

## PEACEFUL IS THEIR REST!

MOUNT PISGAH,  
Union county, Iowa,  
Sept. 30, 1893.

In visiting the waste places of Zion I find that each particular locality possesses its own peculiar merits, both historically and otherwise. Thus the elevation of ground on which I am standing at the present time is entitled to special mention as a sacred spot which conceals the earthly remains of about three hundred weary travelers—martyrs—yes, for such they were indeed. They were composed of men, women and children, who during that memorable year, 1846, (when one of the most flourishing cities of the state of Illinois was reduced to a mere village) were driven by a bloodthirsty mob from their comfortable homes out into the wilderness. There, exposed to snow, sleet, rains and storms, they perished by the wayside, while journeying toward the "land of the setting sun" in search of a new home, where they hoped to worship God in peace according to the dictates of their own consciences. Had the Saints, who were thus driven from Nauvoo, been permitted to remain in possession of their homes till the morning rays of the spring sun had forced away the chilly blasts of a severe winter, the death rate among the weary pilgrims would not have been so great; but bearing in mind that they were forced to leave in the beginning of the month of February, when the frost was severe enough to make a natural bridge of ice across the Father of Waters—the great Mississippi—who can wonder that so many perished? Had it not been for a kind Providence, and wise leaders who conducted the affairs of the "Camp of Israel" in that memorable year, perhaps the great majority of the exiles would have closed their eyes in death before the then almost trackless and uninhabited prairies of Iowa could have been crossed and the banks of the Missouri reached. And this, in fact, was expected by many of those who drove out the people of God; and it was further anticipated by many that those of the exiles who did not succumb to the hardships and exposures of the journey would be used up, on reaching the Missouri, by the poisoned arrow and the sharp or blunt tomahawk in the hands of the Pottawatamie and Omaha Indians. But the Lord ruled it otherwise. It was Him who gave His waudering sons and daughters who were fleeing from a ferocious religious persecution strength and endurance, both mentally and physically, in the midst of storms, snows and mud, to still cling to life, until a better day dawned upon them; and it was Him who softened the heart of the red man of the forest toward the weary Mormon brother, so that instead of murdering or harming the Saints the uncivilized Lamanites received them with such kindness and hospitality as their uncultured natures were capable of bestowing.

And thus the "Camp of Israel," and the majority of those who were driven away from their homes in Nauvoo, Ill., lived to see the Latter-day Saints permanently located in the valleys of the Rocky mountains.

I arrived at this place this morning and was kindly received by Mr. Albert C. White and family, who owns a large farm of 308 acres that embraces the site of the old Mormon settlement called Mt. Pisgah. Mr. White is the man who superintended the erection of the Pisgah monument, which was raised here on the old Mormon graveyard five years ago from means contributed by people in Utah.

Mount Pisgah now called Pisgah grove is situated in section 8, Jones township, Union county, Iowa, about six miles by road northeast of Alton, the former county seat, on the east bank of Grand river, about 92 miles due east of the Missouri river at a point opposite Platts mouth and about 160 miles (172 miles the way the exiled Saints traveled in 1846) west of the Mississippi river. It is also about 30 miles in an airline northwest of Garden grove, but the way the roads now run it is much farther.

Between the Pisgah hill and Grand river on the west is a fine strip of bottom land well cultivated and very productive. This is where the Mormon pilgrims had their so-called big field. There is considerable timber along the river at this point and the Pisgah hill is covered with groves of young oak and hickory trees. From the summit of the hill which is perhaps 200 feet above Grand river, the view is most excellent, especially in looking to the west, where beautiful farms, interspersed with groves of timber, greets the eye as far as it can reach.

As there are no traces left of the old Mormon settlement, except a few small mounds of earth,—"remains" of primitive chimneys, such as were built as necessary appendices to the old pioneer cabins—the attention of the visitor is at once directed to the old Mormon graveyard which occupies a conspicuous place on the west slope the Pisgah hill or ridge. Near the center of the graveyard, which contains just one acre of ground, stands the monument already referred to on the slope about 150 yards west of the top of the ridge. This monument rests upon a solidly built rock foundation four feet square and four feet deep, all in the ground. On top of this and level with the top of the ground is placed the base of the monument proper, which consists of a limestone two feet thick; next comes a square block of Italian marble, upon the top of which is placed the main shaft, nearly ten feet high and seventeen inches square at the base. The shaft consists of light-colored Indiana marble and weighs 4200 pounds; it required the combined physical strength and ingenuity of seven or eight able-bodied men to place it in position. The cap-stone is of the same material as the main shaft. The whole labor of making and raising the monument was superintended by Mr. White who acted as agent throughout for those in Utah who had the monument erected. The accompanying cut shows the east side of the monument, which is about fifteen feet high, exclusive of

the four-foot foundation hid in the ground. The lettering is cut deep into the rock and is not colored:



THIS MONUMENT  
ERECTED  
A. D. 1888  
In memory of  
those members  
of the Church of  
Jesus Christ of  
Latter-day Saints  
who died in  
1846, 1847  
and 1848,  
during their ex-  
odus to seek a home  
beyond the  
Rocky Mountains.  
Interred here is  
WILLIAM  
HUNTINGTON,  
the first presiding  
Elder of the temporary  
settlement called  
PISGAH.  
LEONORA CHARLOTTE  
SNOW,  
daughter of  
ELDER LORENZO  
CHARLOTTE SQUIER  
SNOW.  
ISAAC PHINEAS RICHARDS  
SON OF  
ELDER FRANKLIN D. &  
JANE SNYDER RICHARDS.

The names on the north side of the monument are as follows:

Hyrum Spencer	Wife of Mr. Brown
Alva Hancock	Mr. Thompson
Gardner Edmison	Bishop
Philinda Calvin	Joseph Franklin
Jordin	Bishop
Joseph Smith	Angelia Carter
Billingsley	Stranger not in the
Elkana Kelly	Church
Mrs. Baldwin and baby	Henry Judson
Mr. Hess } buried on	Alexander Gay
Mr. Hays } west side of	Benjamin Gay
river	Emma Jane Johnson
Joseph Merryfield	Martha A. Dana
Mr Cook	

## West side:

Ezra T. B. Adair	Ann Gould Hallet
Nancy Workman	Louise Hallet and
Samuel Workman	2 other children
Samuel Steel	Sarah Hulet
Simon Thayer	Sarah Ann Hulet
Clough Thayer	Nash Rogers
Jessy Hitchcock and	Amos Philemon Rogers
wife	Mary Briant Ensign
Clark Hallet	Margaret Josephine
Phebe Hallet	Billingsley

## South side:

Betsy Garley Shipley	Elisha Whiting
Neph Shipley	Billy Whiting
David McKee	Widow Head Whiting
Polly Sweet	Elizabeth Daniels
Louisa Cox	Rebecca Adair
Eliza Cox	William P Mangum
Henry Davis	Lane Ann Mangum
Joel Campbell	Jemima Mangum Adair
Emily Whiting	William Jefferson Adair