

Excerpts from Nathan T. Porter Mission Journal

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in the various Neighbourhoods through which we passed. (Notwithstanding the many urgent requests desiring us to tarry & continue our meetings.) Now I began to query in my mind, as to whether or no we were doing right in making such great haste to a certain point, (unless instructed so to do) while there were hundreds perishing by the way, who were willing & anxious to hear: feeling that one soul was just as precious as another in the sight of God. I finally expressed my feelings to Elder Mowery, & remarked that I had many kindred in the Eastern states whom I would like to see and if possible be instrumental in bringing them in to the Ch.

uscho. But as we were on the Lords
Grand, I felt willing to labour in
 any part where there was a loose op-
 n, unless he should instruct otherwise.

he said there would be Elders pass-
 ing through. so that all would have
 an opportunity of heasing in due time.

Now as I said we traveled intill
 we arrived into the middle portion
 of the State of Indiana. and as we st-
 oped for the Knight at a little Town
 called Northfield. we gave out an ap-
 pointment (as usual) for a meeting
 which was soon circulated. the People
 seemed to come out in mass. manifes-
 ting unusual interest. (so that we had
 almost a little Pentecost) at the close
 of the meeting many came and shook han-
 ds with us feeling pleased in what

they had heard and soliciting us
 to tarry a while with them as they
 wished to hear further of our prin-
 cipals &c Brother Mowery replied
 that we could not tarry as we were
 anxious to get on to our field of la-
 bour in Pennsylvania. &c So on the
 morrow we resumed our journey
 But we had not proceeded far, before
 the Lord withdrew his spirit and
 the way seemed intirely heged up
 before us, so that we proceeded no
 farther. But after retiring a lit-
 tle way from the Roadside, and call-
 ing upon the Lord in fervent pray-
 er to manifest unto us wheather we
 should go. (as we now felt willing
 to ^{go} wheather soever he might direct
 we arose & turned our course

to the North west. We now felt much relieved in spirit so that Elder Mowery began to conclude that his family were sick or something had occurred which required his return home as we were bordering in that direction. We soon came to the state Road leading from Indianapolis to Michigan City running directly to the North. Like little town Northfield, our last meeting place, was located on this Road after traveling a short distance on this Road we took a cross Road running directly west. We were now bending our footsteps towards the setting, instead of the rising Sun.

We soon met a stranger, & on informing him that we were Latterday-Saint Ministers, and were desirous of holding ^{any}

^{meeting}
 in that Neighbourhood for the evening
 (as it was now near sunset) whereupon
 he informed us that some four Min-
 isters calling themselves Latterday
 Saints came into the Neighbourhood
 held several meetings & had passe
 d on but a few dayes since, leavi-
 ng the People in a state of great-
 excitement feeling onceans to hear
 further But they could not prevail on
 on them to stay longer. he also in-
 formed us that there was one Snodgrass
 in the Neighbourhood who had once
 been a Mormon (so called) but had
 left them duering their persecutions
 in Missouri. he directed us to his
 Residence, on arriving we were
 hailed with gladness. (as we were
 recognised to be Elders by him.

mode of traveling) as they were once
 only looking for some Elders to co-
 me in to their Neighbourhood who
 would stop and labour in that
 section of the country for a season.
 We learned more fully as to those
 Ministers referred to by the stranger
 before mentioned whose names is
 as follows Joseph Stratton David
 Fulmer & Eliza Sheets. These Elders
 like our selves were pressing on
 their way to a certain field while
 their labours were kneeled and lo-
 udly called for, in the sections
 they were passing through. +
 But the Lord stoped us in the way
 and thus turned us to this field of
 labour which soon opened out
 to some sixty miles in length in-
 bracing the little town of North
 field.

where we were so urgently solicited to tarry and hold further meetings. We laboured in this section untill the first of March having organised three Branches - in all some sixty members. Thus the Lord had Blessed our labours in harvesting so many souls. Elder Mowery now felt impressed to return home to his family. While I felt to continue my labours. and thus having learned that my Eldest Bro with several other Elders were on the Wabash River some eighty miles distance I went to pay them a visit before Elder Mowery should leave on my arrival I learned that my Brother had returned home to Kanoo leaving his fellow labourer Wilber & Earl. With

whome I made arrangements to travel
and while he yet tarried I return-
ed to my field, and informing Eld-
er Mowsey he tarried untill
his arrival, after which he
departed on his return. We contin-
ued laboring in the Branches untill
some time in May having held
three Publick Discussions with
different Ministers, or rather two
as one, a Lutheran Minister. with
Andrew his attract, in the presence
of a large concourse of People
who had gathered at the place ap-
pointed. We took leave of the
Branches & departed into the
of Ohio Bro. Earl having a
Brother living in the North-
west part of the state in wh-
at was called Logan county

whom he wished to visit we
 therefore directed our course to
 his residence, holding meeting
 by the way. We arrived some time
 in July. We stopt here for the
 space of six weeks holding meet-
 ings in the different neighbourhoods
 around about - after which we
 returned to the Branches found
 them in good health & spirits.
 Soon after our return we were vis-
 ited by several Elders who had
 been labouring a short distance
 to the north of us, on the wabash
 they had raised up a Branch in
 that section. Their names - as follows
 Elvy & Tibits Elder Martin James
 Mc Gaw & Ezy Strong, we were much
 pleased to see them & learn
 of their success. About the fifteenth

nth of the following October we
in company of several families
of the Saints Returned to our hom-
es at Nauvoo Arriving the first
of November 1842 I having been
absent thirteen months.

I saw that much improvement
had been made in the City of Na-
uwoo & surrounding country dur-
ing my short absence the ba-
sement story of the Temple was
in progress of erection as also
the Nauvoo house. I remained
at home labouring with my hands
until June 1844 when in compo-
ny with Elder John Cooper I
again took a Mission to
the Eastern States with an in-
strument written by the Prophet Jos-
eph Smith on the Tullidge & power