

terested in Mrs. Mitchell's statement that Sarah Diantha was married in "the Endowment House in St. George, . . . January 17, 1870," and that in 1881 her husband took a second wife in the same room. Since the dates for the construction of the St. George Temple are 1871-1877 and since the only Endowment House commonly referred to in L.D.S. history was in Salt Lake City, if Mrs. Mitchell is correct, both assertions should stir further inquiry into the performance of Mormon marriage ceremonies in this period. Generally, the work might have been considerably improved by more careful proofreading and checking of historical sources.

The narrative is somewhat uneven, consisting of chunks of history and folklore alternating with chunks of family anecdote and sentimental reconstructions of the past. The activity of the mining towns of Tombstone and Bisbee and the troubles with Apache Indians and outlaws swirl around the Curtis Ranch but only slightly affect the hard-working, thrifty, and devout Mormons. Elements of real drama emerge in the struggle of the Curtis family against drought, erosion, and the encroachments of the Boquillasey Nogales Water Company — a twenty-five-year battle that ended in defeat for the Curtises. However, this drama is neglected in favor of the sensational events happening around them. It is only in the latter part of the story, when Mrs. Mitchell is obviously relying upon her own memories, that Sarah Diantha begins to shape into a believable woman and the reader shares somewhat in Mrs. Mitchell's deep feeling for her grandmother, for the beautiful and cruel Arizona countryside, and for that other Paradise Lost, the Curtis Ranch. One wonders if fictionalizing does not, after all, do an injustice to the pioneer we wish to honor by imposing modern values on the past.

## ON THE MORMON TRAIL

*T. Edgar Lyon*

*Mormon Trail from Vermont to Utah.* By Alma P. Burton. Seventh printing, revised and enlarged. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1966. 103 pp., \$1.95.

*The Travelers' Guide to Historic Mormon America.* By R. Don Oscarson and Stanley B. Kimball. Second printing, revised. Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1966. 83 pp., \$1.95.

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Dr. Alma P. Burton, currently Assistant Administrator of Seminaries and Institutes for the L.D.S. Department of Education, first published his guide in 1952 to satisfy a long-felt want of many people who desired to trace geographically the history of the rise, progress, and migrations of the Mormon movement. He commenced with the birth of Joseph Smith in Vermont in 1805 and ended with the arrival of the Pioneers in Salt Lake Valley in 1847. Burton presented a synopsis of Latter-day Saint history, associating it with specific sites. The booklet, six by nine inches, was stapled on the nine-inch side so that it would lie open for quick scanning while traveling. With a full-page sketch of the Mormon Trail superimposed on an outline map of the United

States, six specially drawn sectional maps and sixty-six illustrations, the booklet proved a helpful guide. Proof of its usefulness is attested by seven printings in fourteen years.

The author, after presenting a short historical treatise concerning each location to be visited, gave general instructions for traveling from one site to the next, followed by detailed directions to houses, farms, monuments, or sites, after reaching the outskirts of a city, a town square, or some easily identifiable landmark.

The 1966 revision of Burton's guide has been enhanced by increasing the number and size of the illustrations and printing many of them in sepia tone. Two sections have been added on Haun's Mill in Missouri and on the Register Cliffs and deep-worn wagon ruts in Wyoming. Corrections have been made to keep the highway identifications current. Otherwise, the guide remains very similar to the earlier printings.

This handy guide is open to criticism primarily for its failure to keep Mormon history up to date. When first written, the author drew his information from the traditional published accounts. He has made no attempt in the revision to include any of the results of the great amount of research on Mormon history in the last fifteen years. This has resulted in the perpetuation of some errors. Examples of these inaccuracies are the number of Mormons in Missouri at the time of the 1838-1839 expulsion, the population of Nauvoo, and the present state of ownership of the Temple Block at Nauvoo. A do-it-yourself map of Nauvoo has been eliminated, but no mention made of Nauvoo Restoration, Incorporated, as the organization which has taken over the guide service at Nauvoo. The guide also fails to suggest the use of time-saving freeways and tollroads as one moves from the East to the West.

In 1965, R. Don Oscarson, a member of the St. Louis Stake High Council, and Dr. Stanley B. Kimball, professor of history at Southern Illinois University and also a member of the St. Louis Stake High Council, produced *The Travelers' Guide to Historic Mormon Country*. It is printed in black and brown, which makes its maps much more vivid than those in the Burton guide. It is a presentation of the Mormon Trail in an entirely different format from that of the guide book reviewed above, with a much broader coverage of sites and incidents. The first edition of the Oscarson-Kimball booklet, six by nine inches, had a plastic ring binder on the six-inch edge of the publication, which enabled the booklet to lie flat — a great advantage to a driver who desires to follow the many directional maps. Its authors declare it to be the most complete guide available, and their contention is verified by the inclusion of directions to the Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball homes at Mendon, New York, and by several sections entitled "Non-Church Related" historic sites. These enable the traveler to visit sites and homes of prominent Americans as one journeys between historic Mormon areas.

There are thirty-five strip maps, many patterned after those used by the AAA when plotting tours for its clients, some full-page, others quite small. The highway numerals are in bold-face type, making them discernible at a glance. Another feature is the inclusion of several full-page strip maps, en-