

The Historians Corner

Edited by Ronald W. Walker

To give yet another variation on this issue's Nauvoo theme, "The Historians Corner" includes letters written by two Nauvoo immigrants, who reveal the feelings and everyday concerns of "typical" Saints and citizens. The letters have been edited by Glen M. Leonard, coauthor of *The Story of the Latter-day Saints*.

Not all who came to Nauvoo found their hopes fulfilled. But as Leonard's documents show, many found their new home to their liking. They were impressed not only by its promised bounty, but also by the community's spirit and religious teaching. We will not fully understand the Mormon city on the Mississippi without this view.

Leonard, whose Farmington home lies on ground owned and settled by Truman Leonard, his pioneer progenitor, is currently preparing for publication a collection of Nauvoo letters and a history of Nauvoo.

Letters Home: The Immigrant View from Nauvoo

Glen M. Leonard

The arrival of immigrants was a persistent aspect of Nauvoo life during the time the Latter-day Saints made the City Beautiful their headquarters. From its beginning with an influx of exiled Missouri Saints, Nauvoo was a city constantly adjusting to newcomers. Its rapid growth burgeoned when English converts joined the gathering to Nauvoo. The first converts departed Liverpool in June 1840 on the *Britannia* bound for New York City.¹ New Orleans soon became the ocean port of favor, and the Saints completed the journey on Mississippi steamers. Meanwhile, Latter-day Saints in Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Upper Canada, and many other places headed overland and along river routes in response to Joseph Smith's call to gather to Nauvoo.² The process was never ending. Even as Brigham Young