



CHAPTER 2

Glory Enough

Editors' note: This is an excerpt of chapter 2 from Saints, No Unhallowed Hand, volume 2 in the Saints series. The previous chapter, in the July issue, describes the advance company of migrating Saints, called the "Camp of Israel." They have been camped at Sugar Creek, a relatively short distance across the Mississippi River from Nauvoo. On March 1, 1846, Brigham Young began to lead the advance company west.

While the Saints with Brigham Young were leaving Sugar Creek, 43-year-old Louisa Pratt remained in Nauvoo, preparing to leave the city with her four young daughters. Three years earlier, the Lord had called her husband, Addison, on a mission to the Pacific Islands. Since then, unreliable mail service between Nauvoo and Tubuai, the island in French Polynesia where Addison was serving, had made it hard to stay in contact with him. Most of his letters were several months old when they arrived, and some were older than a year.

Addison's latest letter made it clear that he would not be home in time to go west with her. The Twelve had instructed him to remain in the Pacific Islands until they called him home or sent missionaries to replace him. At one point, Brigham had hoped to send more missionaries to the islands after the Saints received the endowment, but the exodus from Nauvoo had postponed that plan.¹

Louisa was willing to make the journey without her husband, but thinking about it made her nervous. She hated to leave Nauvoo and the temple and did not relish the idea of traveling by wagon over the Rocky Mountains. She also wanted to see her aging parents in Canada—possibly for the last time—before going west.

If she sold her ox team, she could get enough money to visit her parents and book passage for her family on a ship bound for the California coast, thus avoiding overland travel altogether.

Louisa had almost made up her mind to go to Canada, but something did not feel right. She decided to write to Brigham Young about her concerns with overland travel and her desire to see her parents.





“If you say the ox team expedition is the best way for salvation, then I shall engage in it heart and hand,” she wrote, “and I believe I can stand it as long without grumbling as any other woman.”²

A short time later, a messenger arrived with Brigham’s response. “Come on. The ox team salvation is the safest way,” he told her. “Brother Pratt will meet us in the wilderness where we locate, and he will be sorely disappointed if his family is not with us.”

Louisa considered the counsel, steeled her heart against the difficult trail ahead, and decided to follow the main body of the Saints, come life or death.³

That spring, workers raced to finish the temple before its public dedication on May 1. They installed a brick floor around the baptismal font, fitted decorative woodwork into place, and painted the walls. The work proceeded all day and often into the night. Since the Church had little money to pay the laborers, many of them sacrificed part of their wages to ensure the temple was ready to dedicate to the Lord.⁴

Two days before the dedication, workers finished painting the first-floor assembly hall. The next day, they swept the dust and debris out of the large room and prepared for the service. The workers were not able to put finishing touches on every room, but they knew that would not keep the Lord from accepting the temple. Confident they had fulfilled God’s command, they painted the words “The Lord has beheld our sacrifice” above the pulpits along the east wall of the assembly hall.⁵

Conscious of the debt they owed the workers, Church leaders announced that the first session of the dedication would be

a charitable event. Those who attended were asked to contribute a dollar to help pay the impoverished laborers.

On the morning of May 1, 14-year-old Elvira Stevens left her camp west of the Mississippi and crossed the river to attend the dedication. An orphan whose parents had died soon after the family moved to Nauvoo, Elvira now lived with her married sister. Since no one else in her camp could join her for the dedication, she went alone.

Knowing that it might be years before another temple was built in the West, the Apostles had administered the endowment to some young single people, including Elvira. Now, three months later, she climbed the steps to the temple doors once more, contributed her dollar, and found a seat in the assembly hall.⁶

The session opened with singing from a choir. Orson Hyde then offered the dedicatory prayer. “Grant that Thy Spirit shall dwell here,” he pleaded, “and may all feel a sacred influence on their hearts that His hand has helped this work.”⁷

Elvira felt heavenly power in the room. After the session, she returned to her camp, but she came back for the next session two days later, hoping to feel the same power again. Orson Hyde and Wilford Woodruff gave sermons on temple work, priesthood, and the resurrection. Before closing the meeting, Wilford praised the Saints for finishing the temple even though they would have to abandon it.

“Thousands of the Saints have received their endowment in it, and the light will not go out,” he said. “This is glory enough for building the temple.”

After the session, Elvira returned to her camp, crossing the river one last time.⁸ Saints in Nauvoo, meanwhile, spent the

rest of the day and night packing up and removing chairs, tables, and other furnishings until the temple was empty and left in the hands of the Lord.⁹

Farther ahead on the trail, Brigham and the Camp of Israel stopped at a place called Mosquito Creek, not far from the Missouri River. They were hungry, two months behind schedule, and desperately poor.¹⁰ Yet Brigham still insisted on sending an advance company over the Rocky Mountains. He believed that a group of Saints needed to finish the journey that season, for as long as the Church wandered without a home, its enemies would try to scatter it or block its way.¹¹

Brigham knew, however, that outfitting such a group would strain the Saints' resources. Few had money or provisions to spare, and Iowa provided limited opportunities for paid labor. To survive on the prairie, many Saints had sold prized possessions along the trail or worked odd jobs to earn money for food and supplies. As the camp moved west and settlements thinned, these opportunities would only become harder to find.¹²

Other matters also weighed on Brigham. The Saints who did not belong to the advance company needed a place to spend the winter. The Omahas and other Native peoples who inhabited the land west of the Missouri River were willing to let the Saints camp there over the winter, but government agents were reluctant to allow them to settle on protected Indian lands for a long period of time.¹³

Brigham also knew the sick and impoverished Saints in Nauvoo were depending on the Church to take them west. For a time, he had hoped to assist them by selling valuable property in Nauvoo, including the temple. But so far this effort had been unsuccessful.¹⁴

On June 29, Brigham learned that three officers from the United States Army were coming to Mosquito Creek. The United States had declared war on Mexico, and President James Polk had authorized the men to recruit a battalion of 500 Saints for a military campaign to the California coast.¹⁵ ■

To read the rest of the chapter, please visit saints.ChurchofJesusChrist.org or the digital version of this article in the August issue of the *Liahona* in the Gospel Library or at liahona.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

The word **Topic** in the notes indicates additional information at saints.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

NOTES

1. Louisa Barnes Pratt to Brigham Young, Mar. 24, 1846; Brigham Young to Addison Pratt, Aug. 28, 1845, Brigham Young Office Files, CHL; see also *Saints*, volume 1, chapter 41. **Topic:** Louisa Barnes Pratt
2. Louisa Barnes Pratt to Brigham Young, Mar. 24, 1846, Brigham Young Office Files, CHL; Louisa Barnes Pratt, *Journal and Autobiography*, 127.
3. Louisa Barnes Pratt, *Journal and Autobiography*, 127. Final sentence of quotation edited for readability; original source has "Brother Pratt will meet us in the wilderness where we locate will be sorely disappointed if his family is not with us."
4. Mendenhall, *Diary*, Apr. 1–4, 1846; Samuel W. Richards, *Journal*, Apr. 22–29, 1846; Haight, *Journal*, Apr. 6, 1846; Morris, *Autobiography*, 40–41.
5. Samuel W. Richards, *Journal*, Apr. 23 and 29–30, 1846; Brigham Young, in *Journal of Discourses*, Jan. 1, 1877, 18:304; Lanman, *Summer in the Wilderness*, 31–33.
6. Barney, "Ruins of the Nauvoo Temple"; *JSP*, CFM:525, note 71.
7. Historian's Office, *General Church Minutes*, Thomas Bullock booklet no. 8, May 1, 1846.
8. Barney, "Ruins of the Nauvoo Temple"; Historian's Office, *History of the Church*, volume 15, May [1], 1846, 34; Scott, *Journal*, May 1, 1846; Woodruff, *Journal*, May 1 and 3, 1846.
9. Holzappel and Cottle, "Visit to Nauvoo," 11. **Topic:** Nauvoo Temple
10. Bennett, *Mormons at the Missouri*, 45. **Topic:** Pioneer Trek
11. Historian's Office, *History of the Church*, volume 15, June 28, 1846, 87–89; Brigham Young to William Huntington and Council, June 28, 1846, Brigham Young Office Files, CHL.
12. Orson Pratt, *Journal*, Feb. 1846; Mar. 6, 1846; June 19, 1846; see also Bennett, *Mormons at the Missouri*, 32–33.
13. Brigham Young to William Huntington and Council, June 28, 1846, Brigham Young Office Files, CHL.
14. "Conference Minutes," *Times and Seasons*, Nov. 1, 1845, 6:1011; Orson Pratt, *Journal*, Apr. 28–29, 1846; Brigham Young to Jesse Little, Jan. 20, 1846; Jesse Little to James K. Polk, June 1, 1846, Jesse C. Little Collection, CHL.
15. Historian's Office, *History of the Church*, volume 15, June 29–30, 1846, 89–90; Quaife, *Diary of James K. Polk*, 444–50; Brigham Young to "the High Council of the Church," Aug. 14, 1846, Brigham Young Office Files, CHL; see also Arrington, *Great Basin Kingdom*, 21. **Topic:** Mexican-American War



Known as the Mormon Battalion, nearly 500 Latter-day Saint men volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army and go to California.