



## CHAPTER 6

# MIGRATION, EMIGRATION, AND IMMIGRATION RECORDS

From 1846 to 1869, some eighty thousand Mormons migrated west to Utah and other Western states. Approximately six thousand people died migrating to Utah during this time period.<sup>1</sup> It is estimated that about eighty-five thousand Mormons immigrated to America from foreign countries—Great Britain, Scandinavian countries, Germany, and many others—during the nineteenth century.<sup>2</sup> Most Latter-day Saints emigrated from the port of Liverpool, England.<sup>3</sup> Nineteenth-century Mormons migrated to Utah Territory on foot, in covered wagons, on horseback, by handcarts (from 1856 to 1860), and eventually by railroad (beginning in 1869). Church leaders organized emigration efforts and assisted in funding.

Approximately 250 Mormon pioneer companies migrated west to Utah from 1847 to 1868, departing from various places in the Midwest. These included LDS Church-organized companies, handcart companies, and independent companies. Company rosters and individuals are indexed online at Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847–1868 <[www.lds.org/churchhistory/library/pioneercompanysearch](http://www.lds.org/churchhistory/library/pioneercompanysearch)>. This database is a compilation of pioneer names obtained from rosters, diaries, journals, correspondence, and other sources.

Church President Brigham Young created the Perpetual Emigrating Fund (PEF) Company in October 1849 to financially assist members of the Church to emigrate from Europe to Utah. This fund helped many Latter-day Saints who were too poor to pay for their own travel to immigrate to America. The plan required immigrants to repay the fund after they settled in America, but many did not. The PEF was unincorporated in 1887 by the Edmunds-Tucker Act. Records relating to the fund are described later in this chapter. PEF ledgers have been indexed by Ronald G. Watt.<sup>4</sup>

Migration, emigration, and immigration records for members of the LDS Church include European mission registers, departure records and passenger lists, diaries, family Bibles, journals and personal accounts, census records, newspapers, passports, and rosters.<sup>5</sup> These are just a few of the sources that may be used to help identify names of Latter-day Saint immigrants to the United States from foreign countries, as well as names of immigrants who migrated from the eastern states to Utah.<sup>6</sup> Major immigration records and indexes are described in this chapter.

Passenger lists and immigration records show that LDS Church members often traveled as groups or congregations and also by families. Church leaders in Europe organized their

travel arrangements and arranged for passenger ships to America. Nineteenth-century passenger lists show, in addition to the name of the ship, date of immigration, captain's name, passengers' names, and sometimes age of passengers, marital status, occupation, and other information.

Researchers should refer to immigration, emigration, and migration titles identified in Mormon bibliographies and finding aids. Two monumental titles are James B. Allen, Ronald W. Walker, and David J. Whittaker, *Studies in Mormon History, 1830–1997*,<sup>7</sup> and Chad J. Flake and Larry W. Draper, eds., *A Mormon Bibliography, 1830–1930*.<sup>8</sup> See also, Journal History Index (described in chapter 3) for references to emigration and migration, pioneer rosters, and deaths. A valuable keyword search is “Mormon Migration” in the Family History Library Catalog.

### ACCOUNTS AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

*LDS Church members' accounts of emigration and migration.*

**Format:** Originals, microfilm.

**Location:** CHL.

**Description:** Some Latter-day Saints kept accounts of individuals' emigration and migration to Utah and other localities. See especially the Church Archives computer catalog under “Pioneers—Emigration and immigration.”

**Contents:** Records may include information regarding conversion to the LDS Church, autobiographies, biographical sketches, family genealogies, family documents, financial records, journals, lists of pioneers, maps, missionary travels, photographs, reminiscences, residence, travel experiences, and other similar data.

### CHURCH EMIGRATION

*Information on Church-sponsored emigration companies.*

**Format:** Typescript, loose-leaf binders (three-volume set), microfilm.

**Location:** CHL.

**Description:** Compiled under the direction of Andrew Jenson, this collection dates from 1831 to 1881 and pertains to the Church's efforts to gather its members to central locations. Included are brief histories of trans-Atlantic emigrating companies and groups that traveled overland to Utah. A register describing this collection is available at the Church History Library. See also records of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company and handcart companies sponsored by the LDS Church, 1856–60.

**Contents:** Shows names of LDS Church-sponsored emigration companies, names of emigrants, dates and places of departure, source notes, extracts from company journals, and some biographical details.

### EMIGRATION RECORDS, SCANDINAVIAN MISSION

*Emigration records of the LDS mission in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.*<sup>9</sup>

**Format:** Microfilm.

**Location:** CHL, FHL, HBLL.

**Description:** Emigration records of the Scandinavian Mission (Denmark, Norway, and Sweden) cover the time period from 1852 to 1920. Some information is in foreign languages. Two related sources are Passenger Lists of the Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from the Scandinavian Mission Who Emigrated between the Years 1872 to 1894 and Emigration Records, Swedish Mission, 1905 to 1932.<sup>10</sup>

**Contents:** Ship manifests contain information relating to individuals who immigrated to the United States from the Scandinavian LDS Mission from 1852 to 1920. Shows emigrant's name, age, birthplace, residence, occupation, name of mission conference, destination in the United States, and sometimes other information.

### EMIGRATION REGISTERS OF THE BRITISH MISSION

*LDS Emigration Office records.*

**Format:** Microfilm.

**Location:** CHL, FHL, HBLL.

**Description:** British Mission Registers (BMR) cover the time periods from 1849 to 1885 and 1899 to 1925. These records identify Latter-day Saints who registered with the LDS Emigration Office in Liverpool, England.<sup>11</sup> Microfilm copies of European Mission Emigration records, 1849–1925, are available. See also, European Mission Index: Great Britain, arranged by year of departure from Great Britain, and *Mormon Immigration Index* (CD-ROM). For indexes to these records, see the European Emigration Card Index and the Early Church Information File. A register is available at the LDS Church Archives and is a useful finding aid.

**Contents:** Ship manifests contain information relating to individuals who immigrated to the United States by way of Liverpool. Records show name of the ship, agent's name, date of sailing, name of persons emigrating, age, gender, occupation, marital status, nationality, sometimes their destination, and other emigration details.

### EUROPEAN EMIGRATION CARD INDEX

*A card index of emigrants from Europe to America.*

**Format:** Card index, microfilm.

**Location:** CHL, FHL, HBLL.

**Description:** Often known as Crossing the Ocean Index, or the Emigration Card Catalogue, this useful alphabetical card index covers the time period from 1840 to 1925. It is an index to names of LDS Church members, and others, who emigrated from European countries to America. It is arranged alphabetically by surname (often by the head of the household) and

contains information about many Latter-day Saints who registered at the LDS Church's Emigration Office in Liverpool, England, and emigrants from European countries to the United States, as well as indexing several printed sources. This index is known to be incomplete. It is included in the Early Church Information File. For this subject, see especially *Mormon Immigration Index* (CD-ROM), which is often easier to use than the card index.

**Contents:** Cards show the person's name, age, nationality, the number of people in the immigration group, name of the ship, date and place of departure and arrival in the United States, and sometimes other information, including the source of information.

### **IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS PROJECT**

*An online database of European emigrants. Known as IAP, this free online database is compiled by employees and volunteers of the BYU Center for Family History and Genealogy, Provo, Utah.*

**Format:** Online database.

**Location:** Internet.

**Description:** A database of names of emigrants from Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain.<sup>12</sup> The goal of this emigration project is to identify names of emigrants and their birthplace in Europe or elsewhere.

**Contents:** Identifies and indexes emigration records from European home countries, such as emigration registers, passport files, passenger contracts, vestry minutes, and consular records. The database shows name of emigrant, gender, event dates, description of event, localities, IAP number, and sometimes other details (information varies, depending upon the type of source indexed).

**Internet:** <<http://immigrants.byu.edu>>.

### **MORMON IMMIGRATION INDEX**

*An electronic index of names of LDS immigrants.*

**Format:** CD-ROM.

**Location:** CHL, FHCs, FHL, HBLL, many other libraries.

**Description:** Published on CD-ROM (Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2000, CD-ROM), this resource is an index of names of some 93,000 LDS immigrants (and names of some other immigrants) to the United States during the years 1840 to 1890 on about 543 voyages from international ports. Sometimes known as the MII, users can search this database by the categories of individual's name, passenger list, personal accounts, and voyages.

Information was taken from autobiographies, diaries, journals, reminiscences, voyage notes, the European Emigration Card Index, European mission registers, LDS publications, customs lists, and other sources. This is the most comprehensive index to nineteenth-century Mormon immigrants from various international ports to America.

*Mormon Immigration Index*, part two, covers immigrants who arrived in North America during the years 1891–1925 and indexes additional LDS Church records, including annual Form E records. It updates some data in the first series. Both CD-ROM electronic databases were compiled by BYU professor Fred E. Woods and others.

**Contents:** Contents include name of passenger, year born (sometimes approximate year), age, country of origin, name of ship, date and port of departure, number of LDS immigrants, name of church leader assigned to the voyage, date and port of arrival, and sources (source abbreviation and Family History Library microfilm number). Members of the LDS Church and others are included. Transcriptions of autobiographies, journals, diaries, first person migrant accounts, correspondence, and other records are included.

### **MORMON PIONEER OVERLAND TRAVEL, 1847–1868**

*Pioneer names, rosters, and records of those who traveled west to the Utah Territory from 1847 through 1868.*

**Format:** Online database.

**Location:** Internet.

**Description:** Compiled by the Church History Library in Salt Lake City, this massive online database identifies more than forty thousand individuals, Mormon pioneer companies, and emigrants who traveled west to Utah during the years 1847 through 1868.<sup>13</sup> It is the most comprehensive database identifying early Mormons who migrated to Utah during the nineteenth century.<sup>14</sup> Names of pioneers and immigrant rosters are added as they are located. Users may search by name of more than three hundred pioneer emigrating companies and by name of pioneers. Sources used in this database include Ancestral File, autobiographies, books, diaries and personal journals, Journal History of the Church, letters, periodical articles, personal papers, and others. Personal sketches show the age of the pioneer and sometimes birth and death dates. A photograph of the pioneer company captain may be included.

**Contents:** This database, sometimes known as Overland Travel Database, includes an Alphabetical Company List and a Chronological Company List. Information shows name of person, age, name of company and captain, date of departure, date of arrival in the Salt Lake Valley, company background, list of individuals who traveled with the company, and a list of sources. Users often see full text information regarding trail accounts and may submit information to the database.

**Internet:** Online link is available from the LDS Church home page <[www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org)> under the Church History link <[www.lds.org/churchhistory/library/pioneercompanysearch](http://www.lds.org/churchhistory/library/pioneercompanysearch)>.

### **NETHERLANDS MISSION EMIGRATION RECORDS**

*LDS individuals who immigrated to the United States.*

**Format:** Microfilm.

**Location:** CHL, FHL.

**Description:** A record of LDS individuals and families who emigrated from Rotterdam to the United States via Liverpool, England, from 1904 to 1914.

**Contents:** Information includes the emigrant's name, age, gender, occupation, payment data, date of departure from Rotterdam, name of the ship, and departure date from Liverpool. Destination place in Utah or elsewhere may be shown. It is indexed in the Early Church Information File.

#### PERPETUAL EMIGRATING FUND

**Format:** Original records, microfilm.

**Location:** CHL, FHL.

**Description:** This nineteenth-century LDS Church financial fund was also known as the Perpetual Emigration Fund and often abbreviated PEF.<sup>15</sup> The fund was used to assist some thirty thousand LDS converts to migrate from foreign countries to Utah.<sup>16</sup> Early Latter-day Saints would borrow from PEF for financial assistance and repay the fund later after arrival in America. A printed version of the records of this fund has been published, *Perpetual Emigration Fund*. See also Journal History of the Church (described in chapter 4) for names of people who received financial assistance.

**Contents:** These records cover the time period from 1849 to 1887 and list names of persons who were indebted to the fund.

#### PERPETUAL EMIGRATING FUND COMPANY

*Lists of those individuals who borrowed for emigration purposes to America (from about 1849 to 1887).*

**Format:** Originals, microfilm.

**Location:** CHL.

**Description:** These records show the names of individuals and sureties indebted to the LDS Church for borrowing from this fund, also known as P.E. Fund Company. LDS Church leaders established this fund to assist needy members of the Church to immigrate to the western United States. Church members agreed to replenish PEF upon their arrival, thereby supporting the emigration of more Latter-day Saints. Some one hundred thousand Latter-day Saints settled in western America. PEF records are indexed in Ronald G. Watt, *Perpetual Emigrating Fund Ledger Index*.<sup>17</sup> The LDS Church Archives also has an index to the ledgers.

**Contents:** Records include the following:

- Emigration Fund record books showing date, name of person, and amount of money borrowed
- Financial Accounts, 1849–85, containing ledgers, journals, cash books, orders, and receipts

- Frontier Account Books, 1856–64 (books kept in Nebraska and Iowa)
- General Files, 1849–98, containing correspondence regarding PEF, letter books, emigration lists, receipts, and tickets for the PEF office in Salt Lake City and St. Louis, Missouri
- New York Office Files, 1866–83
- Receipts and Orders, 1854–63
- Contracts, donations, receipts, and promissory notes

### **PIONEER IMMIGRANTS TO UTAH TERRITORY**

*An online database of migration records.*

**Format:** Online database.

**Location:** Internet.

**Contents:** Online migration records taken from questionnaires completed by members of the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers.

**Internet:** <[www.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=5423](http://www.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=5423)>.

### **TRACING MORMON PIONEERS**

*Website for immigrant LDS pioneer ancestry.*

**Format:** Online database.

**Location:** Internet.

**Description:** The goal of this website is to provide tips for those individuals tracing Mormon pioneer ancestry from Australia, Europe, Scandinavia, and South Africa to Utah, mostly from 1847 to 1868.

**Internet:** <[www.xmission.com/~nelsonb/pioneer.htm](http://www.xmission.com/~nelsonb/pioneer.htm)>. See also, Mormon Pioneer Search <[www.xmission.com/~nelsonb/pioneer\\_search3.htm](http://www.xmission.com/~nelsonb/pioneer_search3.htm)> and <[www.xmission.com/~nelsonb/quick\\_menu.htm](http://www.xmission.com/~nelsonb/quick_menu.htm)>.

### **TRAILS OF HOPE: OVERLAND DIARIES AND LETTERS, 1846–1869**

*A collection of LDS diaries and journals.*

**Format:** Online database.

**Location:** Internet.

**Description:** This database is a digital collection of selected pioneer diaries and letters, including those of Latter-day Saints, who migrated west on the California, Montana, Mormon, and Oregon trails during the nineteenth century. The source materials are drawn from the collections at the Harold B. Lee Library, the Utah Academic Library Consortium, and other archival institutions in Idaho, Nevada, and Utah. Several search features are available. See also Trails to Utah and the Pacific: Diaries and Letters, 1846–1869, a Library of Congress online database <<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award99/upbhtml/overhome.html>>.

**Contents:** Includes contemporary maps, photographs, illustrations, and trail guides. This website includes digitized images of the diaries, along with typed transcriptions.

**Internet:** <<http://overlandtrails.lib.byu.edu>>.

### UTAH IMMIGRATION CARD INDEX

*A card index of pioneer immigrants to Utah.*

**Format:** Microfilm.

**Location:** CHL, FHL, HBLL.

**Description:** Sometimes known as the Crossing the Plains Index or Crossing the Plains Card Catalogue, this is a valuable card index covering the time period from 1847 to 1868.<sup>18</sup> Cards are alphabetically arranged by the surname of early Mormon pioneer immigrants to Utah (usually head of the household), although some non-LDS Church members are also included. Although this popular card index is incomplete, this has been one of the major indexes for locating immigrants to Utah. For a more complete and updated immigration index, see the online list of pioneers available on the LDS Church website, known as *Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847–1868*, where users may also search alphabetically by name of company <[www.lds.org/churchhistory/library/pioneercompanysearch](http://www.lds.org/churchhistory/library/pioneercompanysearch)>.<sup>19</sup>

**Contents:** Cards show the name of head of household, names of family members, relationships, ages, name of pioneer company, date crossed the plains, date of arrival in Salt Lake City, and often other information (such as the name of the ship on which the immigrant crossed the ocean and the date of departure from the foreign port). Information in this index varies.

### YOUR SHIP: MORMON EMIGRANT INDEXES

*Digital database of emigrant rosters and voyage histories of persons crossing the ocean from 1840 to 1869.*

**Format:** CD-ROM.

**Description:** *Your Ship* is also known as the *LDS Emigrant Roster and Voyage History, 1840–1869* (Salt Lake City: Your Ship).

**Contents:** Included are Mormon Scandinavian ship lists, names of handcart pioneers from 1856 to 1860, information about immigrant ships, and other related information.