

This book presumes considerable familiarity with Mormonism's sacred story. Some non-Mormon audiences will have difficulty distinguishing it from historical facts and interpretations. Most chapters will not be helpful to scholarly researchers or specialists. Mormons, however, should enjoy the book, especially the first section, which would be useful for LDS institutes and Sunday schools.

*Winter Quarters: The 1846-1848 Life Writings of Mary Haskin Parker Richards*, edited by Maurine Carr Ward. Life Writings of Frontier Women, volume 1. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 1996. xiv, 336 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY BETTIE MCKENZIE, MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In February 1946 the exodus of a religious community, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), from Nauvoo, Illinois, began with the crossing of the Mississippi River. The weather was fierce; the cold, rain, and mud were unrelenting. The advance company persevered, reaching the Missouri River in June. All across Iowa there were wagons on the trail, families in temporary quarters in the hastily constructed settlements of Garden Grove and Mt. Pisgah, and still others left in Nauvoo. It was impossible for the Mormons to go farther west that year. Their temporary camp on the west side of the Missouri was called Winter Quarters. The next year the pioneer company pushed on to Utah; the thousands who were not able or ready to join them moved to the Iowa side of the river. For the next five years, until 1852, Iowa was the home of thousands of Latter-day Saints stranded in time and place between their former chosen city and the new Zion in Utah. There were for those years more Mormons in Iowa than in Utah, and their story is the founding of the western slope of Iowa.

Until recently the diaries and documents of the men, generally the leaders of the church, have been the basis for the history of the westward movement. It is a history that leaves untold the story of women, of families, and of the social life of the communities. *The 1846-1848 Life Writings of Mary Haskin Parker Richards* is the beginning of a series that will bring new insight into this history through the lives of Mormon women. This volume provides a rare look at the Iowa portion of the Mormon trek, life at Winter Quarters and the nearby Iowa settlements.

Mary Richards was 22 years old and newly wed as she began her journey. She had been born and converted to Mormonism in England.

In Nauvoo she had married Samuel Richards, the handsome son of a well-established Mormon family. Samuel had been called to mission in Great Britain, so Mary made the journey across Iowa without Samuel, living with his parents until his return in 1848. Mary kept her journals faithfully and wrote letters as often as she could find paper. These closely written daily journals and letters give a candid account of her life. She sometimes suffered from typhoid, malaria, or depression as she cared for sick friends and family. She reports on the joy of friendships and social life. Through it all she is cheerful, optimistic, devoted to her church, and in love with her husband. Between the lines we begin to see how the community supports her through this difficult time, how she starts to react to the new discipline of plural marriage, and how her faith sustains her.

Her story is expertly told in the book. The editors of the series have observed rigid standards of documentary editing. The volume editor has provided explanation, commentary, documentation, maps, and photographs. We know the context of her life, the meaning of her allusions, the people in her friendship circle. The resulting text is the best of its kind yet produced. It is fascinating reading and at the same time primary material that scholars in all disciplines will find useful.

*James J. Hill: Empire Builder of the Northwest*, by Michael P. Malone. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996. xiv, 306 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliographical essay, index. \$14.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY H. ROGER GRANT, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

*James J. Hill: Empire Builder of the Northwest* offers concise coverage of one of America's greatest business leaders. Michael Malone traces James Jerome Hill (1838–1916) from his birth in Ontario until his death in St. Paul, Minnesota, arguing that Hill tirelessly and intelligently worked in whatever position he occupied. Best remembered for creating the Great Northern Railway, part of today's Burlington Northern–Santa Fe system, this uprooted Canadian became involved in a variety of jobs, including warehousing, fuel, and ultimately transportation. Although Hill might be viewed as a typical businessman of the Age of Industry, he really possessed atypical characteristics, at least when it involved his career as a railroader. Unlike most contemporaries, Hill correctly concluded that a prosperous railroad needed to be interregional in scope, to employ the best technology, and to emphasize efficiency. If these objectives were achieved, patrons would receive the best service at the most attractive rates. In a

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