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Guest Editor's Prologue

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Guest Editor's Prologue

LaMar C. Berrett

Historians will never come to an end of researching in the area of LDS Church history. It is as the term says, "re-searching." And so with this issue of *BYU Studies*, we are presenting exciting new insights that come as a result of "re-searching" the Nauvoo period of Church history.

One of the most exciting journals of the Nauvoo period is that of Joseph Fielding. He is the missionary who wrote to his older brother in England, the Reverend James Fielding, and as a result, the missionaries used his chapel for preaching. The phenomenal mission of the Quorum of the Twelve to England came following this introductory letter.

Joseph Fielding's journal tells about his being one of the first to receive his endowment in the Prophet's upper room above the store. He was one of the few who discussed plural marriage and the Council of Fifty during Joseph Smith's lifetime. He wrote about opposition to Joseph's leadership, Sidney Rigdon, the Temple, and the final battle of Nauvoo. His journal covering the period 1841–1846 is a first-hand glimpse into this dynamic period. Andrew F. Ehat has added the footnotes to help the reader gain a clearer picture of Nauvoo during this time.

"Joseph Smith and Legal Process," by Dallin H. Oaks and Joseph I. Bentley, is a reprint of an article that appeared in the *BYU Law Review*. Because of its valuable insights, it was edited to meet the needs of the *BYU Studies* audience and published in this issue to benefit the thousands of readers of *BYU Studies* who have little access to the *BYU Law Review*.

In a poem, "To Mama," Linda Madsen Sheffield emphasizes the total devotion to the gospel of Phoebe Carter Woodruff, the wife of Wilford Woodruff.

For the archaeology student, Dale L. Berge gives an excellent treatise on how the archaeologist looks at the restoration of a Nauvoo residence, that of Jonathan Browning. It is an experiment in methodology and gives us an insight into a Mormon house of the Nauvoo period.

Dr. Berrett, professor of Church history, is the director of the Church history area of the Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University.

Then we have the regular feature, "The Historians Corner," with three very interesting historical notes.

Next is a letter from James Arlington Bennet, whom Emma Smith referred to as the "old arch hypocrite," to Joseph Smith, III, proposing a general creed and the use of Bennet's influence in establishing the Reorganization. Lyndon W. Cook gives commentary on the letter.

In the poem "Pioneers—The Lace-Maker" Sally T. Taylor expresses the dramatic change that came into the lives of many converts when they accepted the gospel and joined the body of the Saints in a frontier existence.

And last are two book reviews—Spencer J. Palmer's *The Expanding Church*, reviewed by Truman G. Madsen, and Monroe C. Beardsley and others' *History as a Tool in Critical Interpretation: A Symposium*, reviewed by Marden J. Clark.

The contributors to this issue have done their homework and will give delightful and enlightening reading to the followers of *BYU Studies*. We are happy to share this "re-search" with you.