

In Their Own Words

One way to connect to the experiences of the past is to read about them through the words of those who lived them. This short list is not all-encompassing, but gives some great general context for the emigration experience, and specifically, the LDS experience and how it was the same or different from the general experiences of western emigrants in the same era.

111 Days to Zion

Hall Knight and Dr Stanley B Kimball
Deseret News Publication (out of print)

A day-by-day compilation of original notes, with nicely-drawn maps and event illustrations. Combined with general western emigration experiences, this helps illustrate the commonality of the first LDS pioneer company's daily progress and adventures, but also includes great details from the first company.

Recollections of Handcart Pioneer of 1860

Mary Ann Hafen
University of Nebraska Press, ISBN 0-8032-7340-1
Though Mary Ann was only 6 when her family made the crossing in 1860, her recollections of the trip and her life in Utah are clear and quite detailed. The author likely drew on the memories of others when writing her memoir, but those details do stand up to historical documentation and are a great window into one girl's experiences.

Villages on Wheels

Stanley B and Violet T Kimball
Koffordbooks.com ISBN 978-1-58958-119-7
Well-researched and richly detailed, this book looks at the social organization of the early LDS pioneers, and their travel experiences. Drawing on primary source voices of men, women, and children, it's a good companion volume for understanding the emigration experience as a full and rounded travelling community—a full exodus of society, intact.

I Walked to Zion

Susan Arrington Madsen
ISBN 0-87579-848-9
Uniquely youthful documented voices fill this volume of stories from young pioneers recounting their own experiences. Very little editorial chat disrupts the flow of stories, and each has documentary detail about their origination points, travel dates, and later history.

I Sailed to Zion

Susan Arrington Madsen, Fred E Woods
ISBN 1-57345-651-9
Though this book spans into later travel years than the first, it includes great stories from young people who started their western emigration on a ship to the US.

LDS Church Pioneer Database

history.churchofjesuschrist.org/overlandtravel/
This database is an ever-expanding resource of documentation and stories from those who emigrated 1847-1868.

Plug in this URL for a great summary article about some of the surprising statistics from the database:
<https://tinyurl.com/12dfo118>

Covered Wagon Women Vol 1

Kenneth Holmes
ISBN 0-8032-7277-4
Primary sources journals and letters from women crossing the plains during the 1840-1849 era. Women do tend to record different experiences than men, and this early-era compilation illustrates it well.

Covered Wagon Women Vol 7

Kenneth Holmes
ISBN 0-8032-7296-0
Covering 1854-1860, this volume of women's primary source documentation covers the early Handcart era for the LDS pioneers, as well as standard wagon travel experiences.

Additional Resources for Authentic Details

TheSewingAcademy.com

Elizabeth Stewart Clark
The Compendium contains numerous free projects for clothing and accessories accurate to the pioneer era. Additional resources curated specifically for LDS Trek experiences are found at thesewingacademy.com/trek/ PDF projects from this site may be photocopied to share free-of-cost with others, or linked to share.

Mormon Pioneer Dances

Laraine Miner
Cedarfort.com ISBN 978-1-4621-2049-9
A well-researched compilation of historical dances, particularly those noted in LDS pioneer journals, letters, and other primary-source documents. Includes a performance video and musical selections.



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