

# About the Mormon Migration Website

## Introduction

About 90,000 Latter-day Saint converts crossed the oceans during the 19th century, heeding a call to come to Zion (America), to "be gathered in unto one place" (D&C 29:7). The first company of Saints gathered to America in 1840, followed by a continual flow of immigrants over the next fifty years. Immigration, after conversion, was considered the fruit of a faithful Saint. Church leaders de-emphasized convert immigration to America at the close of the 19th century, and during the 20th century The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints constructed chapels and encouraged converts to build Zion in their homelands.

The Mormon Migration website ([MormonMigration.byu.edu](http://MormonMigration.byu.edu)) offers the inspiring first person accounts of over one thousand international converts who turned their faces toward Zion from 1840–1890. The autobiographies, journals, diaries, reminiscences, and letters link to over 500 known LDS immigrant voyages and they provide a composite history of those who crossed the Atlantic and Pacific, traveling by land and water to gather to America. Immigrants from 1840–46 gathered to Nauvoo, Illinois. Beginning in 1847, the Saints, driven west, gathered in the Salt Lake Valley and later other regions of Utah. The immigrant accounts of their travels to the Great Basin describe not only their experiences crossing the oceans, but also their trek to frontier outfitting posts, and entry into the Salt Lake Valley (1847–1869).

The Mormon Migration website complements the [Mormon Pioneer Overland Trail Database](#), which covers crossing the plains. While the Mormon Migration site emphasizes the inspiring story of the Saints gathering to Zion before crossing the plains, the accounts include those of the immigrants who gathered by rail from 1869–1890, not solely those who came by wagon, handcart or walking, thus adding to the complete immigration story from international ports of departure to entry by train into the Salt Lake Valley. In addition, patrons should also see [globalmormonism.byu.edu](http://globalmormonism.byu.edu) which provides a broad overview of the global movement of the LDS Church following the call to immigrate to America.

The Mormon Migration website presents information from the Mormon Immigration Index CD, published in 2000, by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Family History Department that documents valuable immigration information for most LDS immigrants. It provides names, ages, origins, ports of departure and arrival, as well as the known number of Saints and their company leaders on each voyage. Major sources for passenger lists include: European Emigration Card Index, British Mission Emigration Register, Scandinavian Mission Emigration Register, Swiss German Mission Emigration Register, *Deseret News* (including the Semi-Weekly, Weekly and Evening) and the *Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star*. The European Emigration Card Index has been reproduced in electronic format in its entirety, but registers have not. The registers provide passenger information from many voyages, and documentation for further research by patrons has been provided in the source field for each voyage. The Balch Institute in Philadelphia (at that time directed by Dr. Ira Glazier) graciously permitted examination of the original U.S. Customs lists. Information about Mormon immigrants to America from these lists have been analyzed and entered in the data base.

Researchers gathered immigrant accounts mostly from the LDS Church Family History Library and the Church History Library located in Salt Lake City, Utah. Other accounts came from Special Collections & Manuscripts, Brigham Young University, (hereafter cited as BYU Special Collections & Manuscripts), Utah State University, Merrill Library Special Collections, University of Utah, Marriott Library Special Collections, Daughters of the Utah Pioneers in Salt Lake City, Utah State Historical Society, Huntington Library (San Marino, CA), Yale University (Beineke Library of Rare Books and Manuscripts), Bancroft Library, University of Berkeley. Private donors have also made significant contributions. Researchers studied the Library of Congress collection of Mormon diaries and a variety of secondary sources, all available at the LDS Church History Library. (For a more detailed account of how the Mormon Immigration Index CD came to be, see Fred E. Woods, "The Crew and Voyage of the Ship *MII*," *Crossroads* (September 2008):183—189).

Notable secondary sources which have been especially useful are the *Deseret News 1997–98 Church Almanac* and "Mormons on the High Seas Ocean Voyage Narratives," 6th revised printing 1997, (compiled by Melvin L. Bashore and Linda L. Haslam). The *Church Almanac* provided a start for identifying LDS immigrant voyages, and the "Mormons on the High Seas Ocean Voyage Narratives" was

used for collecting immigrant voyage accounts. The writings of Andrew Jenson provided a synopsis of most voyages and journeys to Zion, especially for Scandinavian immigrants. I am grateful for receiving access to these valuable primary and secondary sources.

I express gratitude to the Ricks College (now BYU-Idaho) Family History Center, once directed by emeritus faculty member Blaine R. Bake, for supporting this project. Blaine, while assistant editor in the late 1990s, checked each passenger list and prepared it for publication in the Mormon Immigration Index CD. He directed library faculty, staff, missionaries and students who provided countless hours gathering information for this database. The combined effort of many volunteers has demonstrated the same dedication as the Perpetual Emigrating Fund inspired when the Saints first gathered to Zion. I thank Ricks College for an extended sabbatical, and resources for this project in 1997–1998. I also thank Brigham Young University Religious Education for providing funds and opportunities to do additional interpretive research during the past decade. I appreciate both students and volunteers at these universities who assisted in this continuing project. I extend gratitude to Linda Hunter Adams, emeritus BYU professor in the Humanities Department, for her assistance in establishing electronic editorial procedures for the Mormon Immigration Index CD. Finally, I express gratitude to BYU for their willingness to host this website, and to employees at the Harold B. Lee Library and Religious Education for their assistance in preparing this information for the world wide web.

— *Dr. Fred E. Woods, Editor and Compiler, Professor of Church History and Doctrine, Brigham Young University.*

## Editorial Procedures

The intent of the editor has been to reproduce each immigrant account as faithfully as possible. Because the information gathered is in electronic format consisting of about 1,000 separate immigrant accounts, it has been necessary to adjust editorial procedures due to the size and scope of the data.

**Spelling** has been corrected and standardized for word search capabilities and readability. This includes ship and place names. Personal names have been left as they are found in the text with variations placed in brackets which immediately follow.

**Capitalization** has been standardized for readability.

**Grammar and syntax** have been retained in the original to help preserve the flavor of the writers.

**Punctuation** has been used in some measure to ensure readability.

**Abbreviations** are spelled out in most instances. However, common abbreviations have been retained as in the case of Dr., Mrs. or Mrs. as well as abbreviations for days and months.

**Paragraph breaks** have been used when there is a new date entry and when a paragraph occurs in the text. However, in some instances when a paragraph was exceptionally long, separate paragraphs were added to help the reader.

**Missing or illegible words** have been identified by a dash for each word inside of brackets [-].

**Ellipses** have been added at the beginning and end of each document and internally when the document was not quoted in its entirety to ensure greater clarity.

**"Sic"** has been used to indicate a reduplication of words side by side, but not to identify misspelled words due to the fact that all of the spelling has been corrected.

**Page numbering** has followed been followed whenever it is provided in the various texts. However, when editorial pagination has occurred, the page number has put in **bold**.

**Editorial comments** have only been made in capital letters and in brackets to help separate editorial commentary from the text. UNCLEAR has been used to designate that although a word or sentence was legible, the meaning was unclear.

## Source Abbreviations

- AF *Ancestral File (TM)* (CD-ROM), version 4.18
- BMR British Mission Emigration Register
- CA *Church Almanac 1997–98*, Deseret News
- CC *Church Chronology*, compiled by Andrew Jenson, Assistant Church Historian, Second Edition, Deseret News Company, Salt Lake City, 1899
- CHL Church History Library, LDS Church, 15 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Cont. *The Contributor*, Junius F. Wells, ed., volumes 12-14 (1891-93), which contain articles on LDS Church immigration by Andrew Jenson, former Assistant Church Historian, Deseret News Company
- Der Stern Entries of Genealogical Value published in Der Stern, 1869-1901, vols. 1-33 by Johanna Palmer and Fern H. Warren (193 leaves)
- Customs U.S. Customs Lists
- EECI European Emigration Card Index
- FHL Family History Library (formerly Genealogical Library), LDS Church, Salt Lake City, Utah
- HC *History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, Roberts, B. H., ed., 2nd ed. rev., 7 volumes. (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1972) (HDL)
- HR Hamburg Register
- HSM *History of the Scandinavian Mission*, by Andrew Jenson, Assistant Church Historian, Deseret News Press, Salt Lake City, 1927
- JH Journal History Manuscript (HDL)
- MNAL Marjorie Newton, List of Nineteenth-Century Latter-day Saints Who Left Australia for Utah
- MNNZL Marjorie Newton, List of Nineteenth-Century Latter-day Saints Who Left New Zealand for Utah
- MS The Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star. (The Millennial Star was the official publication of the Church in the British Isles from 1840-1940)
- NSHP *Nauvoo Social History Project*, manuscript of passenger ship lists 1840–1860, by James Smith
- SGMR Swiss and German Mission Emigration Register
- SMR Scandinavian Mission Emigration Register
- WWSR *World-Wide LDS Ship Register*, by Margery Taylor, Family History Department, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1991