

The Pioneer Camp of the Saints: the 1846 and 1847 Mormon Trail Journals of Thomas Bullock

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water route to Asia existed only in his imagination. Learning of that, the president shifted the focus on the expedition's findings from transportation and trade issues to scientific discoveries. Not only had Lewis and Clark not found what he had ordered them to locate, but when they returned home they failed to compile and publish their results. To make matters worse, when Nicholas Biddle edited his two volumes on the expedition, he omitted their scientific findings, offering only a narrative of their travel.

For readers seeking some exploration narrative, the chapter titled "Moment in Time" offers the most interest. It examines the kaleidoscopic events of 1806, as politics, intrigue, international competition, and confrontation occurred repeatedly. The year saw a plot by Aaron Burr and James Wilkinson to create a western empire independent of the United States, as well as expeditions by Zebulon Pike on the central plains and the Freeman-Custis Party along the Red River in east Texas. That same year the Spanish sent a force of 600 men under Lt. Facundo Melgares north to the Pawnee villages in Nebraska, hoping to intercept Lewis and Clark. In Texas a second Spanish force under Francisco Viana blocked the Freeman-Custis Expedition on the Red River. In the Northwest, traders from Montreal, led by David Thompson and Simon Fraser put the British-Canadians into the race for empire. That same year the Rezanov Expedition to northern California for the Russian-American Company completed the picture. With these characters in motion, the American West was anything but empty.

Mostly the essays in this book allow its author to play with ideas. Western European and American leaders often shared visions about the West. While easterners, Lewis and Clark in particular, saw the region as empty, Ronda shows that was not the case. His essays offer modern readers a glimpse into the thinking behind the expedition and how it developed and changed American ideas about the early West.

The Pioneer Camp of the Saints: The 1846 and 1847 Mormon Trail Journals of Thomas Bullock, edited by Will Bagley. Logan: Utah State University Press, 2001. 393 pp. Illustrations, map, notes, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 paper.

Reviewer Bettie McKenzie is chair of the Montgomery County (Iowa) Historical Society. Her current research and writing are on rural life in Iowa: *Good Times in Montgomery County and Country Life*.

Thomas Bullock was the official journal writer of the pioneer company of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) that reached the Great Salt Lake Valley in 1847. Bullock starts his account in Sep-

tember 1846 with the struggling Poor Camp, the last group to leave Nauvoo. An English scribe who later became the official church historian, Bullock began his service under Brigham Young during this time.

Invaluable to Iowa historians are Bullock's details of the Poor Camp. Through the spring and summer of 1846, leaders of the church, and as many others as could equip themselves, left Nauvoo. Finally, by September, the mob had driven all of the Saints who were left in Nauvoo across the Mississippi River. Bullock was there and recorded their experience. Those late exiles from Nauvoo (157 by his trail count) were leaderless, poor, and sick, waiting for help from Brigham Young. Their enemies subjected them to threats, humiliation, and constant raiding of their limited supplies. Eventually, the "miracle of the quail" came to sustain the faith of this group in Iowa.

The poor organization and low morale evidenced in the 1846 journal contrast with the confidence and positive outlook of the well-organized pioneer company of earlier exiles who continued to Salt Lake. These journals contain Bullock's singular view as a man. They contrast with the accounts of women journal keepers that must be read also if one is to understand these LDS pioneers. The text, with its explanatory footnotes, list of Mormon pioneers, and appendixes, would be a valuable addition to any Iowa historical library.

The Material Culture of Steamboat Passengers: Archaeological Evidence from the Missouri River, by Annalies Corbin. The Plenum Series in Underwater Archaeology. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, 2000. xviii, 237 pp. Illustrations, map, tables, notes, bibliography, appendixes, index. \$95.00 cloth.

Reviewer William E. Lass is professor of history emeritus at Minnesota State University, Mankato. His books include *A History of Steamboating on the Upper Missouri River* (1962).

With the aim of analyzing social and economic traits of Missouri River steamboat passengers, Annalies Corbin studied artifacts (material culture) retrieved from the wrecks of the *Arabia* and the *Bertrand*, which sank in 1856 and 1865 respectively. Items recovered from the *Arabia* are on display in the Steamboat Arabia Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, and those from the *Bertrand* are in the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Museum near Missouri Valley, Iowa. Corbin's primary study is limited to the contents of five boxes of personal possessions found in the remains of the two vessels. Her systematic descriptions of each item in the boxes enable her to reach logical conclusions about the lifestyles of selected passengers.

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