

# The Historians Corner

Edited by James B. Allen

In this issue we present two documents that make fine companions, even though they were never intended to be such. They both reflect certain aspects of the expansion of Mormonism that received special impetus with the mission of the Quorum of the Twelve to England in 1840. One letter reflects two American Mormons' impressions of England, while the other reflects an English Mormon's reflections of the journey to and arrival at the Promised Land. Both letters were written in 1840. Brigham Young and Willard Richards wrote their letter on 5 September 1840 and sent it to Joseph Smith with the first emigrant company they had officially organized. With that company was William Clayton, who wrote his letter on 10 December, almost immediately after his arrival in Nauvoo, Illinois. Together these letters provide some important reflections of the times as seen through the eyes of Mormons.

As usual, these documents are published as near to their original form as practicality permits. They are edited only with minimal punctuation and bracketed information needed for clarity.

## THE WILLARD RICHARDS AND BRIGHAM YOUNG 5 SEPTEMBER 1840 LETTER FROM ENGLAND TO NAUVOO

Ronald W. Walker

A visitor strolling down a Salt Lake City street in 1870 would have heard a clipped British accent almost as frequently as a flat-toned Yankee drawl, as a third of the people in Salt Lake County in that year were British-born.<sup>1</sup> Why had the English ground proven so fertile for the Latter-day Saints?

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<sup>1</sup>U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of the Census, *Ninth Census, 1870, The Statistics of the Population of the United States*, p. 373.