

The Historians Corner

Edited by James B. Allen

The days surrounding the death of Joseph Smith were some of the most tense in the history of Mormonism. In this issue of "The Historians Corner" we depart from our usual pattern of publishing only short essays or documents, in order to allow space for Ronald K. Esplin's fine collection and commentary on the letters written by Vilate Kimball to her husband Heber C. Kimball during that fateful month of June 1844. These tender communications help us understand not only the powerful, deep emotions running through Nauvoo at the time but also other important aspects of life among the Saints.

Next, the short essay on the Amos Davis store is most significant for it supplies some important new information on the commercial life of Commerce, Illinois, as the Mormons were beginning to settle there. On the basis of such information any future histories must reinterpret the traditional views of the economic setting for the founding of Nauvoo.

Finally, there is a document, introduced by Steven G. Barnett, that provides an interesting sidelight on the aftermath of the *Expositor* affair.