

Chapter 1 : Winter Quarters (North Omaha, Nebraska) - Wikipedia

*"With much regret we had been compelled to turn aside from our journey, and spend the winter among the Mormons," Oregon overland emigrant Jotham Goodell recalled in*

The Mormon Trail actually starts in Nauvoo, Illinois, where the majority of the church members lived. Most took the same path to reach the Grand Encampment, Kaneshville, and Florence areas, however, there were some deviations. Since some Mormons lived in areas surrounding Nauvoo, other parts of Illinois, and the country, trails reaching the Missouri ended at Nebraska City, Plattsmouth, and Kaneshville. Likewise, when leaving the area, there are two paths taken, both hugging the Platte River, one on each side. Both trails join together in Otoe County before following the Platte River along its south side throughout the state. This was the earliest trail used, actually before the Winter Quarters era. From around Fort Kearny, the same trail was used by people seeking their fortunes in Oregon and nearby areas on the west coast, thereby being called the Oregon Trail. The northern path leaves the Florence area, and takes an almost bee-line path to the area around Fremont where it starts on the northern side of the Platte River and sticks with it for most of the state, and on into Wyoming. The only deviation being between Columbus and Grand Island. Since the Mormons were traveling on the northern edge they continued on with the North Loup River on its North side until finally a decision was made to travel south and join back in with the Platte River around Grand Island. The Mormons settled in places along the way. Genoa, on the Mormon Trail west of Columbus, became one of the Mormon settlements to remain after most had traveled on to Salt Lake Valley. The steep, narrow passes passing over the Rockies required the Mormons to choose the farm wagon, which is smaller than the Conestoga. The wagons were converted for the trail so that fewer oxen were required, some requiring only two. They were instructed to take no more than three yoke 6 oxen. The wagons traveled around two and a half miles an hour. A family of five were expected to take everything they needed in one wagon. Anyone over six was expected to walk. To save shoe leather, many women and children walked barefoot. The trip was not simple or easy by no means. A prairie fire caused them to camp on an island in the Platte River. They experienced theft of cattle by the Pawnee Indians, and also survived a lack of grass for the cattle, especially in Wyoming where great distances were covered with little water along the way to water the stock or grow grass. The massive herds of buffalo, one reported to stretch for 65 miles, provided buffalo-chips to fuel the fires when wood was not available. Sadly, they also witnessed the meaningless destruction of buffalo for their hides, leaving the eerie cadaverous bodies to rot where they fell. While at Winter Quarters, the Mormons only experience with the Dakota-Sioux Indians was through the skirmishes encountered by the Omaha Indians that came for medical attention and to have wounds dressed. However, along the trail, the Mormons were impressed with the cleanliness and general good looks, and found the Dakota-Sioux to be well behaved.

### Chapter 2 : The Mormons | Timeline | PBS

*A Winter with the Mormons: The Letters of Jotham Goodel (Utah, the Mormons, and the West) [David L. Bigler] on blog.quintoapp.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. "With much regret we had been compelled to turn aside from our journey, and spend the winter among the Mormons.*

S and Mormon history. They were literally driven out of their own country, since Utah was then still part of Mexico. For many, the journey did not end there, as the Mormon Church continued to settle all the surrounding region, from Chihuahua, Mexico to Alberta, Canada. The journey lasted six months. Later, they established Winter Quarters across the river in Nebraska. By the end of the year, all Mormons who chose to follow the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles had left Illinois and were established in Winter Quarters, or the other temporary settlements. The Saints were driven out of Illinois during the winter. It took days just to cross the miles across Iowa a year later, it took only days to make it the rest of the way to Salt Lake. The harshness of the winter weather, however, enabled the Saints to cross the Mississippi River on the frozen ice. Saints who were unprepared became a burden on those who embarked with a supply of food, and starvation threatened. Some impoverished Saints stayed on in Nauvoo, to be driven out later. The following winter, the headquarters of the Church was in Winter Quarters, Nebraska, and nearly Saints had gathered there. Thousands of others had camped in Iowa, some were on their way to California, and about were in St. The Saints were more scattered and disorganized than they ever had been. The winter was harsh in Winter Quarters and many were ill and near starving. The Saints suffered from malaria, pneumonia, and tuberculosis during the summer, and scurvy, and exposure in the winter. In early , Brigham Young received a revelation on how to organize for the journey west. It counseled them to establish groups with captains and to build way stations along the route. It also commanded them to sing songs and dance when they were happy and to pray when they were sad. Ironically, while the government refused to defend or help the driven Mormons, they now requested men to form a battalion for fighting in the U. The five hundred men of the Mormon Battalion left quickly. Brigham Young prophesied that they would not see battle, but would eventually rejoin their families safely in Utah. That prophecy came true, but only after the men, and a few women who refused to go on without their husbands, endured the longest infantry march in U. Eventually they arrived in San Diego, where a monument still stands to them. Along the way, the only trouble they had was with a disrespectful captain assigned to watch them, sickness, which caused some to leave and go to Pueblo, Colorado, and a skirmish with some bison. Other groups followed behind. This group blazed the Mormon Trail to Utah. The first scouts arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on July 21, , but the main party arrived on July 24, , which is still celebrated as Pioneer Day in Utah. They arrived just before winter. That December, in Council Bluffs, Iowa, the members of the Church sustained and accepted Brigham Young as the second President of the Church, and a prophet, seer, and revelator to the world. The next spring, Brigham Young and other companies returned to Utah. Crisis gripped the new colonists as swarms of crickets, later named Mormon crickets, attacked their crops in June The Mormon pioneers recognized this as a miracle. Later, a monument was erected to this event on Temple Square in Salt Lake City, and the seagull became the state bird. The next few years passed similarly, as more and more Mormon pioneers crossed the Great Plains and came to Utah. Towns were established all throughout Utah. Missionary work continued and, by the late s and s, there were more Mormons in Europe, with over 17, in England alone, than in America. The Book of Mormon was translated into every major European language, as well as Hawaiian, as the Mormon Church grew quickly in Hawaii, too. The Mormon Church started a newspaper, The Deseret News, and established churches, schools, and a government. The Mormons named a town, Fillmore, after him. In , the Church established the University of Deseret, which is now called the University of Utah. In August of , the Church publicly announced, for the first time, the practice of Mormon polygamy, or plural marriage as the Mormons called it. This issue became the focus for all attacks on and persecution of Mormonism for the next forty years. This program gave money to immigrating Mormons and helped them to get established in the West. Once they could start making money, they paid back what they had taken. That money was then given to other immigrants. The PEF helped tens of thousands move to Utah.

Eventually, to allow more settlers to come, the Church started having some pioneers use handcarts instead of wagons to cross the plains to Utah. Brigham Young surmised that the distance was walkable, and that those who could not afford wagons and teams could then make the trek. While most Mormons made it safely and even happily with handcarts, two companies, the Martin and Willie Handcart Companies of , got a late start and used green wood for their wheels. Since the wood was not properly cured, the wheels broke frequently. Many died of exposure before rescue efforts organized by Brigham Young saved them in November of . Thousands of Mormons continued to immigrate with handcarts and wagons until the transcontinental railroad was finished in

### Chapter 3 : Winter Quarters for the Mormon Church

*Letters from a Presbyterian minister wintering in the Salt Lake Valley in en route to Oregon are filled with details of his experiences and observations of the Mormons and his very critical judgments of this community.*

Winter Quarters continued to grow and make advances. Some Mormons stayed in the Winter Quarters area beyond the original two year agreement. They settled in Kaneshville, and in nearby communities. Eventually, Winter Quarters was abandoned altogether. Prairie fires destroyed some homes and buildings; Indians and Riverboat "wood-hawks" scavenged wood from cabins and buildings until any resemblance of a town ever existing there was eliminated except for the mill and cemetery. The mill was even left in a state of disrepair for a period. Nebraska Territory In , the Indian treaty ended, the lands were ceded to the United States, and the natives moved to Kansas. A short time later, Nebraska became a territory of the U. There was a good chance that a railroad was heading this way. The same community that had now been abandoned by the Mormons was again considered a valuable place for a startup town. The river had a rock bottom, perfect for building a bridge across the river capable of supporting a railroad. Enterprising young men living in Council Bluffs took the gamble and invested in the future of a new town that turned out to be Florence , a town that has a proud history all its own. The Mormons continued to arrive at and leave the Winter Quarters, Kaneshville, and Ferryville area for the next few years. Ferryville, carrying on the tradition like Winter Quarters, became the most important outfitting place before heading west past the Rocky Mountains. Not only Mormons, but many other travelers used the same outfitting companies that had developed at Winter Quarters and Ferryville. The railroad race might have been lost in Florence to its closest neighbor to the south through questionable tactics but Florence continued to grow, and has many important historical sites to prove it. The settlers that chose Florence, and continue to until this day are the same type of people with tenacity and a willingness to build a proud community. If the Mormons left nothing more than an idea that this land was livable, it is all that we need to continue the spirit you can find there today; you will undoubtedly find much more. These words are but a smattering of seeing things first-hand. Knowing a bit of the history will give you a respect filled with emotion when you visit the community that is proud of its history and its earliest pioneers.

**Chapter 4 : Winter Quarters**

*The Mormon Trail Center in Omaha documents the Mormon Migration from Nauvoo to Winter Quarters to the Salt Lake Valley. (Photo by Christa Woodall) Straddling the banks of the Missouri River near Omaha, Nebraska, are two communities where about 12, Latter-day Saints wintered after their exodus from Nauvoo.*

Main Street, Nauvoo, Illinois. While being moved from one trial location to another, Smith is permitted to escape and makes his way to Illinois. There he buys land for a new settlement named Nauvoo on the banks of the Mississippi River, about miles from St. He demands compensation for the Mormon losses in Missouri. Van Buren expresses sympathy but says he "can do nothing. The Mormons receive a city charter establishing expansive home rule and a local militia. After the first mayor is excommunicated, Smith becomes both mayor and military leader. Nauvoo quickly grows and within four years is nearly the size of Chicago , the population bolstered by an influx of Mormon converts from Europe. Smith announces revelations about two new practices. First, the dead can be baptized. And although the doctrine will not be publicly announced for nearly a decade, rumors quickly spread, increasing anti-Mormon feeling. Joseph Smith will eventually have more than 25 wives, while Young will come to embrace the doctrine, take 20 wives, and father 57 children. The ensuing outcry leads to criminal charges, and after starting to flee, Smith changes his mind and surrenders to state authorities. While in jail, Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum are shot and killed by members of a mob. No one will ever be convicted of the crime. A struggle for the leadership of the Mormon movement follows, in which the Saints are divided over whether to follow a the Council of the Twelve; b the surviving members of the Smith family; c the remaining members of the First Presidency; or d a variety of other potential leaders such as James J. Strang or Lyman Wight. During these two years many of the Mormons who had settled in Nauvoo leave the area, but most remain. Facing further harassment, thousands of the Mormons, but not all, leave Nauvoo on a great march west. Some of them follow James J. Strang and settle in Michigan; others follow Rigdon to the east, while others settle in other parts of the Midwest. Brigham Young, who is head of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, a church leadership body, directs the exodus. Their winter departure causes great hardship, but in four months the Mormons will travel more than miles to temporary quarters along the Missouri River where it divides Iowa and Nebraska. There they will wait out the winter of before beginning their westward trek again. Mexican troops fire on American soldiers who have been provocatively placed by President James Polk in a disputed part of Texas. The Nauvoo Temple is completed and dedicated. During the days and nights of the following ten months, great numbers of Latter-day Saints go through the temple to receive their "Endowments" and a substantial number of polygamous marriages are solemnized in its sealing rooms. The Mormon pioneer company led by Young leave their winter quarters in western Iowa and head west. Young has been plagued by self-doubt, but a February vision of Smith renews his confidence. A Mormon advance party including Young reaches the valley of the Great Salt Lake, and Brigham, who will be made church president later in the year, confirms that this is where the Mormons will settle, beyond the boundaries of the United States. His followers promptly mark off an acre that will be reserved for a temple and then begin laying out city streets and setting up irrigation systems. In California, Mormons working for John Sutter, whose sawmill on the American River is the site of the start of the Gold Rush , make a large gold find at what becomes known as Mormon Island. In the first months they suffer terribly, but they begin to create a "kingdom in the tops of the mountains. Instead, as a part of the Compromise of , Deseret is renamed Utah and made a U. Brigham Young is appointed governor of the Utah territory. Some 20, Mormons now live in the Salt Lake area. The Mormons who rejected the leadership of Brigham Young and never accepted the idea that polygamy was revealed doctrine hold a conference in Wisconsin to found the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. This organization brings together many of the Saints who believe that the church should be led by members of the Smith family. Depiction of Mountain Meadows massacre. Mormon militia led by John Lee and acting in tandem with a group of Native Americans attack a wagon train of settlers from Arkansas, slaughtering men, women, and children in what becomes known as the Mountain Meadows massacre. Only 17 children under the age of eight are spared. Its headquarters are established in Independence,

Missouri. Lee becomes the only individual brought to trial for the Mountain Meadows massacre, but the proceeding ends with a hung jury. Lee is executed at Mountain Meadows. Fifty thousand people attend the viewing. The Edmunds Act declares polygamy a felony and disenfranchises all who practice it. By more than a thousand Mormons have been convicted of "unlawful cohabitation. The Supreme Court will subsequently uphold this law. Utah is granted statehood. More Recent History The church threatens polygamists with excommunication and subsequently cooperates with federal authorities in prosecuting them. Police taking women with children into custody at Short Creek in A federal raid on the Short Creek polygamist community creates mass sympathy for the practitioners of plural marriage, and the LDS Church stops cooperating with these prosecutions. Today there are nearly 13 million members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints worldwide, with more church members living outside than inside the United States. The Community of Christ has more than , members and there are several schismatic groups who continue to call themselves Reorganized Latter Day Saints who probably have another , members. In addition, a variety of Mormon Fundamentalist groups continue to practice polygamy. The estimated number of fundamentalists is somewhere between 30, and 60,

**Chapter 5 : Winter Quarters - The Encyclopedia of Mormonism**

*A Winter with the Mormons: The Letters of Jotham Goodell* by Jotham Goodell, David L Bigler (Editor), George Miles (Preface by) starting at. *A Winter with the Mormons: The Letters of Jotham Goodell* has 0 available edition to buy at Alibris.

When Brigham Young, with the first Mormon pioneers, set foot on the spacious Salt Lake Valley floor on July 24, , he boasted that if they could have just 10 years of peace, they would ask no odds of the devil or Uncle Sam. The young religion that taught continuing revelation had already experienced a turbulent year history. By the time the Latter-day Saints sought refuge in the Rocky Mountain wilderness, some members had been driven from their homes as many as four times. It was, curiously, 10 years to the dayâ€”on July 24, â€”that Young received word that an American army was on its way to Utah Territory. The news was not altogether unexpected. Utah was a difficult post for federal territorial appointees. Mormon polygamy and theocratic tendencies were viewed by much of the country as peculiar and un-American. On the other hand, the federally appointed judges and other agents chosen from outside their community were an annoyance to the Mormons, whose petition for statehood was repeatedly refused. Drummond was particularly obnoxious to Salt Lake society. Of even greater irritation, Drummond, along with Judges George P. Stiles and John F. One by one, Drummond, Stiles and Kinney each packed his bags and headed back to Washington, declaring in scathing letters that they had barely escaped Utah with their lives. President Buchanan thought he should do something. Appointing a new territorial governor and new federal judges, and sending in 2, troops seemed like a good solution. In this vacuum of information, and after 27 years of persecution, the Mormons assumed the worst. It had been only 13 years since they buried their first prophet, Joseph Smith, killed by a mob in Carthage, Ill. Pratt, one of their 12 apostles, had been murdered in Arkansas. Memories of mob violence and broken government promises were still fresh in their minds. Typifying Mormon reaction, Sanford Porter Sr. Nor were Mormon women the oppressed victims waiting for liberation that many Americans, including some of the approaching soldiers, assumed. Salt Lake wives poured hot lead into molds to make bullets and sewed blankets into overcoats for militiamen. When an army quartermaster asked Mrs. Drilling commenced throughout the territory. The government sought to gather guns and ammunition, and manufactured Colt revolvers. Grain and other food supplies were cached. Settlers were recalled from distant homesteads such as San Bernardino, Calif. Councils were held with the native tribesmen with the aim of keeping them friendly, or at least neutral. Burton and a reconnaissance unit of men eastward from Salt Lake City with orders to observe the American regiments en route to the territory and protect the Mormon emigrants still on the overland road that season. What they learned while mingling with the uninformed and boastful enlisted men and junior officers only fueled Mormon fears that the army was coming to hang their leaders and abuse their women. Initially, there was a belief that the invasion of Utah might be a two-pronged attack, with troops sent from both the east and also from California. Tooele Valley militiaman Thomas Atkin Jr. Another likely access from the west coast was the southwestern road, leaving Los Angeles and reaching Utah by way of St. In southern Utah, Colonel William H. Dame of the Parowan Military District reported on August 23 that he could field men, if necessary, and that all the roads south of Beaver were being guarded. Units were also sent to explore and guard the passes from the north. Indeed, all of the passes into the territory were being watched and evaluated as potential routes of invasion or as avenues of escape for the Mormon people. Publicly, they spoke of defending their rights and reminded each other of past abuses. Privately however, Brigham Young expressed what would become his favored policy. Wells, told the district commanders Philo Farnsworth and Colonel Dame: Save life always when it is possible. We do not wish to shed a drop of blood if it can be avoided. This course will give us great influence abroad. At the same time, plans were also discussed for a mass migration to distant mountain valleys where extended guerrilla war could be fought, as a last resort. During the months of October and November, between 1, and 2, militiamen were stationed in the narrow, high-walled Echo Canyon and the equally defensible East Canyon, on the main road into the Salt Lake Valley. Living on little more than baked flour and water and dealing with the numerous feet of snow that kept falling

on the Wasatch Range, the Utah men built breastworks, dug rifle pits and dammed the streams and rivers in preparation for battle. Unfortunately, only the infantry and artillery companies headed westward from Fort Leavenworth, Kan. This was already dangerously late in the season to cross the plains and mountains before winter set in. The dragoons were delayed in Kansas. Harney resisted the appointment and was eventually reassigned. Without cavalry or specific orders, the 1, cocky soldiers of the infantry and artillery units found themselves vulnerable. The first militia operation took place in the early morning hours of September 25 at Pacific Springs, just west of the Continental Divide. At about 2 or 3 a. The animals bolted at the racket but could not run far due to their hobbles. The raiders at the infantry camp had similar problems. The bell mule got caught up in sagebrush. By the time the bugle sounded and soldiers stumbled out of their tents, the intruders had fled. The inaction of picket guards was a great frustration to young officers, such as Captain Jesse Gove of I Company, 10th Infantry, who were anxious to win their colors in a fight. The senior officer present, Colonel Edmund B. He had issued orders for the soldiers not to shoot until fired upon. Even when the soldiers grew more aggressive, Mormons did not return fire. There were practical reasons for the Mormons to want to avoid a shooting war. They hoped to garner sympathy from the public and Eastern newspapers, which could be a factor in any negotiations. But it was also a question of resources. Only about two-thirds of the Nauvoo Legion troops were even armed, and many of those were armed inadequately. In January, Adjutant General James Ferguson reported to Brigham Young that the legion had 6, troops, with potentially 1, more older men available. Yet, their inventory of weapons included only 2, rifles, 1, muskets, 99 pistols, and revolvers. There were a number of accidental injuries and controversial deaths on both sides. In southern Utah Territory, heightened emotions led to the tragic Mountain Meadows Massacre of September 11, , in which some Mormon militiamen joined with native Americans to kill the members of a wagon train from Arkansas see Wild West Magazine, February In the north, Bannock and Shoshone raids on Mormon settlements inflicted a number of fatalities. The soldiers and their allies instigated these attacks, the Mormons alleged. Militia harassed the troopers into and throughout October while the indecisive Colonel Alexander tried to avoid the possible danger of going through Echo Canyon. When the road became too rough, he tarried a while longer until orders came to lead his men back down again. This tactic was particularly effective on snowy, windy nights when visibility was poorest. Militiamen also sent circulars into camp encouraging soldiers to desert. The Contributor claimed that soldiers accepted the offer. While the Utah newspaper was probably exaggerating, desertions out of 2, troops does fall within the 12 to 20 percent range of desertion statistics reported for the era. Charles Henry Wilcken was a veteran of the Prussian army who had a low opinion of U. He deserted, took a job with Brigham Young and remained in Utah Territory. Scouts watched army movements from bluffs overlooking their road and camp, in plain view of their enemies but out of range of their rifles and cannon. A few moved in closer. Porter Rockwell boasted he hid so close to the trail that he could have reached out and touched the soldiers as they marched along. Ephraim Hanks thought he was a little too close the night a company cook threw kitchen scraps over his hiding place. Intelligence also came from sympathetic mountaineers and Indians who had access to the army camps. Even Captain Gove had to compliment the Mormons on their efficient express and spy system. Sometimes the poorly supplied and hungry militiamen picked up more than information. The single most damaging and controversial operation of the winter campaign was the burning of three army wagon trains with , pounds of government supplies. The year-old Major Lot Smith became a Utah legend for leading these audacious raids. Smith was a redheaded, hot-tempered eccentric who would purchase the largest pair of boots available in order to get the most for his money. At 16, he had stood on tiptoe to be tall enough so that he could go with the Mormon Battalion during the Mexican War. General Wells himself gave Smith the order to turn the freight trains strung out along the emigrant road back east, or else destroy them. The raiders approached just after dark. Teamsters appeared drunk, so Smith waited until after midnight to allow the men to grow drowsy and less combative. Instead of one train of 26 wagons in two lines, there were actually two trains of 26 wagons each, camped a short distance apart. Not one to retreat, Smith trusted in the elements of surprise and divine providence. His 24 men disarmed the some teamsters of the first train and then the second without the bullwhackers realizing just how few raiders they actually faced. Smith allowed the teamsters to get their personal effects from the wagons while the

Mormons searched for supplies they needed, particularly overcoats. Smith asked whether there was gunpowder in the wagons, which could explode and cause injuries during a fire. The wagon master, John Dawson, protested that saltpeter and sulfur could be almost as dangerous, so Smith and one of his men, an Irish-Catholic called Big James, fired the wagons themselves. Two unexpected visitors interrupted their work.

Chapter 6 : [blog.quintoapp.com](http://blog.quintoapp.com) - Mormons - Mormon Trail

*History Winter Quarters Following persecution by mobs and their neighbors, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (also known as the Mormon Church) began leaving Nauvoo, Illinois, on February 4,*

The Persecution of the Mormons During the 19th century, the newly formed Mormon religion encountered significant persecution. In 1820, Joseph Smith experienced what he later described as a vision of God and Jesus who told Smith that he would become the means for restoring the true Christian church. A while later, Smith told of being visited by an angel who led him to a spot near his home in western New York, where he unearthed a set of golden plates with strange writing on them. With divine guidance, Smith said that he was able to translate the golden plates into English. In 1830, he published what he believed to be the new revealed word of God, The Book of Mormon, named after an ancient prophet. Following additional visions and revelations, Joseph Smith came to believe that he was a prophet, empowered by God to restore "the only true and living church. Most people began calling the new religion the Mormon Church or simply, the Mormons. During the 1830s, the Mormons attracted many converts. But Mormon beliefs, although Christian, differed and even contradicted many of the Protestant beliefs of most Americans. Wherever Mormons gathered together to establish their "Kingdom of God," non-Mormons became suspicious, fearful, hostile, and sometimes even violent. This resulted in persecution against the Mormons. It also got them involved in an enormous struggle with the federal government over the relationship of church and state and the Mormon religious practice of polygamy. In 1831, Young moved his family to Kirtland, Ohio, where Smith had decided to gather several hundred of the Mormon faithful to establish the "Kingdom of God. Following Christian beliefs about the original 12 apostles of Christ, Young and the others became missionaries. In the winter of 1838, the majority of church members, including Brigham Young, followed Joseph Smith to Missouri, where he had previously organized a secondary Mormon colony. After Smith and the others from Ohio joined the Missouri colonists, fears of Mormon bloc voting and a "take over" again produced mob violence. Escalating violence between Mormon and non-Mormon settlers finally prompted the governor of Missouri to issue this order: Brigham Young avoided arrest and organized an exodus across the Mississippi River to Illinois during the winter and spring of 1839. Released from jail by Missouri officials, Joseph Smith again took charge of the Mormon community, now numbering several thousand. The Mormons established a new "Kingdom of God," which they named Nauvoo, meaning "beautiful place. The state legislature granted Nauvoo a liberal charter, permitting the city its own court system and militia, called the Nauvoo Legion. By the mids, Nauvoo rivaled Chicago as the largest city in Illinois. Smith at first limited multiple marriages, also commonly called polygamy, to church leaders. Later it was allowed among other spiritually and economically qualified church members. In 1842, Smith created the Council of Fifty that became "the Municipal department of the Kingdom of God set up on the Earth, and from which all Law emanates. Thus, the Nauvoo government took the form of a theocracy, a unified church and state. They particularly resented the Mormon practice of voting in elections as a bloc at the direction of Joseph Smith. Then in 1844, Smith decided to run for president of the United States. This combining of religion and politics further inflamed public opinion in Illinois. A dissenting newspaper in Nauvoo accused Smith of crowning himself king. State authorities jailed Smith and several others for inciting a riot. The governor sent a state militia to guard Smith against mob violence. But the militia itself became a lynch mob and shot Smith to death in his jail cell on June 27, 1844. But soon vigilantes began to burn the homes and farms of the Mormon settlers in a determined effort to drive them out of Illinois. Brigham Young and the other church leaders realized that they could not remain in Nauvoo under such dangerous conditions. They then led an epic migration of 16,000 Mormons to the Great Salt Lake Valley in the western wilderness. The Council of Fifty remained as the law-making body. In 1845, Deseret along with California applied for admission to the Union as new states. Suspicious of the Mormons, Congress denied statehood to Deseret but made it a U.S. Territory. President Millard Fillmore appointed Brigham Young the territorial governor. When Washington sent federal judges and other officials to Utah, the Mormons often refused to cooperate with them. In addition, church leaders selected all the candidates for the new territorial legislature. Back in Washington, many members of

Congress thought that the Mormons did not respect federal authority or U. Adding to this perception, Brigham Young remarked that he would not surrender his office as governor if the president chose not to reappoint him. Also at this time, Protestant ministers everywhere were condemning Mormon polygamy as immoral. After several years delay, newly elected President James Buchanan appointed a new governor of the Utah territory in . But relations between the federal government and the Mormons had become so poisoned that Buchanan was persuaded a state of rebellion existed in Utah. He therefore sent a federal military force of 2, soldiers to forcibly install the new governor. Still acting as governor, with the Missouri and Illinois persecutions in his mind, Brigham Young declared martial law in Utah. He issued a proclamation preparing the Mormon people "to repel any and all such threatened invasion. He even considered setting it on fire. Things remained at a stalemate until June , when the Mormon leaders agreed to submit to federal authority if the army would camp outside Salt Lake City and not harm the people. The federal government agreed, and President Buchanan also pardoned all Mormon "seditions and treasons. Brigham Young and other Mormon leaders were charged under this law. But convictions were difficult to get because few marriage records existed and a wife could not testify against her husband under Utah territorial law. Moreover, most juries consisted of Mormons who, if not polygamists themselves, sympathized with the accused. In , two years after Brigham Young died, the U. The justices drew a line between religious belief and action. The court cited a letter written by Thomas Jefferson to James Madison shortly after the adoption of the Bill of Rights. Both men were highly instrumental in getting the Bill of Rights adopted. Jefferson wrote about the First Amendment: Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God; that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship; that the legislative powers of the government reach actions only, and not opinions, -- I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should "make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," thus building a wall of separation between church and State. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore man to all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties. Congress was deprived of all legislative power over mere opinion, but was left free to reach actions which were in violation of social duties or subversive of good order. United States ] In and , Congress passed laws to force the Mormon Church to abandon its support of multiple marriages which never involved more than 20 percent of adult males. These laws did other things as well. They barred polygamists from jury service, voting, or holding office. They permitted a wife to testify against her husband. They revoked the right of women to vote which had been established in by the Utah territorial legislature. Finally, they took away the territorial charter of the Mormon Church, which allowed the federal government to confiscate its property and turn it over to the public schools. Altogether, more than 1, Mormon men were convicted , fined, and imprisoned for being married to more than one wife. Mormon leaders understood that if they continued to resist the anti-polygamy laws, Utah would never become a state. Therefore, in , the president of the Mormon Church issued a "Manifesto" calling for the Latter-Day Saints "to refrain from contracting any marriage forbidden by the law of the land. For Discussion and Writing What were some of the problems Mormons encountered in the 19th century. Why do you think they encountered these problems? What is a theocracy? In what ways did the Mormons establish theocracies in Nauvoo and the Territory of Utah? Do you think theocracies are a good or bad idea for the United States? Do you think Congress was right to outlaw polygamy in the Utah territory, or, do you think this was a violation of freedom of religion under the First Amendment?

**Chapter 7 : Utah War: U.S. Government Versus Mormon Settlers | HistoryNet**

*Mormons continued to depart for the Great Salt Lake Valley throughout summer as more stragglers arrived from the east. Winter Quarters continued to grow and make advances. The population grew to around 5, at its maximum population during the winter of /*

They planned to leave in the spring, but persecution was so fierce that they began to leave early. They crossed the Mississippi and traveled a while before setting up camp. On March 1, a large group of Saints began leaving the camp. Brigham Young, the leader of the Mormon Church at the time, had hoped that he could get a group of Saints all the way to the Salt Lake Valley that year, but travel across Iowa was slow. There were heavy rains, and the ground thawed, causing it to be muddy and hard to drive through with oxen and heavy wagons. Because traveling was taking so long, food supplies began to run low, and because of the weather many were sick. That first group finally reached the Missouri River on June 14th. The trek across Iowa took days. The first company to leave the following year traveled all the way to Salt Lake in just days and the distance was twice what the Saints had just covered in crossing Iowa. It was too late in the year to continue on to Salt Lake as Brigham Young had planned, and so a settlement was built where the Saints could spend the winter. This decision was also made because the U. These became known as the Mormon Battalion. The settlement had to be built quickly, and roads were laid out followed by cabins. Until cabins were finished the Saints lived in tents, dugouts, or caves. Living conditions were still poor even in the cabins, because there were few furnishings. Because there was not enough time to build all the cabins that were needed before winter came, most cabins housed two or more families. In December of , there were more than 5, people in the settlement the Saints called Winter Quarters. There were only log cabins and 83 sod houses. Back in Nauvoo many Saints had stayed behind, because they did not have the money to get provisions for the journey or because they were sick. The mobs began to be angry with those that were still there and opened fire on Nauvoo with six canons on September 10, The attack continued for several days until an agreement was reached. Every Mormon was made to leave, except five men and their families who remained behind to sell property. Between five and six hundred Saints crossed the Mississippi and camped in Iowa. None of them had the proper provisions and many were sick. The Saints in Winter Quarters heard of their plight. Many crossed Iowa again to help them, and others began gathering money to send to them. The living conditions caused many problems. More than six hundred people died and were buried in Winter Quarters that fall and winter. Most of the people in Winter Quarters became sick, and the few who did not become sick spent all their time taking care of others. Vilate Kimball, wife of Apostle Heber C. Kimball, went throughout the settlement bringing food and taking care of the sick. She was so busy helping others that she seldom took time to eat or take care of herself.

**Chapter 8 : Mormon Pioneer NHT: Historic Resource Study (Chapter 4)**

*In Winter Quarters the Mormons received some unexpected and welcomed information regarding the mountain west. That November, as previously noted, the famous Jesuit, Father Pierre Jean de Smet, stopped and visited with the Mormons.*

See this page in the original publication. That plan called for small winter camps in Iowa, at the Missouri River, and at Grand Island, whence later encampments could depart in the spring of for their mountain home. As the first wagons took over three months just to cross windblown and storm-drenched Iowa, this plan could not be carried out. By the time advance companies had reached the Missouri River, it was mid-June and too late for them or the 12, following to attempt a mountain crossing that season. A layover place had to be found. The term "winter quarters," often used by trappers and explorers to describe a place of refuge from the hazards of winter, took on special significance in Mormon pioneer history. Built on Indian lands on the west bank of the Missouri River-now Florence, a suburb of Omaha, Nebraska-their Winter Quarters became a vital new center for planning, regrouping, preparing, and religious renewal. Surveyed in October and subsequently laid out in a grid with 14 streets, 38 blocks, and over lots and stockyards, and with houses ranging from two-story brick homes to sod huts, Winter Quarters housed almost 4, Latter-day Saints by December After the establishment of Salt Lake City in and upon orders from government officials concerned about settlement on Indian lands, the Saints vacated Winter Quarters in to go either to the Salt Lake Valley or back east across the river, where they created the city of Kanesville, Iowa see Council Bluffs Kanesville , Iowa. Winter Quarters was more than a resting spot on the way to the West: It became a place of implementation and experimentation in Church practice and government. It was there, for example, that the Law of Adoption and plural marriage were first openly practiced, though they had been taught in Nauvoo. The role of bishop was also refined. Because of the needs created by the July departure of able-bodied men to serve in the Mormon Battalion, Winter Quarters became the first community divided into small wards congregations of to people, with a bishop responsible for each. Winter Quarters also represents the tragic side of Mormon history: Some 2, Latter-day Saints died there and across the river between June and October This high death rate is attributable to excessive fatigue, heavy spring storms, generally inadequate provisions, the malaria then common along the river lowlands, improvised shelters, and the weakened condition of the "poor camp" refugees driven out of Nauvoo in the fall of In Latter-day Saint chronicles, Winter Quarters will be forever remembered as a place of suffering and of faith. Review of Winter Quarters: Mormons at the Missouri, On the Mormon Frontier: The Diary of Hosea Stout, , 2 vols. Salt Lake City, The Gathering of Zion: The Story of the Mormon Trail.

**Chapter 9 : Winter Quarters - Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail (U.S. National Park Service)**

*An instant city on the plains, Winter Quarters served as Church headquarters for less than a year, until the leadership moved west in By Christmas , Church members had built a large stockade and about homes ranging from solid, two-story structures to simple dugouts in the bluffs.*

Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and Kent P. Deseret Book, , â€” Hartley was a professor emeritus of history at Brigham Young University when this was published. It was difficult, dramatic, sometimes harrowing, and only partly organized. Their tough experiences produced definite impactsâ€”both short- and long-termâ€”on Missouri and Illinois, on the course of the Church, and on individual members. Far West, Missouri; Quincy, Illinois; a road network between the two cities; and the west shore mudflats across the Mississippi River from Quincy. Kimball, and four selected families: At the time, perhaps ten thousand Mormons were concentrated in two particular counties. Their chief settlement was Far West in Caldwell County. Far West had a population by then of about five thousand Saints, and another five thousand lived in at least nineteen other Latter-day Saint communities in Caldwell County. They belonged to a large, extended family headed by Joseph Knight Sr. Newel and all men in the city had to surrender their arms. The next day, Missouri troops brought Joseph and Hyrum Smith and five other prisoners into town in wagons to pick up personal effects and say good-bye. Then three hundred militiamen escorted them away to face trial and prison. John Lowe Butler, thirty, and wife Caroline, twenty-six, converts in Kentucky three years earlier, lived in Mirabile just south of Far West with their four children. John, tall and strong, had fought off Missourians trying to block Mormons from voting. He rode with the Mormon militia who fought in the Battle of Crooked River. Because the Missouri militia wanted to arrest him, he fled from home on November 2, leaving Caroline and the children to fend as best they could. Then he had to be very careful for days to avoid capture. John was one of dozens of Mormon militiamen who fled from Missouri in November. They formed the first wave of the exodus. Church leaders told fugitive Charles C. At Adam-ondi-Ahman they obtained provisions from fellow Saints. They organized into a company with Rich as captain. Taking a direction shown him by the Spirit, Samuel and two others found a wigwam where an Indian woman baked cakes for all the company. Lorenzo said that his pants were so shredded by bushes that he refused to face Iowans until someone brought him better pants. At least one man escaped west to Fort Leavenworth. Some sneaked southward to the Missouri River and took boat passage to St. By primitive Missouri roads, the distance from Far West to Quincy was about miles. At Quincy, where some Church members lived, John taught school for a short period. John marked time until his family and his mother and brothers could join him in Quincy. We had not the privilege of hunting our cattle and horses. Huntington estimated that in Daviess County the Saints lost nearly thirty thousand bushels of corn because of the militia takeover. Food was scarce, and housing inadequate. I could have commanded some two thousand dollars but now I had only 1 yoke of old oxen and 2 cows left. During November and December, Joseph C. Kingsbury and Caroline, his wife of two years, lived in a little cabin with meager provisions. Caroline suffered from dropsy, or painful swellings, and the cold intensified her pain. She worried if John had escaped Missouri or been caught. She had to provide for the family after being deprived of the corn they had grown on their farm, which vigilantes had prevented them from harvesting. John later filed claim for the loss of acres of land, three yoke of oxen, a corn crop, and hogs. Caroline said that at one point that winter, Joseph Smith got word to Emma to send him quilts or bed clothes. To do so, would be to act with extreme cruelty. If they choose to remain, we must be content. The day has gone by when masses of men can be outlawed, and driven from society to the wilderness, unprotected. The refinement, the charity of our age, will not brook it. Mercy should be the watchwordâ€”not blood, not extermination, not misery. Committee for Removal Hundreds still lacked the means to leave. Nearly three hundred made that covenant and signed pledges. Its seven members, soon expanded to eleven, agreed to move first the families of the Presidency and of the other prisoners. They collected donations of furniture, farm implements, and money from farm sales. An upper route ran directly east from Far West; a lower route ran southeast from Far West and then east through the towns of Keytesville and Huntsville. Both routes merged southwest of the town of Palymra, twenty miles south of Quincy. From

there, refugees had to cross the South and North Fabius rivers and mudflats to reach the Mississippi opposite Quincy. On February 19 the committee sent Charles Bird to visit Caldwell County and William Huntington Far West to determine how many families still needed assistance to move and to solicit means to help them. Also, three men were sent to locate possible settlement sites up the Mississippi River in Illinois. Elder Young, when his life seemed in danger, left Far West for Illinois on February 14, but Elder Kimball stayed behind to help with the removals. Five reasons best explain why Saints moved during winter conditions: The exodus had no large, organized wagon trains. Refugees moved as individuals, by families, or in small clusters of wagons whenever they were ready. Their difficult trip to Mississippi River took twelve days: We had heavy loads, were obliged to walk from 2 to 8 miles a day thro mud and water, camped out on the wet ground 3 nights before we arrived at the River. Holbrook left behind his wife Nancy, who a week later gave birth to their fourth child, and three small children ages seven, five, and two. He and his friends traveled on foot. The family filled the cart with corn. Mother followed the cart carrying my little brother, Francis Marion in her arms. What a cold night that was! The next morning the river was frozen over with ice—great blocks of frozen ice all over the river, and it was slick and clear. That morning we crossed over to Quincy, Illinois. I being barefooted and the ice so rough, I staggered all over. We finally got across, and we were so glad, for before we reached the other side, the river had started to swell and break up. We all just made it on the opposite bank when the ice started to snap and pile up in great heaps, and the water broke thru! John and his son Orrice walked. They restarted on February 14 and reached the Mississippi two weeks later, on March 1, where they camped and waited for more than a week. Accordingly, our goods were taken out. They reached the bank of the Mississippi in eight days and found the river frozen over. Emma crossed the ice carefully, walking apart from the wagon. She carried two children while two others hung on to her skirt. In mid-February, Anson Call headed east. The first night, our wagon tipped over into the creek. The second day we had to cross a long prairie, and were not able to reach the settlement. Twas a very cold and blustering night. Brigham Young, in danger from anti-Mormons, joined the exodus on February Kimball sent his family with the Youngs. Newel Knight had a wagon but no team. They pulled out of Far West on February 18, leaving behind a house and farm. At times, deep snows rubbed their wagon hubs during the journey. In intense cold, Lydia recalled, they sometimes scraped away snow beside the wagon so they could put down their beds at night. At Huntsville, the driver said his horses could not go on, so the Knights unhitched the wagon and camped. A few days later, the horses ran away. Constant delays meant that the Knights did not reach the Mississippi River until early May. Reaching the river, they joined Saints waiting to cross who had no shelter. Snow was six inches deep. Her fugitive son Samuel came from Quincy and arranged for a ferryman to take the Smith party across. They left Far West on February Their first twenty miles was through snow six inches deep. When the river opened, the Thomases used two boats to move their effects across, while Daniel and son Morgan, twelve, stayed behind to ferry the cow across later. A few days later, Martha gave birth to a son she named after the Prophet. With other refugees, she and six children ages two through nine accompanied their small wagon, pulled by a blind horse.