

The Historians Corner

Edited by James B. Allen

The continuing intent of the Historians Corner is to introduce our readers to little-known and important documents that enrich their understanding of some phases of LDS Church history. Sometimes we have directed the corner toward a particular theme. This time, however, we present three very different documents, each of which is interesting in its own right, each giving us a new dimension on the Church or its leaders. The first entry presents a memorandum that reveals an interesting gentile proposal for a Mormon settlement on the island of Santo Domingo in the Caribbean. The second is a very human document which shows the frustrations of a leader of the Church, Wilford Woodruff, as he prepares to go into hiding to escape arrest by anti-Mormon Federal marshals in the 1880s. The last entry is also from Wilford Woodruff, but it reveals a very different side of his nature from that which most Church members view him: a hunting and fishing enthusiast.

"IS NOT THIS OF GOD?": AN 1847 PROPOSAL FOR MORMON SETTLEMENT

Davis Bitton*

On 30 September 1847, Charles Root Dana, who had been sent on a fund raising mission to the East by Brigham Young, got off the train in Washington, D.C. For the next month he worked diligently in the capital city to enlist support for his fellow Mormons, asking for "liberal donations commensurate with the suffering circumstances of an afflicted and oppressed people." Newspaper editors cooperated by running several articles appealing for help. Clergymen endorsed the campaign

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