

Editor's Introduction

About ten years ago, I edited my second great-grandmother's Winter Quarters journals for publication. During the time she lived there, she often went across the Missouri River to visit friends and relatives. I remember reading somewhere that families of the Mormon Battalion men as well as many of the poor camp families from Nauvoo were assigned to settle on the east bank of the river.

In my mind, I pictured one huge camp in the Council Bluffs area. During a research trip I took to that area, however, local historian Gail Holmes took me to several campsites and settlement locations of the Latter-day Saints on both sides of the Missouri River. I was astounded to learn that almost ninety camps were widely situated in Iowa. In short, I recognized that the Mormon occupation of that region during the late 1840s and early 1850s was much more extensive than I had ever thought.

Illustrative of this fact is that only recently I learned about an 1848 Mormon petition requesting the U.S. government to establish a post office in Kanesville. The petition contained the names of some eighteen hundred Latter-day Saints living in the region of southwestern Iowa. Recognizing the value of such an extensive list of early Latter-day Saints, I solicited the help of Fred E. Woods to edit the list—with the hope that many of our readers will find family names in this issue's article associated with the petition.

Other articles in this issue range from the story of early Mormonism in Philadelphia by Stephen J. Fleming to a commentary on the Mormon Tabernacle Choir's *Music and the Spoken Word* by Lloyd D. Newell, the current commentator of the program. Paul B. Pixton describes the ship *Tyrian* and the Mormon passengers who sailed from Liverpool for New Orleans in 1841. And L. Douglas Smoot offers remarks about another maritime experience, that of the steamboat *Saluda* and its explosion in 1852. Smoot was present at a Lexington Historical Association banquet in June 2004 where he gave these remarks about his ancestor, Abraham O. Smoot, who was closely associated with the *Saluda* tragedy.

Many have heard of the conversion of Artemus Millet, chief superintendent of construction of the Kirtland Temple. Josh E. Probert and Craig K. Manscill flesh out the rest of Millet's history and his dedication in building up the kingdom of God in Utah. Another biography in this issue is that of William Bowker Preston, written by Kenneth Godfrey. Preston was a pioneer, a colonizer, and an LDS Church and civic leader who lived in the early Utah communities of Logan and Salt Lake City.

Mark Staker, curator at the LDS Museum of Church History and Art in Salt Lake City, Utah writes a short description of the restoration and reconstruction of historic buildings at Kirtland, Ohio. The Mormon Historic Sites Foundation provided major financial contributions for this work. Photos by Alexander Baugh compliment the paper.

Two document papers are included in this issue. David Whitchurch introduces readers to a 17 October 1854 letter from Joseph F. Smith to his sister Martha Ann Harris and discusses the collection of 167 letters written by Joseph to Martha between 1854–1916 and of another 44 letters from Martha to Joseph. Finally, Jacob Olmstead presents a rare look at twentieth-century anti-Mormon silent films, using marketing pamphlets from the films.