

When I explained that I was not interested primarily in genealogy, but in history, she sent me to her sister-in-law who lived just around the corner.

Here also I was well received, and early in our conversation she volunteered, "My grandfather gave five thousand dollars in gold pieces to the church. He wrote a letter to President Young and told him about it. Brother Brigham didn't come after it himself, but he sent a man in a buggy who took it up to Salt Lake City and turned it in. It wasn't counted as tithing, either."

Here then is only the coincidence of the four thousand dollars in gold coin. I had been skeptical about the Fancher's company having it in the first place, and if they did have it, how could it have come into the hands of Father William Stevens? Any conjecture is farfetched — whether Fancher left it with Stevens when the first Indian shooting took place there at Holden; whether it was pulled out of the debris of a sand dune along the Virgin River bottom by Stevens as he searched for wood to make a fire — any guess is not more strange than the fact that he had the gold coin for a long time and was much relieved to be rid of it.

Thus it is that not only John D. Lee as a man, but the forces which were set into motion by the one tragedy in which he was an important actor, reach out and touch life and history from many angles, the last word of which remains to be said.

Through all the eighty-four years which have elapsed since the execution of John D. Lee, the dearest hope of his many descendants has been that his name should some day be cleared. An action taken on Thursday, April 20, 1961, has made that hope a reality for them.

On that day the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve of the Mormon Church met in a joint session and "It was the action of the Council after considering all the facts available that authorization be given for the re-instatement to membership and former blessings to John D. Lee."

On May 8 and 9 following, the necessary ordinances were performed in the Salt Lake Temple.