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Elder J. M. Young

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ELDER J. M. YOUNG.

ELDER J. M. YOUNG was really the founder of the city of Lincoln, the capital of Nebraska. He was born in Genesee county, New York, near Batavia, on the old Holland purchase, on November 25, 1806. In 1829 he married Alice Watson, at that time eighteen years of age, and who now survives him at the age of seventy-four. The following year he moved to Ohio and from Ohio he went to Page county, Iowa,

in 1859. In 1860 he came to Nebraska and settled at Nebraska City. In 1863, near the end of the year, he came to Salt Creek and selected as a site for a town, and what he predicted would be the capital of Nebraska, the present site of Lincoln.

The following persons located here at the same time: Thomas Hudson, Edwin Warns, Dr. McKesson, T. S. Schamp, Uncle Jonathan Ball, Luke Lavender, Jacob Dawson, and John Giles. It was the original intention to make the settlement a church colony, but the idea was never realized as projected.

On eighty acres owned by him Elder Young laid out the town of Lancaster, which was made the county seat. He gave the lots in the city away, half to the county and school district and half to Lancaster seminary, a school which he hoped to see established here for the promulgation of his faith. He built from the proceeds of the sale of some lots a building which was called the seminary, and which was occupied by the district school and church. It was burned in 1867 and was never rebuilt.

A church was organized here, and Mr. Schamp was its first pastor. Elder Young was then president of the Iowa and Nebraska conference. The next year after the capital was located the stone church was built. Elder Young's dream was to build up a strong church in the capital city. He worked assiduously for this object, and put into the work some seven or eight thousand dollars of his private means. When the church went down, and he saw that his labor in so far had been in vain—that his dream could not be realized—he was almost broken-hearted, and this was the chief cause of his departure from Lincoln, which took place in 1882, when he went to London, Nemaha county, the scene of his closing days, in the year 1884.

Elder Young began his labors as a minister soon after he moved to Ohio in 1829. He was president of the Ohio annual conference for several years, and was president of the Nebraska and Iowa conference for about twenty years. He was a man of rare vigor and zeal for the cause to which he gave his life.

Besides his wife the deceased leaves four sons to mourn his loss: John M. Young, of Lincoln; James O. Young, of London, Nemaha county; Levi Young, of this county, near Raymond, and Geo. W. Young, of Taos City, New Mexico.

The Elder had all the preparations for the funeral made under his

directions before his death. In Wyuka cemetery, where his remains were laid, he had already erected a monument over the graves of his brother and his brother's wife, and bearing also the names of himself and his wife. He had a portion of his funeral clothes made under his directions. His request was that Elder Hudson should preach his funeral sermon, and that R. D. Silver, for whom he entertained a strong friendship, should be one of the pall bearers.