so they wouldn’t bet dusty between setting the table and eating.
  - The dust got between pages of books.
- There wasn’t much to do and the men were often bored.
More and more men and supplies were sent West.

Camp Floyd became the biggest Military Base in the United States

2/3 of the US Army was in Utah
Stagecoach Inn
Outside Camp Floyd
Johnston Leaves

- When he receives word that the secession is coming.
- Leaving John Bulford in command
- Becomes an important General in the Confederate Army.
Refusing to call the fort after what he titles a traitor, the Commander, John Buford, calls the base Fort Crittenden.
When War Breaks Out

- The Army is recalled
- There orders are to bring what they can bring with them, sell what they can’t, destroy what is not sold
- They have an auction- surplus goods are sold
- $4,000,000 worth of goods are sold for $100,000
- Only one building is sold- the Commissary
The Base is Destroyed

- The largest military installation is reduced to one little building
- The cemetery is there. Men were buried, but the headstones weren’t placed. So, when they were, they weren’t placed over the actual graves but in alphabetical order
- The Stagecoach Inn is still standing
The US Government Still Wanted Utah Watched
Colonel
Patrick E. Connor

Cdr, 3rd California Volunteers
Fort Douglas

- Builds Ft. Douglas above Salt Lake City
- Trains cannons on the Beehive House
- Names it after Steven A. Douglas
Connor’s Contributions

- Fort Douglas
  - The Bear River Massacre
- The Father of Utah Mining
  - Found Silver in Park City Area
- The Salt Lake Tribune
- The Liberal Political Party
What Impact Did The Utah War Have on Us?