

The year 2000 is a perfect time for new beginnings. One such beginning is the birth of our new journal, *Mormon Historical Studies*, replacing the eleven-year-old *Nauwoo Journal*. The change, in part, came about because of the marriage between our magazine and the Mormon Historic Sites Foundation. The new name was chosen to reflect their name and purpose.

Readers will notice several changes in this journal. The focus has expanded to allow for the presentation of history from the beginnings of Mormonism to the present time.

This issue offers a variety of subjects and time periods. Erie, Pennsylvania converts in the 1830s, a Norwegian Mormon settlement on the Fox River in Illinois, 1842-1849, and Middle Eastern missionary travel accounts during 1884-1928 describe LDS communities and missionary work in three different locales and eras. Immigration of more than five thousand Saints through Norfolk, Virginia, 1887-1890 via steamboats and railroads contrasts sharply with the story of Howard Egan fighting feisty Native Americans during his 1848 trek across the Mormon Trail. Two small record books by Bishop Ute Perkins of Pleasant Valley, Iowa, detail his efforts to provide for three Mormon Battalion families.

*Mormon Historical Studies* will continue to carry special sections inaugurated the past two years with the *Nauwoo Journal*, such as Original Documents, Archival Listings, and Historic Sites. Other sections to be included in future issues are Conversations with Historians, and Biographical Sketches.

The final cover design and logo is still a work in process, please bear with us while we fine tune our ideas.

Now, turn the pages and begin a new adventure in Mormon historical study. We welcome your letters and comments.

MAURINE CARR WARD, editor