

— and the 38 percent of Iowa-born Americans who had left the Hawkeye State by 1970.

In the end, Gjerde's concluding chapter makes it hard to overlook the fact that nearly half of the book's ten chapters are written by historians teaching at colleges and universities outside the Midwest, although the introduction is careful to state that all of the contributors consider themselves midwesterners. While this fact alone does not diminish this expert volume, it does, inevitably, infuse it with the very contemporary tensions and historical ambiguities that the editors claim characterize the real Midwest.

*The Mormon Vanguard Brigade of 1847: Norton Jacob's Record*, edited by Ronald O. Barney. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 2005. x, 398 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, index. \$44.95 cloth, \$22.95 paper.

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Norton Jacob, a member of the first company of Mormon pioneers to enter the Great Salt Lake Valley, began his journal in May 1844 and ended it in February 1852. The first years were devoted to his proselytizing mission, working as a carpenter on various buildings in Nauvoo, and building wagons for the journey across the Iowa prairies. On June 17, 1846, Jacob wrote: "left the bank of the Mississippi for the camp of Israel to the west" (75). A month later, "wee had good weather the whole rout & arrived at Council Bluff near the mouth of the Great Platte on the Missouri" (75). The major portion of the journal is devoted to Jacob's journey with the Mormon vanguard company led by Brigham Young, beginning in April 1847. "About noon I left my family and Started on the great expedition with the Pioneers to the West" (98). For 111 days Jacob recorded the daily vicissitudes of the vanguard company. Roughly the last quarter of his journal deals with his return to Iowa in the fall of 1847 and his second and final journey to Utah in 1848 and his life in Utah.

Ronald O. Barney, editor and winner of the Mountain West Center for Western Studies Evans Biography Award (2002), provides readers with an abundance of well-researched footnotes adding historical context and useful information about people, places, and events mentioned in the journal. In the appendix, Barney offers a short family history of Jacob Norton and biographical sketches of many of the individuals he mentions.

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