

In This Issue

Maurine C. Ward

The 1846 exodus from Nauvoo, Illinois was only the beginning of the westering migration of the Latter-day Saints. Swelled in their ranks by members from Europe, Canada, and other parts of the United States, some 70,000 men, women, and children arrived in the Salt Lake Valley before 1869, the coming of the railroad. This number does not take into consideration the Saints who remained in Illinois or Iowa, who returned to Great Britain, who followed other leaders to Wisconsin or Texas, who settled in California with Samuel Brannan, or who perished along the way.

Once in the Salt Lake Valley, Brigham Young immediately sent dedicated frontiersmen out to explore new areas surrounding church headquarters. Young knew that expansion was necessary to provide homes for his followers and to create roads for acquisition of supplies.

One might ask how President Young was able to orchestrate this massive undertaking. How did he know what lands to explore? What enabled communication between the Mormon Battalion, the Pueblo and southern Saints, the Pioneer Company traveling west? This issue takes a new look at Mormon migration and exploration, as well as some maps in use or being developed during that period of time.¹

Two articles focus on maps utilized in the western movement. Don Smith combines the 1856 Army Engineer map across Nebraska with the engineer's notes and journal to correct present misrepresentations of the 1856 Handcart Companies. These accounts give added detail and interest to the handcart pioneer journals of 1856. The paper on Mitchell's 1846 map had its impetus when Max Jamison, curious about the annotations found on the Brigham Young University copy of the map, determined to find the author. His dogged research turned up a previously unknown member of the Mormon Battalion, Lewis Dent, a civilian clerk to the paymaster. A letter by Dent, dated 1 February 1847, is

reprinted from the Houston, Texas *Democratic Telegraph & Texas Register*. The paper also shows that information about the Mormon troubles in Nauvoo, the subsequent exodus, and the march of the Mormon Battalion was known, through newspapers, far from the actual events.

Stan Kimball draws from pioneer diaries to tell many unusual and strange happenings on the Mormon Trails from 1831 through 1868. He touches on domestic, supernatural, handicapped and other experiences.

The result of keeping a daily journal is found in Guy Bishop's article on Henry Bigler. Although Bigler did not actually discover gold in California, he rose to prominence because he was the person who accurately recorded the discovery on the day it happened. Using personal accounts, Fred Woods compares Latter-day Saints who followed the trail to "Zion" with the 1849 gold seekers. He concludes his essay with the story of William Morley Black, who became converted while on his way to the gold fields at the age of twenty-three. He helped settle Sanpete County, lived in Orderville, then went on the underground to Mexico with other polygamist husbands. When Black died in 1915, he left an LDS posterity of twenty-eight living children, 214 living grandchildren and 206 great-grandchildren.

William and Donna Smart present a different segment of exploration by the early Saints. Their manuscript tells the story of Parley P. Pratt's 1849 Southern Utah exploring expedition. They contrast the immense hardship of the journey with examples of songs composed and sung by Parley Pratt and Robert Campbell. An article reprinted from the 7 October 1905 *Deseret News* tells of another exploring company. On 16 November 1847, less than four months after the pioneers arrived in the valley, this group, under the leadership of Horace K. Lathrop, left for Los Angeles. The party, comprised of eighteen men, was the first to make the journey from Salt Lake through southern Utah to Los Angeles. Their difficult trip is recounted by Bishop John Hunt of Snowflake, Arizona, who was a member of the company.

All of the essays in this issue of the Nauvoo Journal present a new look at the Mormon migration, as well as answer some questions about the tremendous undertaking of Brigham Young in establishing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the West.

Notes

1. Two articles in the journal are beginnings of books in process: those of Don Smith and Max Jamison. Two other articles are taken from books either published or in the process. *Henry William Bigler: Soldier, Gold Miner, Missionary, Chronicler, 1815-1900*, authored by Guy Bishop, is published by Utah State University Press. *Over the Rim: The Parley P. Pratt Exploring Expedition to Southern Utah, 1849-50*, by William and Donna Smart, is also being published by Utah State University Press, due out in November this year.