
Reviewer Brady G. Winslow is a Ph.D. candidate in history at Texas Christian University. He is working on a dissertation that examines the receptivity to Mormonism in the upper Mississippi River valley from 1830 to 1860.

In early February 1846 Horace Kimball Whitney and Helen Mar Kimball, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, were married in Nauvoo, Illinois. The next day, the young couple joined the first group of their coreligionists to cross the Mississippi River into Iowa Territory on their journey toward the Great Basin. Over the next several years, the Whitneys and many of their Mormon counterparts traversed Iowa, encamped for a time just west of the Missouri River in Nebraska Territory, and made their way to the Salt Lake Valley. Once there, the Latter-day Saints went about establishing a settlement. Some, including Horace, returned to Nebraska to assist those who remained. The Journey West, a documentary transcription of six of Horace’s journals, chronicles one man’s experiences on the Mormon Trail and in the Salt Lake Valley from February 15, 1846, to October 30, 1847. Interspersed throughout are selections from Helen’s reminiscences that add understanding to the entries of her husband.

The Journey West joins a long list of published nineteenth-century overland trail accounts, Mormon and otherwise. An important contribution of the volume is in its male and female perspectives as well as its contemporary and reflective outlooks. While Helen’s recollections lack the immediacy of her husband’s record, her words complement those of Horace by offering a retrospective viewpoint. Readers interested in the history of Iowa and the Midwest will be attracted to the Whitneys’ descriptions of the Mormons’ trek through Iowa and their time spent in and traveling across Nebraska.


Reviewer Bryon Andreasen is a historian at the Church History Museum in Salt Lake City, Utah, and former research historian at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois. He is the author of Looking for Lincoln in Illinois: Lincoln’s Springfield (2015).
This book—the most recent compilation of edited primary source material from Lincoln scholar Michael Burlingame—contains annotated transcriptions of all newspaper dispatches written by New York reporter Henry Villard from Springfield, Illinois, from November 10, 1860, to February 11, 1861, reporting the activities of president-elect Abraham Lincoln for the *New York Herald*, *Cincinnati Commercial*, and *San Francisco Bulletin*. Villard’s reports document the scramble for patronage posts and cabinet appointments that consumed the time and attention of mid-nineteenth-century politicians and commentators. An appendix includes Villard’s reports on the 1858 Illinois senatorial contest between Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas, wherein Villard’s pro-Douglas bias is evident in his disparaging observations regarding Lincoln and other Republicans.

Students of Iowa history will find that relative to office seekers from other states, Iowans were relatively modest in their badgering of the president-elect. Only two Iowa delegations are reported to have traveled to Springfield, both in support of fellow Iowan Fitz Henry Warren, whose quest to become Postmaster General proved unsuccessful. Iowa Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood made an obligatory call on Lincoln, as did Lee County’s Hawkins Taylor, an old Lincoln friend and ally. Villard’s account of an Iowa office seeker too inept to impress his name in the memory of Lincoln and his associates illustrates his easterner’s condescending attitude toward midwestern people and culture. Scholars looking for evidence of a general sense of eastern regional superiority will find it in both the general tenor of Villard’s dispatches and in specific examples.


Reviewer Barbara Cutter is associate professor of history at the University of Northern Iowa. She is the author of *Domestic Devils, Battlefield Angels: The Radicalism of American Womanhood, 1830–1865* (2003).

Historical scholarship on women and the American Civil War has proliferated in the past 30 years. As Judith Giesberg and Randall M. Miller note, this scholarship has become increasingly diverse in recent years, expanding to focus on the experiences of Northern and Southern women, black and white, immigrant and native born, elite, middle class and working class, and rural and urban. Yet, as they point out, the scholarship overall is still “regionally segregated.” “Historians writing about Southern women rarely comment on or interact with those working on