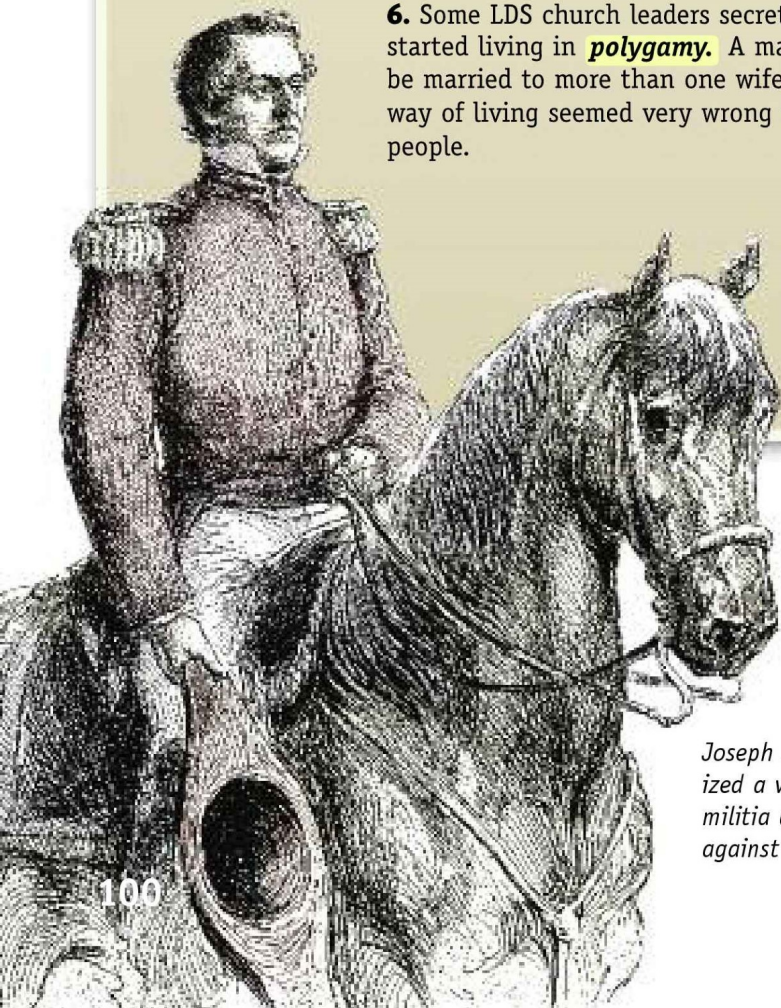


Misunderstanding and Conflict

Why were there so many problems between the LDS people and their neighbors? The differences were mostly about religion, politics, and economics. People felt very strongly about all of these issues.

1. The Mormons said their church was God's only true church. They accepted Joseph Smith as a modern prophet who had talked to God and had translated the Book of Mormon as scripture from ancient gold plates. This upset people of other religions.
2. The LDS belief in a gathering place meant thousands of new settlers moved into a region. They often outnumbered their neighbors.
3. In elections, all of the Mormons usually voted as a block for the same people. Their neighbors were worried that Mormons could take control of state and local politics.
4. The Mormons in Ohio at first lived a **communal** economic lifestyle, which meant everyone gave what they had to the church for the good of the group. This gave church leaders a lot of power.
5. In Missouri, slavery was an important issue. Many of the Mormons were from England and the northern states. They were against slavery. Missouri settlers, however, were mainly from southern states. They had grown up with the idea that slavery was necessary and acceptable.
6. Some LDS church leaders secretly started living in **polygamy**. A man might be married to more than one wife. That way of living seemed very wrong to other people.



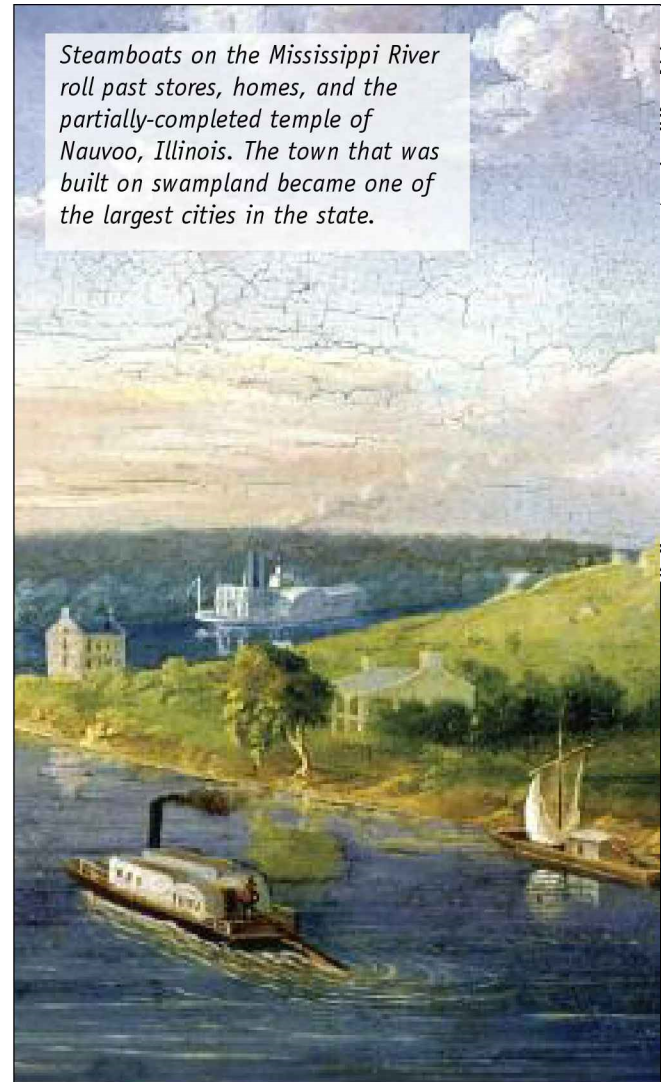
Joseph Smith organized a volunteer militia as a protection against persecution.

Nauvoo, Illinois

As the Mormons fled Missouri, they found refuge in the small community of Quincy, Illinois, across the Mississippi River. The people of Quincy felt sorry for the cold and hungry group and took them into their own homes to care for them. In the spring, the group gathered again on some swampland farther north along river. At once, many started getting deathly sick. Others died. It was all the well could do to take care of the sick. Today, we know they got malaria from swamp mosquitoes.

As many men as could get up off their beds drained the swamps, built homes, and planted crops. The people called the new town Nauvoo. Meanwhile, missionaries continued to preach to people in the states and overseas, and converts continued to come. For a time, Nauvoo was the largest city in Illinois.

Steamboats on the Mississippi River roll past stores, homes, and the partially-completed temple of Nauvoo, Illinois. The town that was built on swampland became one of the largest cities in the state.



The people lived in peace in Nauvoo for several years. Then, as in other places, settlers in nearby towns grew uncomfortable with the large number of Mormons living nearby. There were problems within the city, too. Men who disagreed with Joseph Smith left the church. A group of them started a newspaper called the *Nauvoo Expositor*. They printed stories about young girls being taken against their will to be polygamous wives of Joseph Smith. They printed what Joseph Smith said were other lies about him.

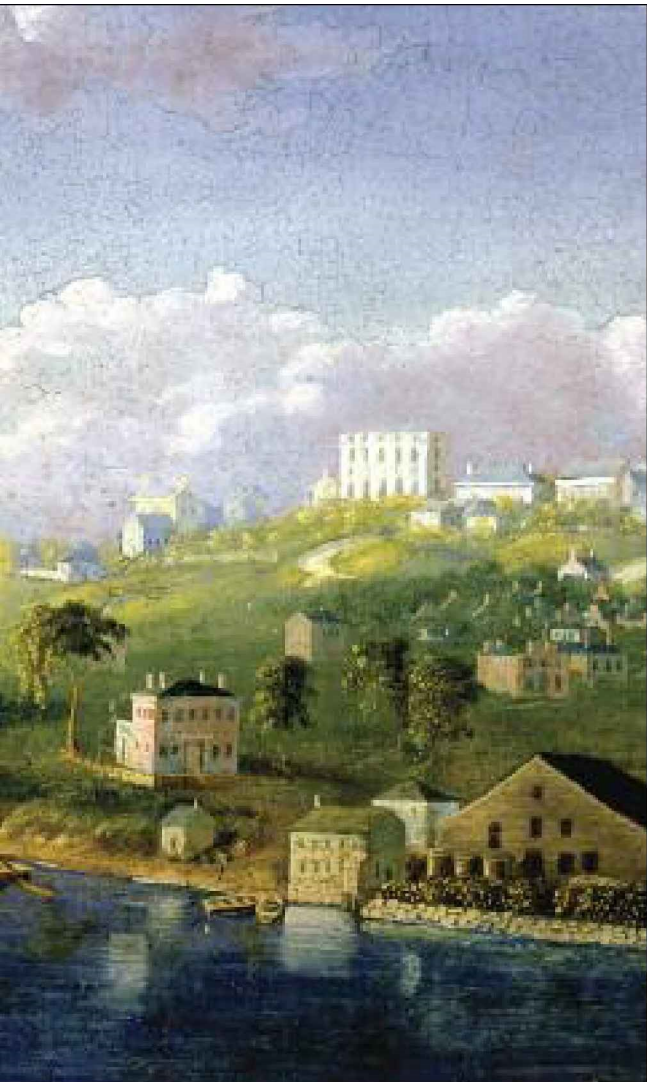
The angry city council met and decided the paper was guilty of *libel*, (maliciously reporting untruths to cause damage to a person or group) and asked Smith, as mayor of Nauvoo, to order the destruction of the press. That night, the press was thrown in the street, and all the papers in the building were burned. In

nearby towns, people accused the Mormons of going against America's freedom of the press.

Things got worse. Angry mobs of men from nearby towns burned haystacks and homes. Joseph Smith and others were arrested but promised protection by Governor Ford. The men were taken on horseback to jail in the nearby town of Carthage. The next evening, a mob of angry men, their faces blackened with gunpowder, attacked the prison and shot and killed Joseph and his brother, Hyrum. Each man left a wife and four children. The Mormons were greatly saddened by the deaths. To them, the men were *martyrs*, unjustly killed for their religion.

“ The news flew like wildfire through the house. The crying and agony . . . and the anguish and sorrow that were felt . . . will never be forgotten by those who were called to pass through it. ”

— Teenage daughter of Mary and Hyrum Smith

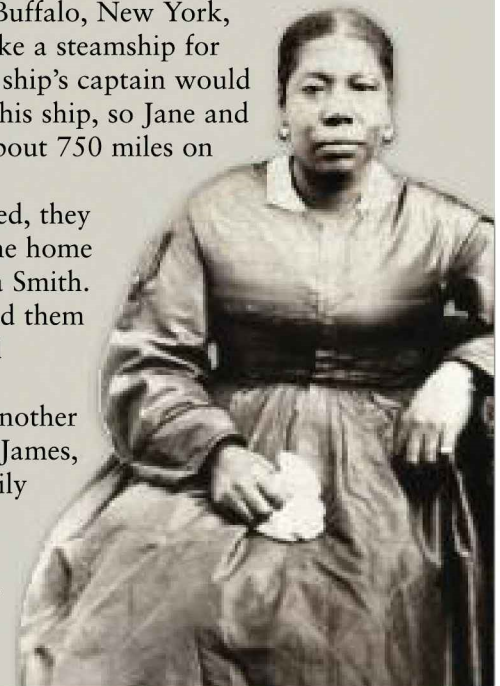


Jane Manning James

1820–1908

Jane Manning was born a free black in Connecticut. Like other converts, Jane Manning wanted to gather with the Mormons. With a company of other Mormons, she left her home with her young son, mother, brothers, and sisters and made her way to Nauvoo in 1843. When they reached Buffalo, New York, the group tried to take a steamship for part of the trip. The ship's captain would not allow blacks on his ship, so Jane and her family walked about 750 miles on foot to Nauvoo.

When they arrived, they made their way to the home of Joseph and Emma Smith. The Smiths welcomed them and helped each find employment. Jane eventually married another black convert, Isaac James, in Nauvoo. The family traveled with other pioneers to the Salt Lake Valley in 1847.





This painting shows the forced exodus of Mormons from Nauvoo, the city they built on the winding Mississippi river. How did the freezing weather prove to be an advantage?

*An **exodus** is the departure or emigration of a large group of people.*

Exodus from Illinois

Once again, the people were forced by threats of mob violence to leave their homes. About 12,000 people were living in the city, and another 2,000 to 3,000 Mormons lived in nearby towns. To move that many women, men, and children in the middle of winter seemed like an impossible task. Brigham Young, the new leader after the death of Joseph Smith, carefully planned to lead the people out of Illinois in the spring. He directed them to make strong wagons and buy extra teams of animals. They were to start preparing extra food and gather tools, seeds, and other supplies for the long journey.

Young and other church leaders studied about the West. They read Fremont's Report and Hastings' Guide. They learned about irrigation methods they would need in the desert lands of the

Great Basin. They sent men to check out several places where the Mormons might settle. At the time, the Great Basin was ruled by Mexico. If they traveled there, they would be leaving the United States.

In the meantime, mobs started burning homes and fields on Mormon farms outside of Nauvoo. More threats came. Young decided the people should not wait for spring, but leave sooner, even in the middle of winter. Would they be ready?

In February, the Shumway family was the first to arrive at the Nauvoo ferry crossing. As they waited in the cold, the oxen pulled their wagon onto a flat-bottomed ferryboat and began to cross the Mississippi River. Others followed.

Later in the month the river froze solid, and the people were able to walk across it—oxen, wagons, and all—for several weeks until the ice melted. About

Brigham Young • 1801–1877

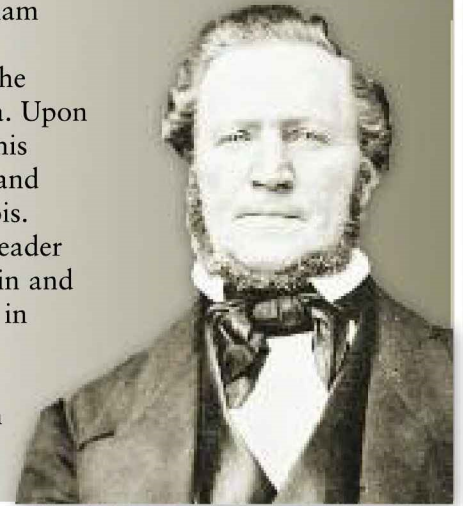
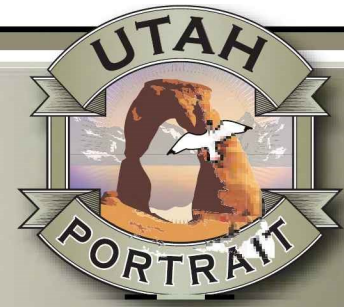
Brigham Young was born in Vermont to a strict Methodist family. The family moved to western New York State. They were very poor—once Brigham was so hungry he killed a robin for food. Except for a few days as a young boy, Brigham Young did not attend school.

Brigham's mother died when he was fourteen years old, and soon he was on his own. He helped his father farm and later became a fine craftsman, making beautiful furniture and building many homes. He married Mariam Angeline Works, and the couple had two daughters.

Young was introduced to the Book of Mormon and the leaders of the church. He converted to Mormonism and went on a mission to Canada. Upon his return, tragedy struck the family, and his young wife died. Leaving his home with many of the other Mormons, he married Mary Ann Angell and followed Joseph Smith to gathering places in Ohio, Missouri, and Illinois.

At the time of Joseph Smith's death, Brigham Young was a valued leader in the LDS Church. He led the Mormons from Illinois to the Great Basin and established more than 300 settlements in the western United States and in Canada and Mexico.

Many historians recognize Brigham Young as the greatest town-builder and **colonizer** in western U.S. history. One historian called him "the most commanding single figure" of the American West.



3,000 Mormons and 500 wagons left that winter and camped across the river in Iowa. Others stayed behind in Nauvoo, trying to get the supplies they needed or waiting for ill family members to get well. A large group left in the spring and others followed that summer. The last group left Nauvoo in September. Some, including Joseph Smith's mother, brothers, wife, and children, stayed in Nauvoo and never moved west.

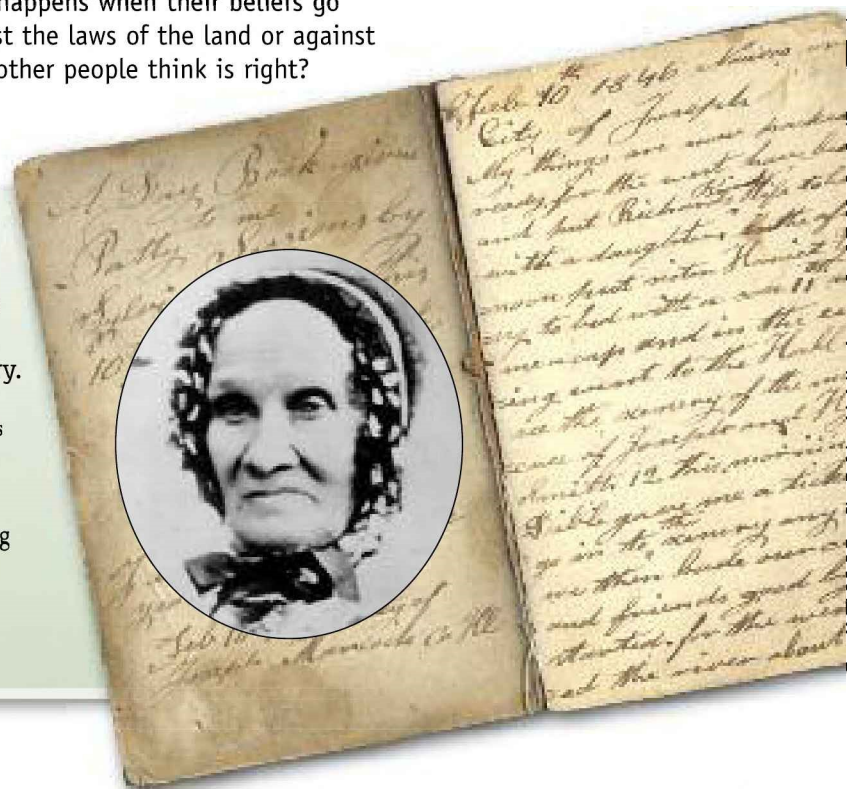
What do you think?

- Can you think of groups today who want to be left alone to live their beliefs?
- What happens when their beliefs go against the laws of the land or against what other people think is right?

Patty Sessions' Diary

Patty Sessions was a midwife in Nauvoo. Then she delivered babies along the pioneer trail. See how much of her handwriting you can read from the diary.

I am now fifty-one years old. February 10, 1846 . . . My things are now packed ready for the west, have been and put Richards wife to bed with a daughter. In the afternoon put sister Harriet Young to bed with a son. 11th made me a cap, and in the evening went to the Hall to see the scene of the massacre of Joseph and Hyrum Smith. February 12 . . . started for the west . . .
February 14 This morning it snows.





The Mormons built a temporary community at a place in Nebraska they called Winter Quarters. It was a place of much suffering from cold, disease, and starvation. Why do you think conditions were so hard there?

Moving West— A Difficult Task

Different groups of Mormon pioneers traveled across Iowa that winter, spring, and summer. They followed an old road and American Indian trails. The trek in the winter was long, cold, and miserable. Children cried, babies were born in wagons, and the sick and old had to be helped along the trail. Everyone missed the comfortable homes left behind in Nauvoo.

Sometimes the people stopped near settlements so the men could work in towns to get food. In a few places the

Go West by Sea with Sam Brannon

Ten people died on the long trip, but two babies were born. One baby was named Atlantic and the other Pacific.

While the Mormons in Illinois were preparing to go west by land, other Mormons who were still living in the East wanted to join the migration. About 70 men, 68 women, and 100 children left New York City on the ship *Brooklyn* under the direction of Samuel Brannon. It was a long trip. They sailed around the tip of South America, up the west coast, and on to the Hawaiian Islands. The group got supplies and spent ten days on land. It was a paradise compared to life on the ship, and many did not want to leave.

In July of 1846, after almost six months of traveling, the ship landed at the little Mexican village of Yerba Buena. It later became the city of San Francisco, California. When the ship docked, the people learned that the United States and Mexico were at war. California had been taken by American troops.

The people scrambled to find places to live. Brannon traveled east to meet Brigham Young, who was still heading towards Utah. Brannon tried to convince Young to settle with him in California, but Young instructed Brannon to have his group move to the Great Basin and join with the rest of the Mormons. Angry, Brannon returned to California. Most of his group left and moved to Utah. A few, however, including Brannon, stayed in California and started a Mormon settlement there.



travelers made their own new communities. Some of the people stayed, and others moved on. Brigham Young led a large group of the pioneers to the Missouri River. In September they established a large community of log cabins across the river in Nebraska. They called the place Winter Quarters.

By spring, there were over a thousand cabins and sod homes in Winter Quarters. However, life in Winter Quarters was no reward for the long trip from Illinois. There was much disease and cold and not enough food and warm clothes. Many people died. The rest were anxious to move west.

The Mormon Battalion

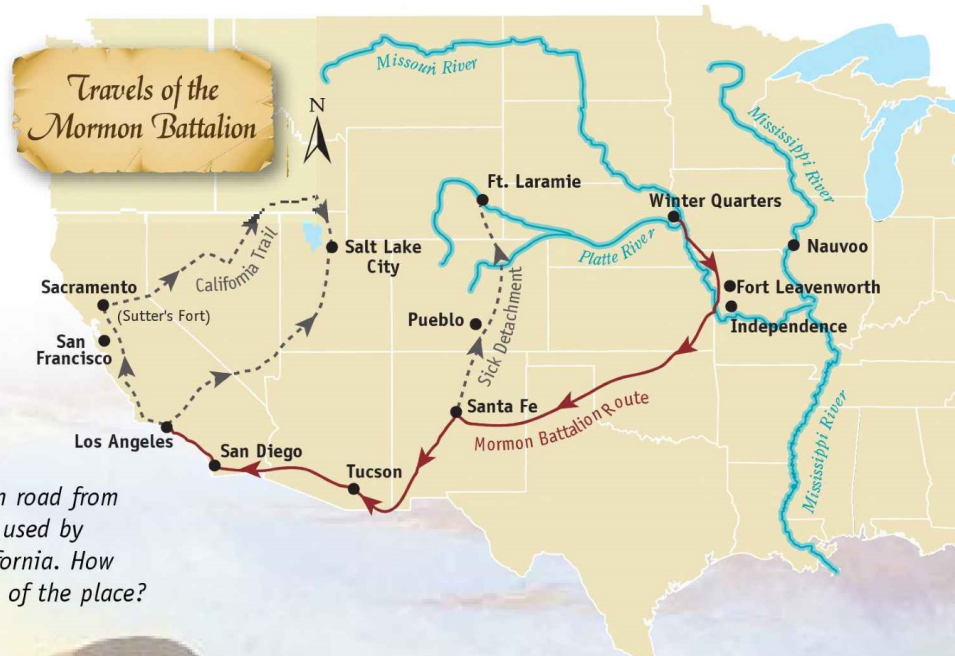
In 1846 Mexico still owned much of western North America, including today's Utah. During the Mexican-American War, the president of the United States declared war on Mexico and sent troops to fight along the borders. The U.S. Army saw the Mormons, then camped in Iowa, as a group who could provide soldiers. A request for soldiers helped the pioneers because the soldiers' pay would go a long way in paying for the wagons, oxen, food, and other supplies the families needed for the trip west.

Over 500 Mormon men volunteered to join the battalion, even though they would have to leave their families behind.

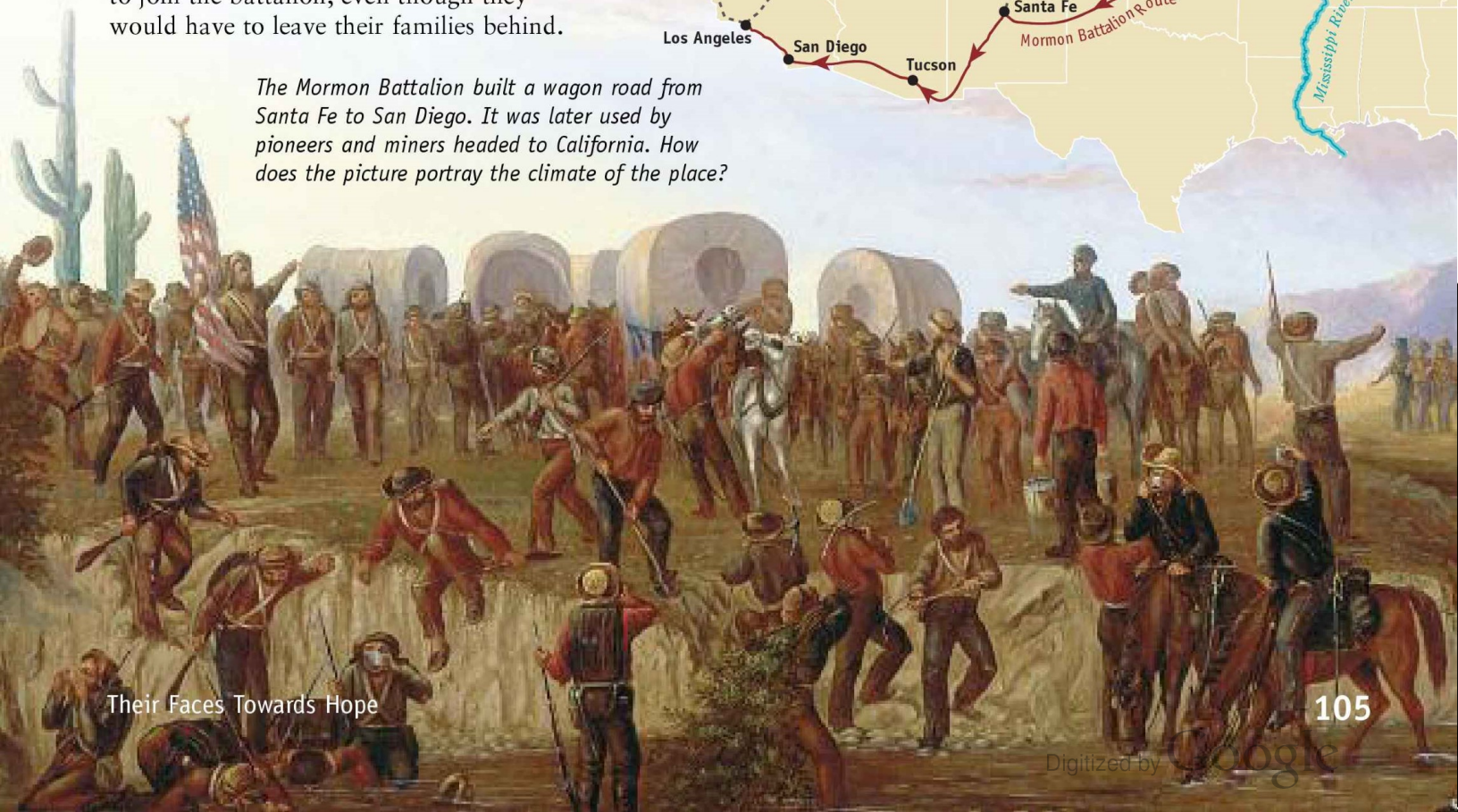
Some of their wives were in despair about how they would move to the Great Basin without the men. About thirty-five women, in fact, went with the soldiers for part of the trip, taking forty-two children along. The women cooked and did laundry for the men. Most of the women, all of the children, and some of the men who were sick were later asked to leave.

The soldiers never fought in any battles because the war ended before they could arrive in Mexico. They were assigned to protect California. When their duty was over, some reenlisted in the army. Some joined Sam Brannon's group in San Francisco. Some of the men were involved in the discovery of gold at Sutter's Fort. You will read more about this in Chapter 7. Later, most of the soldiers joined their families in the Salt Lake Valley.

Upon arriving in San Diego, Lt. Colonel Philip Cooke said the battalion "exhibited some high and essential qualities of veterans."



The Mormon Battalion built a wagon road from Santa Fe to San Diego. It was later used by pioneers and miners headed to California. How does the picture portray the climate of the place?



Their Faces Towards Hope