

## Listen to Counsel (The Saga of Haun's Mill)

Words and Music by

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For a day or two Captain Evans set up A picket post by the timber's north line. Then a treaty of peace Comstock asked them to sign Led most saints to think at last all was fine.

But they did not disband, as another group Was still a menace miles to the east.
No danger seemed imminent; most settlers felt safe.
Life went on as usual, for the moment, at least.

Men worked in the shops or harvested crops Under afternoon sun on that warm October day. The women were busy with domestic tasks Along the stream banks happy children were at play.

Then out of the woods at the hamlet's north edge Burst a charge by that scurrilous militia band Bent on death and destruction. Their wild shouts and shots Rent the air of that once peaceful land.

In utter confusion saints ran wildly around. Where, oh where could safety be found? Across mill dam and into the thickets they fled Or on to the nearby blacksmith shop ground.

Half of the men made it through the large door With shotguns and squirrel rifles indifferently armed. Their shots from within, ineffectual at best, One after another those brethren were harmed.

For the blacksmith shop had one fatal flaw--The large cracks between the logs soon became A death trap for many who huddled there, for shots in through the cracks had deadly aim.

Evans shouted "Retreat! Ev'ry man for himself!" When he saw their plight in that hopeless fight. The door was flung open, men ran for their lives. Though some fell, blessed were those not pursued in their flight.

Sardius Smith, a boy of ten, Had arrived that day with his family For grain to be ground on their way to Far West. Where his father was, he wanted to be.

He ran with him into that hapless shop, Crawled under the bellows, saw his father shot. A cruel man from the mob found him cowering there, But compassion or pity, he had not!

With no chance for surrender, the boy was shot.

Killer watching death struggle and agony.

\*Nits will make lice, and if he had lived,

He'd grown to be a Mormon!\*--His boast in fiendish glee.

White haired, Revolutionary War soldier, McBride, Lay helpless and wounded, his gun by his side. When his gun was demanded, resigned, he said, "Take it." Then shot in the breast with his own gun, he died.

'Nor was that the end of that dastardly act, For bloodthirsty hate in that mob was rife. The poor old man's body was mangled and hacked Beyond recognition with a rude corn knife.

Warren Smith's body, stripped of boots, coat and hat, Was dragged all around and kicked viciously. Dead men were shot again, just for the sport. Vile men howled like demons, in wild victory.

While fleeing, Miss Mary Stedwell was shot in the hand, And fainting, fell over a log, now her shield. Where her dress was caught, in view of the mob, Some twenty bullets that log did yield.

Not a man was left standing at the massacre's end. Dead or dying were two boys and fifteen men; Eleven more wounded, plus Alma Smith, seven; Five or so who escaped dared not come back again.

Once the shooting was over, the looting began--Personal effects, clothing, some robbed from the dead, Bedding and horses, cows, wagons and teams, Empty ten gallon keg beat as a drumhead.

Little more than an hour all was over and done. Horror, death, and destruction left in their wake, Col. Jennings' militia--that murderous mob--Returned to their camp, boasts of valor to make.

How they savored their victory o'er that helpless lot Who dared to believe what The Prophet taught. All on his own, Jennings made that attack, Later sanctioned, when Governor Boggs' approval was sought.

Pleased with success of his villainous charge, In which Comstock's company took the lead But a few hours from signing treaty of peace, Jennings wondered if it would retribution breed.

When he thought he heard cannon from the direction of Haun's Mill,

He roused his men, broke camp, moving east at great speed, Not stopping 'til the West Fork of the Grand was between Him and those imagined pursuers for his deed.

How piteous the sight at that Haun's Mill scene--Wary women and children searched for loved ones feared lost.

Were their husbands, their fathers, their brothers and sons Lying wounded or dead? Oh, how terrible the cost!

The air was filled with cries of wounded and bereft. Dogs howled, cattle bellowed. Twilight faded into night. Women dressed the wounds of those suffering there And tried to comfort others mourning their plight.

By morning, those escaped returned, though not enough To dig graves for all those bodies, changing fast. An unfinished well, a final resting place For loved ones who perished, free from sorrow at last.

The women assisted in gathering the dead, Borne one at a time, all gory and ghastly, Slid into the well from a large wooden plank--All were covered with hay; then dirt thrown in lastly.

True to their threat, Comstock's company came back, Relieved at not having to bury the dead.
Survivors were like prisoners, unable to leave, Now destitute with winter and expulsion ahead.

The mill soon became the company headquarters As they lived off the land, and very well, too, Grinding all of their grain, food theirs for the taking, Raiding beehives, henhouses, field fed hogs not a few.





