

Guest Editor's Introduction

We are happy once again to offer another issue of *BYU Studies* on the history of the Church in Nauvoo. Though it has been over two years since the last Nauvoo issue, we feel the time has been well spent and that the articles in this issue make a significant contribution to our understanding of who was there and what was happening in Nauvoo.

Of considerable importance is the recent find of the Nauvoo journal of George Laub, a member of the Church who, though unfamiliar to most of us, left a fairly detailed journal of the events in and around Nauvoo from 1844 on. Included in his journal were personal notes of various talks given by Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, and Hyrum Smith.

Three scholars worked to bring us the historical context, newly amalgamated version, and doctrinal impact of Joseph Smith's 7 April 1844 King Follett Discourse.

There are articles about the influence of the Mississippi River in Nauvoo, about David H. Smith's artistic accomplishments, an oral history of Joseph Smith recorded by T. Edgar Lyon, and a look at the Saints who lived across the river from Nauvoo. There is also an article that helps us understand the function of rebaptism in the Nauvoo period.

We hope you find that this issue contributes to your understanding of Church history.

May we invite all members of the LDS scholarly community who are researching and studying in the Nauvoo period to contact Dr. LaMar C. Berrett at Brigham Young University to discuss possible inclusion of research in future special issues of *BYU Studies* on Church history.

—LaMar C. Berrett—
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