

MOUND FORT'S EARLY HISTORY WHEN THE INDIANS FORCED THE SETTLERS TO BUILD A FORT

Editor The Standard: They are building a new sub-high school out at Mound Fort. It is very modern, up-to-date and commodious, but there is something wrong. They are going to call it the "North Sub-High."

Wherefore, the old timers residing thereabout are much grieved.

They note that lately there have been changes in ecclesiastical circles whereby the old original Mound Fort ward has been divided into two wards, each given a number. The Mound Fort ward, which in the fifties included everything from Ogden river bridge to many miles north and from the mountains to the lake, has now been legislated out of existence.

The school house which was built in 1890 on the southeast corner of Twelfth street and Washington avenue still bears the name of Mound Fort, but the high school building now going up to the south of the grade school is to be called the "North Sub-High."

Wherefore, as stated previously, the old timers are up in arms.

They have not forgotten that long before there was a house on Ogden bench, or before even a cow track indicated where Twelfth street was to be, Mound Fort was a town and a place on the map. Local pride must be reckoned with.

There was later a time when the north line of Ogden city was at Mill creek and Mound Fort was the next-door neighbor on the north. And, when in the fullness of time it became desirable to annex Mound Fort and Lynne, the city fathers came with their hats off and petitions in their hands, humbly approaching the prosperous burghers of Mound Fort and suggesting that they sign up to become a part of the city and have a share in its large future and already growing bonded indebtedness.

And now they are going to call it the "North Sub-High."

The first settlers came with Captain James Brown, who bought Good-year's fort on the Weber river, near Twenty-eighth street, in February of 1845, but very soon after settlers built their cabins on the north of Ogden river.

They went up the stream to a point where they noted an old river channel or dray swale. Here they built a temporary dam and turned the water into the old channel to see if it could be made to irrigate the rich river bottom land which they proposed to farm.

The water flowed merrily down the old river bed and crossed Washington avenue at Mill creek. About four blocks east of the Phoenix mill they built another dam and again coaxed the river water out upon the ground to the north as far as Twelfth street and extended the canal across Washington avenue past the mound which lay to the north of Twelfth street.

And there they made the center of their settlement, built a fort and gave it a name, and that was nearly seventy years ago.

And now a younger generation "that knew not Joseph" wants to call it the "North Sub-High." How hath the glory departed!

Was there really ever a Mound Fort? Sure. The ruins can still be seen and the remains of the old mud wall can still be readily traced.

Herewith please find a few—very few hand sketches of this interesting locality, prepared with the assistance of Caleb Parry of Marriott, Wells Chase, recently deceased, Mr. Amos I. Stone of Twelfth street and others who were familiar with the early history of Ogden.

From the first, the early settlers felt the need of protection from the Indians. There were frequent "Indian Scars." Some of the scars were real enough. Several settlers lost their lives and the tension was always high enough that when the rumor of an Indian raid came there was a whole-

hearted rush for shelter and mutual protection.

The big clay mound which extends from Twelfth street to Ninth street was selected as the main feature of the participation. The west slope of the mound was very steep and it did not require much labor to dig down the slope as to have an almost perpendicular bank from six to ten feet high. It was impossible to ride a horse and which would bother even an Indian to climb.

To strengthen the west side still further a breastwork, perhaps three feet high, was built along the top of the perpendicular bank behind which a rifleman could crouch and from which he would have a clear view of the bad land to the south, west and north.

Trouble with the Indians came suddenly and swiftly in those days, generally on horseback. The Indian was never a good foot soldier, but he could ride against any odds so long as he could ride. Hence when they had fixed the west side of the mound so that the Indian cavalry could not charge up it, they called that side safe. At a number of points the high bank and a ridge marking the line of the breast work can still be seen.

From the south point of the mound to the west side of Washington avenue, a mud wall was built along the north line of Twelfth street. It was extended north along Washington as far as Eleventh street, some say to Tenth street, but on the first named street about ten feet from the south side can still be traced a low ridge which, it is claimed, is the remains of the old wall.

The wall, when first built, was about three feet thick at the base, eight feet high and about 16 inches wide at the top. In building it two forms were set up for the sides. Men shoveled dirt into the forms and a man tamped the dirt with a maul. As the wall rose additional planks were added until the required height was attained. As fast as one section of the wall was built the forms were moved along to form the next section.

Sometimes water was hauled and the dirt was moistened while it was being tamped. This resulted in a very solid, compact wall of dried mud which withstood the action of the elements for years.

All the settlers living in the fort and those who expected to take refuge there were required to do their share of work on the wall and each new-comer was given a part to do in repairing it.

This was in the early fifties, but in ten years the settlers had grown so numerous and so confident of their own strength that the repairing of the wall was abandoned and it was leveled by the owner of the land, Ambrose Shaw.

Mr. Shaw built a fence along the low ridge which remained—a fence formed of cedar posts set in pairs. Wooden pins driven into auger holes in the posts connected them and formed rests for poles and rails. Nearly a thousand feet of this kind of fence can still be seen on three sides of the ground enclosed and, according to A. I. Stone, indicates the line of the old wall.

There were a number of dwellings—log cabins—inside the fort. Among the names mentioned are Shaw, Tyrrell, Rolf, Dana, and several others.

One of the first dwellings was a one-room cabin built by Henry Kemp on the Washington avenue side at a point about 240 feet north of Twelfth street. And the one-room log cabin later became the first school house to carry the name Mound Fort.

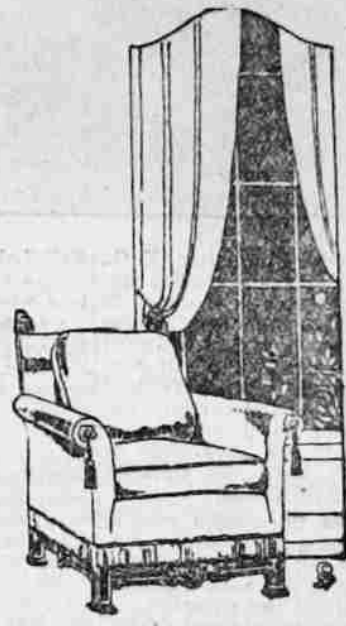
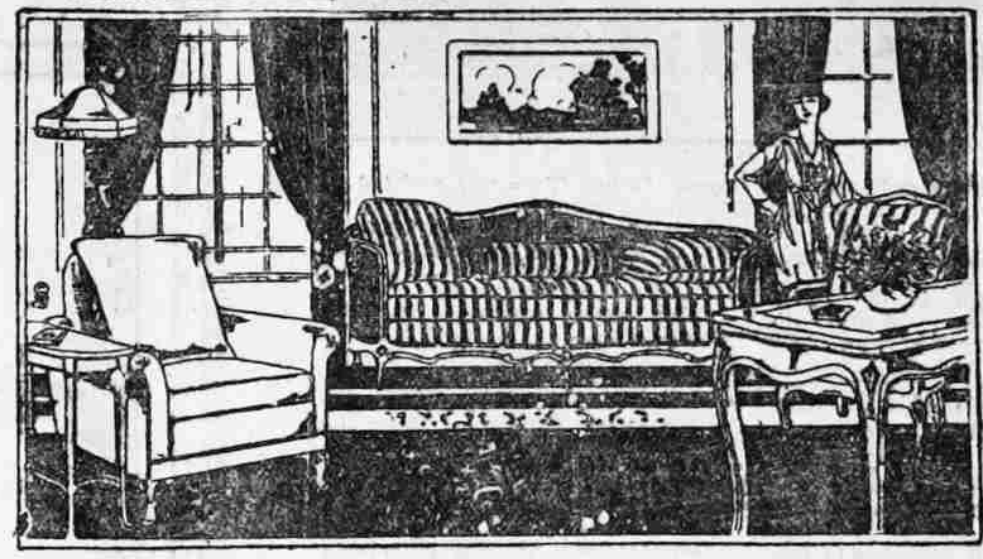
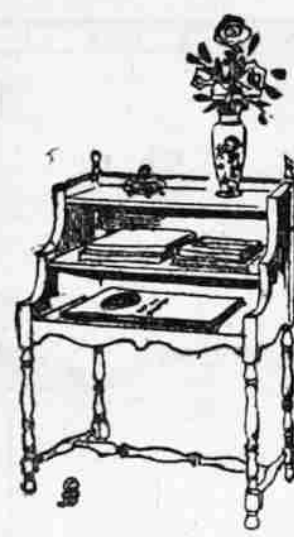
Among the schoolmarmes who taught the young Mound Fort ideas how to shoot was a Mrs. Rolf, a relative of the Bingham of Bingham's Fort. She had among her pupils numerous boys whose names have been written frequently on the abstracts of the lands north of Ogden river—the Moores,

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MISS KELLER AID THE BLIND OF WAR

She lived in a room adjoining the school room and on one occasion found the carcass of a badly decayed dog by the way-side, "just as a token on teacher," she dropped it down the chimney of the school house in the dusk of the early evening. The dog lodged in the chimney and teacher came out to see what had caused the chimney to suddenly stop drawing. The boys went right away from there and the subsequent history of the dog is shrouded in mystery.

Among the early teachers in the fort was Henry Chamberlain, who was noted as a rigid disciplinarian, and another named Hall, who later removed to Huntsville.

This was in the early sixties, and now they are going to call the new building the "North Sub-High."

One of the houses built in the fort was owned by Charles Dana, a relative of the famous editor of the New York Sun. His cabin was about 100 yards west of Washington avenue. He planted wild currants and plums and seedling apple trees near his home, some of which are still bearing fruit.

Close to Eleventh street and just west of a little slough was located a small shack in which one of the early settlers who resided near the fort undertook to operate a distillery.

There was a great deal of emigrant travel past Mound Fort and "Valley Tan" whiskey had a reputation that extended from the Golden Gate to the Missouri river.

There was, however, a sentiment against the traffic and this became so strong that the distillery was raided by the officers of the law. The proprietor, as usual, got a tip that the raid was being planned, so he detached the worm—a copper coil which was the most valuable part of his outfit—and threw it into the deepest hole of the slough, about 100 feet south of Eleventh street.

No one was ever able to locate it and supposedly about \$300 worth of copper is still concealed there. Another effort was made later to operate a distillery near a spring about five blocks east and north of the fort, but that was also suppressed.

At the southeast corner of the old wall is a box elder tree which was probably planted by Ambrose Shaw and which must be fifty years old. Just west of it is a row of three smaller box elders which Mr. Stone says he planted for Mr. Shaw about forty years ago.

Near the southwest corner of the wall is another old tree about three and a half feet in diameter. About 200 feet south of Eleventh street, on the Washington avenue side, is a cottonwood tree that is at least half a century old. These trees are all growing on the low ridge that remained after the wall was leveled.

In the center of the tract surrounded by the wall is a spring from which flows a small stream and which guaranteed the settlers a water supply in case of siege.

Mr. Stone is not certain that the north half of the mound was included in the fort. About half way along it was a low gap across which an effort was made some twenty-five years ago to cut a street and this may have been the north line of the fortification.

At a point on the east slope of the mound, near where Eleventh street would cross, two skeletons, supposed to be of Indians, were discovered by men hauling dirt. The mound has been attacked at so many points by people hauling soil, clay and gravel that it is hard to determine what its original shape was.

For nearly seventy years Mound Fort has been an educational center. It can be said of this particular locality as it cannot be said of any other locality in the city, that there has always been a school there.

First, the log cabin in the fort, then a later years a substantial stone house across the street and on the south side of Twelfth street, then in 1890 the stone school house was torn down and the present brick grade school was erected. This later was enlarged by the addition of more rooms, and now they are putting up a high school

Durfee, Jones, Chases, Barkers and others.

Upon receiving recently a gift of \$500 from a friend, Miss Helen Keller, the blind author, turned it over to a relief organization for the blind in the war and sent with it a long message of cheer to her "comrades in the dark." "There will never be a day in the years to come when they will need our help," she has said.

alongside of it, and they are going to change the name to "North Sub-High." Which way is north, anyway? And north of what?

The drawing that is submitted herewith is not true to scale and there are so many points in doubt about the boundaries of the fort and about its early history that it is to be hoped that some student of the new sub-high may some day find time to trace accurately its boundary line and record its history before time shall have covered them entirely up. But they ought to call it "Mound Fort Sub-High."

O. A. KENNEDY.

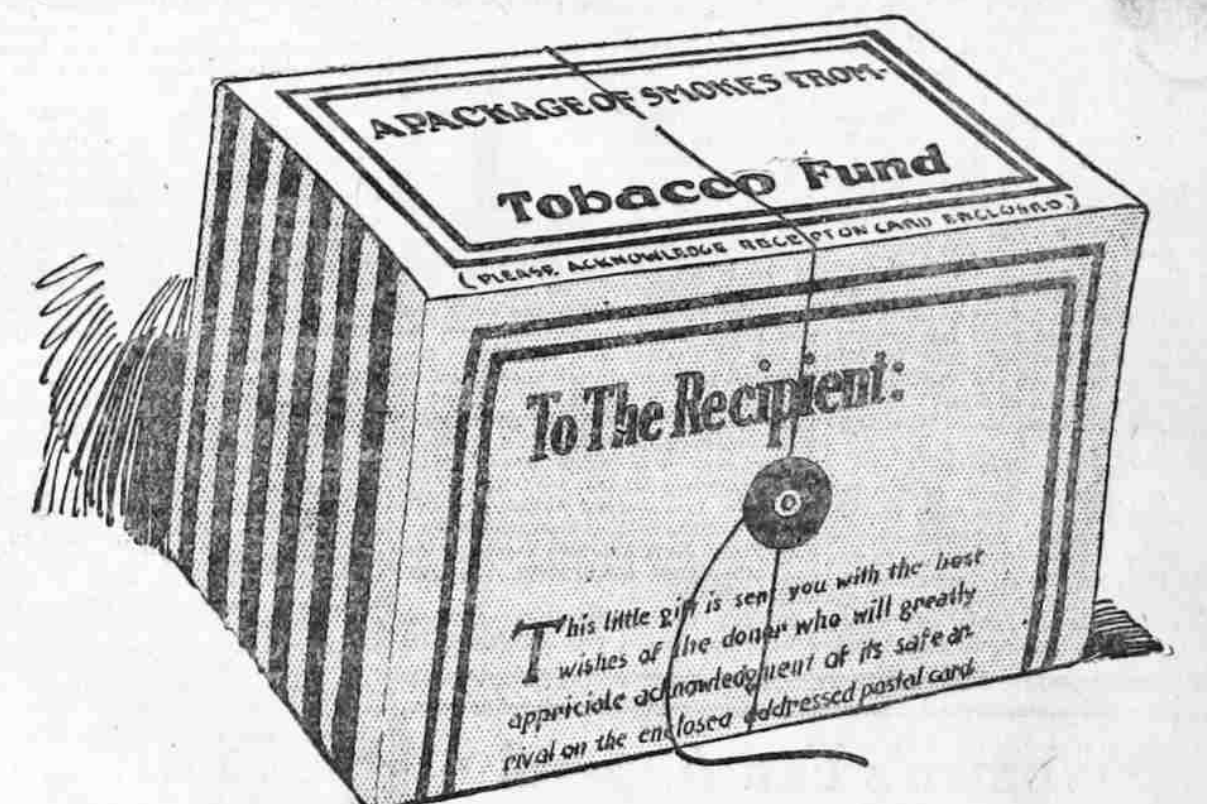
Dutch Will Not Yield.
AMSTERDAM, Oct. 14.—Cornelius Van Aalst, president of the Netherlands Overseas trust, in an interview printed in the Handelsblad, describes the restriction placed by Great Britain

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