

Guest Editor's Prologue

"Our Cup Runneth Over"

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It is not often that *BYU Studies* has so many excellent articles submitted in the area of L.D.S. Church history that it necessitates two continuous issues, but such is our fortune. This exciting issue is a companion volume to the Winter issue, Vol. 19, No. 2. Both deal with the Nauvoo period of L.D.S. Church history.

Nauvoo had "a" beginning when the Saints met land speculator "Doctor" Isaac Galland. The Saints purchased 20,000 acres from Isaac Galland, and he accepted lands in Missouri for full payment. Lyndon W. Cook discusses this "Mormon benefactor's" life.

Looking into Nauvoo through the eyes of one who kept a daily diary "on the spot" provides a clear view that cannot be seen through the eyes of noncontemporary writers. The twenty-three-year-old Zina Diantha Huntington gives us this rare privilege. She helps us to understand the feelings of the Nauvoo Saints when Joseph and Hyrum were martyred. She writes of succession in the presidency, of the trial of Joseph and Hyrum's murderers, of the birth of David Hyrum Smith—Joseph and Emma's last child—and of many other historical events. Zina conveys appreciation for nature, for her surroundings, and especially for her relationship with the Savior. Her psalm-like prayers are classical examples of Mormon faith. Maureen Ursenbach Beecher is responsible for editing the diary for publication and has given her usual appropriate introduction and footnotes.

Donald L. Enders has given us an insight into the platting and layout of the city streets of Nauvoo, and a history of the *Maid of Iowa*, which for three years was a "Mormon boat" that plied the Mississippi. The *Maid of Iowa* served as an excursion boat, ferry boat, military boat, and a meeting place for Church services. Dan Jones, the boat's captain, was a faithful Saint whose life comes more into focus from Donald Ender's research.

Sally T. Taylor, in her poem, "The Pioneer Dulcimer," shows the use of music in giving the pioneers strength to face the wilderness. Though we often think of the pioneers' struggles when

crossing the Plains, we sometimes forget the trials in gathering to Nauvoo.

The life of William Weeks, architect of the Nauvoo Temple, is outlined by J. Earl Arrington. Why didn't Weeks become the architect of the Salt Lake Temple as Brigham Young anticipated? This and many other answers have been revealed through Dr. Arrington's research.

"The Sacred Departments for Temple Work in Nauvoo: The Assembly Room and the Council Chamber" is the title of a very interesting article that deals with the buildings where the first endowments were given in this dispensation. These details have long been overlooked in our writings of Nauvoo history. Joseph Smith's store and the Nauvoo Temple are the "sacred departments," in addition to other temporary locations.

Who was Lewis C. Bidamon? Did he start a match-manufacturing business which later became Diamond Match Company? Did he marry Emma Smith on Joseph Smith's birthday? Valeen Tippetts Avery and Linda King Newell have teamed to research and write about this "Stepchild of Mormondom."

The Historians Corner, edited by James B. Allen, has choice historical morsels from original documents that illuminate our understanding. Dean Jesse writes of an original document concerning "the Constitution by a thread . . ." prophecy of Joseph Smith. Ronald K. Esplin gives us an "alternate view" about who was responsible for the policy of denying the priesthood to the Blacks. Lyndon W. Cook comes forth with a document written by Bishop George Miller that gives insight into the character of Joseph Smith.

Elden J. Watson has written about the proposed canvas tabernacle that was to have been erected just west of the Nauvoo Temple.

Jon D. Green has reviewed *The Early Temples of the Mormons* by Laurel B. Andrew.

Readers of the two continuous "Nauvoo" issues of *BYU Studies* will join in expressing gratitude to those who contributed long hours to researching and writing. Readers may now see Nauvoo more clearly and feel with the Nauvoo Saints a humble devotion and dedication to a living God.