

*The Mormon Trail Revisited*, by Gregory M. Franzwa. Tooele, UT: Patrice Press, 2007. xxix, 254 pp. Illustrations, maps, index. \$24.95 paper.

*Sacred Places: A Comprehensive Guide to Early LDS Historical Sites*, volume 5, *Iowa and Nebraska*, by William G. Hartley and A. Gary Anderson. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 2006. xv, 397 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$25.95 paper.

Reviewer Loren N. Horton is retired senior historian for the State Historical Society of Iowa. His research and writing have focused on the social history of the nineteenth century and Iowa aspects of Mormon and western trails history.

These two books make nice companion volumes, in subject matter and methodology. Both focus on the Mormon Trail, the route members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints took as they crossed Iowa in 1846, as well as on the remaining areas on the route to their destination, the Great Salt Lake Valley. This was one of the great migrations on the U.S. frontier. Both books are in the format of guidebooks. Franzwa concentrates on the physical geography of the route and how present-day travelers can retrace the journey. Hartley and Anderson are concerned more with the campsites as well as the trail, and their book perhaps contains more formal information about the expeditions. Both books give enough background information about the trail to enable readers unfamiliar with the historical context of the trail to understand the reasons for the trek. Although neither volume concentrates exclusively on the Iowa sections of the trail, the detail presented adequately covers that aspect. Hartley and Anderson provide a more complete introduction to the religious group that followed the trail.

With these two books as guides, one can follow the routes of the various companies in 1846 and 1847 and literally step in the footprints of the Saints as they "wended" their way to their "Zion in the West." Extensive photographs in both books show the present-day conditions of campsites and the few remaining pieces of physical evidence, such as wagon ruts. Historic photographs and drawings are extremely helpful to the reader. Both books have useful maps that clearly explain the geography through which the 1846 and 1847 refugees passed from the persecutions in Nauvoo, Illinois. Hartley and Anderson also include information about the 1856 and 1857 handcart companies' routes.

Because Hartley and Anderson deal solely with Iowa and Nebraska they are able to go into greater detail about the trail and the contemporary roads and highways nearest to that original route. Their book contains more maps and, in some cases, more detailed maps than Franzwa's does. However, Franzwa includes as an insert the National Park Service fold-out leaflet and map of the Mormon Pioneer

National Historic Trail, which helps readers understand the extent of the trail, the awesome distances that had to be covered from Nauvoo to Utah. In general, the maps included are valuable aids in tracing the trail's geography.

As is often the case, there are points in each book where readers might wish things had been done differently. For instance, both Franzwa's "sources and acknowledgements" section and Hartley and Anderson's bibliography seem unnecessarily complex. But Hartley and Anderson's extensive use of diaries and journals of people who made the journey must be applauded.

On the whole, it is difficult to imagine two books more useful to people interested in the Mormon Trail or in Iowa history. Only Matthew Chatterley's *Wend Your Way: A Guide to Sites along the Iowa Mormon Trail* rivals them, and it is, as its title indicates, exclusively about Iowa sites. (See the review in the *Annals of Iowa* 60 [Spring 2001], 205). No library or school in Iowa should be without these two books (or all three). Franzwa and Hartley and Anderson offer a wealth of detail about this interesting and significant episode in Iowa's history, an episode that is important in the context of the history of the U.S. frontier experience. And the authors bring the added benefit of personal acquaintance with the trail sites. It seems as if all three authors have walked every step of the way that they describe, which adds to the excellence of both books. Both books are unqualified successes for the purposes intended.

*Facing East and Facing West: Iowa's Old Capitol Museum*, text by Linzee Kull McCray and photographs by Thomas Langdon. Iowa City: University of Iowa, 2007. viii, 56 pp. Illustrations, floor plans. \$10.00 paper.

Reviewer Wesley I. Shank is emeritus professor of architecture at Iowa State University. He has written extensively about Iowa architecture.

When a museum is housed in a historical building such as Old Capitol, people go to it to learn not only about what is in the building, but also about the building itself. This book is a visitor's illustrated guidebook for both. The first chapter relates the history of the building, from its construction in the 1840s through its rehabilitation in the early 1920s, its detailed restoration in the early 1970s, and its exterior restoration in the early 2000s. The second chapter tells about how the building served as capitol of the territory, then of the state until 1857, and then in several different ways for the University of Iowa until its restoration in the 1970s, when it became a museum. The third chapter, which makes up about two-thirds of the book, is a guidebook that takes the visitor through the rooms, including the rotunda, telling the history of each