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Nancy Naomi Alexander Tracy



A Narrative of Her Life, Written in 1885

Transcribed by Zina Hall

Summer 1994

Examples of the Handwritten History

added by Ida Rose Hall

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Short sketch of the life and
of Nancy N. Tracy.
I do not expect to write one
of my experience but merely
to give the outlines of some of the
incidents in my ^{life's} history as it
is impossible for me to exact do
as I never kept a memorandum
therefore I could not make a
complete history.

I was born in the town of
Henderson Jefferson Co. New York
of goodly parents Haron Alexander
and Betsey H. Alexander on the
14 of May 1816 my father died
when I was 4 years old he left
mother in comfortable circum-
with a small farm she 4 or
children the eldest son

Introduction

In 1885 Nancy Naomi Alexander Tracy wrote the story of her life, beginning with the disclaimer that she did not "expect to write one tenth" of her experiences, but merely to give "the outlines of some of the incidents" that she considered to be most important. This simple preface gives a very good idea of what we can expect from her "narative," as she calls it. She wrote the memoir when she was 79 years old, so the events that she describes are not firsthand, spontaneous accounts but are instead shaped and framed by her life's experience when seen in retrospect.

The last page of the journal reveals Nancy Tracy's intended audience. She says, "perhaps in the future my Childrens Children may read with some degree of interest this short history." Her intended audience, then, were her descendants. Nancy Tracy at one time was a school teacher, and we see some examples of her attempt to teach her audience (her children's children) as well as to simply describe an event. She tries to give the ideas and principles that for her were the meaning behind the stories. For example, after recounting the story of a young woman's being healed, she says, "this I bear my testimony to there is nothing but truth in the statement and I think it <in> place to mention it in my narative." The purpose of her autobiography, then, was to edify and instruct as well as to record the events her life.

The seventy-nine pages between the first and last could be averaged to one page for each year of her life to that point. Most of the pages, however, deal with the early years of her marriage and family, from joining the Church with her husband Moses Tracy in 1834 through her travels to Kirtland, Nauvoo, Kanesville and final settlement in Weber County, Utah. Her record of events largely mirrors those of Church history. She is aware of this, to the point of stating in one place, "well it is read in church history all these events . . . I merely bear my testimony to the facts because they came under my observation." Her language often mirrors that of Church

Nancy Naomi Alexander Tracy 2

History and scripture, as when she says of Joseph and Hyrum Smith's martyrdom, "could it be true that those noble men had sealed their testimonies with their blood," or, speaking of persecution to the Church, "it must needs be that offences come but wo to them by whom they come." Yet to these statements she adds her own personality, or, as she might put it, her own testimony. On pages 48-49, without giving her personal opinion or voice, she gives a standard description of Brigham Young's having spoken with Joseph Smith's voice and mannerisms before being sustained "by the voice of the people" as the next prophet. Yet, on the very next page, page 50, she gives us a description of an experience that is very personal and is entirely her own: "I well remember being aroused from my slumbers hearing such heavenly music evry thing was so still and quiet when it burst upon my ear I could not imagine at first from what source it came I got up looked out of my window towards the Temple and beheld on the top of the roof [of the Temple in Nauvoo] the bands congregated and were playing beautifully the moon shone bright and the music delightful." Moments such as these must have symbolized some of the "satisfaction" that Nancy Tracy said she found in the teachings of the Church. It must have been important to her to include descriptions of moments of happiness and comfort in her "narative" since they explain why she was willing to stand by beliefs that also brought her great trials.

Although Nancy Tracy says that she "never felt to murmur" she takes pains to describe carefully many of the trials that she and her family underwent. Life for her was a struggle -- a struggle to make a life under "close circumstances" of persecution and poverty. She also describes this struggle as a battle with evil. Of a young woman who is ill, she says, "she was a good latter day saint but it seemed the evil one was determined to destroy her." On another occasion, when the roof of the temple in Nauvoo caught fire, she said, "finaly wagons and teams

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with barels brought watter from the river men women and Children worked until they conquered the fiend." Personal faith gave Nancy Tracy the strength to survive the hardships of her life, and to say, at the end of her narrative, "the kingdom of God will prevail therefore let us be firm and true."

Editorial Practices

Nancy Naomi Alexander Tracy is my third great-grandmother on my father's side. Her autobiography is currently in the possession of my grandfather Howard Tracy Hall Sr. of Provo, Utah. He apparently obtained the document from his mother, Florence Tracy Hall, who when she was young helped to care for her aging grandmother, Nancy Tracy, who lived across the street from her.

Three typescripts of the manuscript may be found in the BYU archives. One was published in the Woman's Exponent of 1909-1910, one was made in 1975 by someone who says that Nancy Tracy is his "great-grandmother, on my mother's side" but whose name on the photocopy is illegible, and a third, from 1961 by "an unknown person. Many items changed or omitted," lives up to this description by its blatant inaccuracy (unless it was made from another greatly similar but completely differently worded holograph that has since been lost). A fourth typescript was published by Florence Tracy Hall in 1956 and distributed among family members. (I obtained a copy of it from my aunt, Sherlene Hall Bartholomew.) The 1910, 1956 and 1975 typescripts were all useful in replacing words that have since been lost as the manuscript has been torn in places or for clarifying a confusing passage; however, all three change wordings significantly and standardize spellings. The purpose of this typescript was to create a typescript that is as true as possible in spelling and format to the original holograph.

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The journal pages are each 8 inches by 5 inches and were originally bound together. The second line of each page in the holograph is indented and this was at first confusing since it seemed to have no relationship to the beginning of a paragraph, but in fact as I later realized she indented to avoid writing over the paper's embossed trademark, which was a small stamp in the upper left-hand corner. The typescript is line-by-line and original page numberings have also been retained, for ease in finding references in the original (for those to whom it is available). The decision to type the holograph line by line was made because Nancy Tracy used very little punctuation (a rare period denotes particular emphasis) but she worked within lines to create whole ideas; sentences often end at the end of a line and a new thought begins at the beginning of another. Because of this, it is easier to trace Nancy Tracy's thought process in writing when her own lines are retained. Angle brackets have been used to denote words added above the line in her own hand, while editorial brackets replace missing words or letters or clarify unclear spellings. Florence Tracy Hall added some dates and names to the holograph in pencil when she made her typescript and these have been included after the denotation "FTH". Florence Tracy Hall's typescript is also useful for identifying names of people and places where Nancy Tracy omits these details.

The "hundredth part" can not be said about this document. My main purpose was to create an accurate and accessible resource to those who will read it "with some degree of interest." The life and thoughts of Nancy Naomi Alexander Tracy are best read in her own words, as she penned them when she sat down to write her life's history in 1885.

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1

[A] short scetch of the life and
[travels] of Nancy N Tracy
[I] do not expect to write one ten[th]
of my experiance but merely
to give the outlines of some of the
incidents in my <lifes> history as it
is imposible for me to give exact da[tes]
as I never kept a memoranda
the<re>fore I could not make a
complete history

I was born in the town of
Henderson Jefferson CO New Yo[rk]
of goodly parents Aaron Alexan[der]
and Betsey J[ones] Alexander on the
14 of May 1816 My Father died
when I was 4 years old he left [my]
mother in comfortable circums[tances]
with a small farm she 4 s[mall]
children the oldest but [six years old]

2

Mother felt that she could [not take]
[ca]re of the farm and sold
the place and was to recieve [the]
money for it but the men that [bought it]
failed in buisness and neve[r paid]
[h]er consequently it left her des[titute]
and she had to put out her 3 oldest children
I was the second child
it fell to my lot to go to my Grand
Fathers on Mothers side to live in
Herkimer CO 100 miles from Mother
I was now 5 years old my Uncles and
Aunts were all grown and most of
them maried and gone I was quite [a]
favorite in the family and kept
[in] School most of the time but as
[I] grew up I was learned to spin
[fl]ax and wool and also to weave

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[c]loth in the summer and then
[go] to school in Winter when I w[as]
[13 y]ears old there was quite a
[revival] in the town amongst the
[Methodists] I had been trained

3

always to go to their church
and Sunday schools in which
I took great delight for I
had a relegious turn of mind
and when this refformation broke
out I felt as tho I wanted to get
religion and be hapy as others
seemed to be I tried to get that
change of heart and would go
of alone by myself and take the
Bible and read and pray but I
could feel no different so I never
joined their church. when I was
15 my Mother came to see me
and staid 1 year I became so much
atached to her that I could not
bear the Idea of being seperated
from her again when she was
preparing to leave I told her I
wanted to go with her she finally
consented I knew I was leaving
a good home where I had been
kindly cared for and I knew to
that mother had no home of her
[own still I had a great anxiety to go]

4

and take the chance of a home
I was going to school at the
time <and> I bade the school and my Teach[er]
bye good bye and went with Mother
when we arrived to Jefferson
I was again was placed in schoo[l]
for the winter in the Spring I

Nancy Naomi Alexander Tracy 7

was offered a school to teach but declined I thought I was too young being only 16 years old so I went to live with Abram Tracy his wife was Mother's cousin while there I became acquainted with his Br Moses Tracy an attachment sprung up between us and on the 15 day of July we were married this was in the year 1832 my husband then took me home to his Father's to live until we could get a home of our own in the fall we went to keeping house the Winter passed of very pleasantly with us in [the spring of 1833 there was quite

5

a sensation created by a new sect of ministers that came around preaching called Mormons we heard all sorts of stories and did not know what to think of them such frightful stories were told at length we heard of an appointment that one David W Patten was going to preach about 2 miles from where we lived. a curiosity seized me and I felt I must go and hear him so three of us went Ensign Tracy's wife Lydia. and Marget Minor and myself and to our astonishment beheld a tall Stately looking man with piercing black eyes arise and give out a hymn we expected to see some one hardly in human form from what we had heard but instead I could at a glance see the Noble Spirit he possessed beaming in his countenance and when he began to speak it was with such force and power before he was

half through I could have borne my

6

testimony of the truth of the Gospel
and doctrine he was preaching
never before had I heard the true
Gospel as the Saviour and his apostles
had taught it while they were on
the earth but this man had now
given us a pure gospel sermon and
I believed it with all my heart
and would have gladly gone dow[n]
into the waters of baptism
but I wanted my husband to hear firs[t]
and come along with me these elders
preached often in the neighbourhood
and many became convinced of the
truth of the gospel and were baptised
and finaly quite a large branch of the
Church was organized in the town of
Ellisburgh my husband as yet did
not seem to believe as readily as I
would have liked but still I belived
when he would give himself up to
investigate the Gospel he would
embrace it for I knew he was honest

7

hearted

in November the 25 1833
our first son [Eli Alexander] was born and
for a long time I lay as it were at
deaths door the presiding elder of the
Branch used to come to our house and
would talk about the gospel and its
ordinances and I felt a great desire
to be administered to but I was
surrounded by unbelievers and had
not obeyed the Ordinance of baptism
as I had felt constrained to do and
felt that I was unworthy to ask for

the blessing but I determined if the Lord would let me live to go forth in the discharge of what I knew was my duty. in the Spring my husband seemed to take hold comenced going to meeting and studying the Bible and finally to my great satisfaction said he was ready to be baptised I had measurably regained my health and on the 10 day of May <1834> we were both baptised By Elder Thomas Dutcher Dutcher

8

at that early day the oposite power was at work filling the minds of the people with prejudice the pulpit and press had commenced a tirade against the Mormons and my relatives thought I had brought a great stain upon myself and them in embracing such a delusion as they called it they would send me the papers of the day with the most vile slanders and falsehoods to see if they could not reclaim me but I was not moved I felt humble and felt to thank God that my soul was at last satisfied thus far that I had embraced truth instead of eror and it was marvelous to me how I had escaped while in tender years of uniting with some of the religeons of the day, I was brought up so strictly amongst them I felt to acknowlege the hand of God that I had been preserved with my heart pure to listen to <the> voice of the good sheperd

9

the Gospel Spread and a good many large Branches was organized through

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Jefferson CO and adjoining CO
the gifts and blessings of the Gospel were
poured out upon those that had embraced
it in rich profusion one instance of I
will relate that came directly under my
observation of the gift of healing. a young
girl about 20 years of age Emily Fuller
was staying for a few days at Br
James Blakesleys Our presiding Elders
house she was taken violently ill and
kept on gettign worse untill finaly she
went into convulsions she was a good
latter day saint but it seemed the evil
one was determined to destroy her
Br Blakesley had gone a way to fill
an apointment 18 miles from home
there was not an elder within 14 miles
at last this Elder Thomas Dutcher was
sent for to come and administer the
ordinances to this girl it had now
been about 24 hours since she was
taken evry thing that could be done
for her was done but of no avail

10

the evil spirit raved in cramping and
convulsing her body she was in
this state when Br Dutcher came he
imediately repaired to a room alone
and prayed mightily for faith and streng<th>
in God that he might have power to
rebuke the destroyer and when he
came into the room went to her bed
side laid his hands upon her head and
with the authority of a man clothed
upon with the spirit and power of the
Priesthood of God Comanded her to arise
and be made whole from the moment
she obeyed and arose altho very weak
and called for watter to wash and the
combs to comb her hear and became
well this I bear my testimony to there

is nothing but truth in the statement
and I think it <in> place to mention it in
my narative Br Joseph Smith the
Prophet had a gathering place
for the saints apointed in Kirtland
Ohio where the Saints were beginin[g]

11

to gather and had began to build
a Temple as they had been commanded
in the Spring of 35 we felt we
with one or two others in the Branch
would like to gather to this place
consequently began making preperations
to go the Kirtland we had visited Herkimer CO
in the Winter for I felt to bear my testimony
to my grandfathers house before leaving for
the West for I felt I was leaving them forever
there had never been an elder in that part
so my relatives knew nothing of mormoni<sm>
they were glad to see me but would not
listen to the mesage we had to give so we
bade them adieu and went home to
prepare for our journey West. we had a
fine Span of horses and new wagon so we
made up our minds to go by land the
distance was some over 400 miles we took
a light load and <had> money to bear our expenses
one of my husbands cousins Philinda colvin
was going with us the time had
now come for us to bid farewell
to all our relatives and friends altho
they predicted that we would soon

12

return again but it will be seen
that in this they were mistaken
we made the distance of 400 miles
in 11 days we had a pleasant journey
only campt in the wagon 2 nights
on the road but instead called for

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our meals and lodgings at the hotels
we had not as yet learned to
deprive our selves of comforts and
little did we realize what we would
have to endure for the gospels sake
I think it was somewhere the first
of June [FTH: 1835] we got to Kirtland we went
to meeting on sunday it was held
inside the Temple walls the roof was
partly on the Prophet Joseph was
in the stand he adressed the saints
that day I neve will forget
with what sattisfaction I sat and
listened to the teachings of an
inspired man of God. my husband
rented a room of Br Lyman Sherman
and we moved into it evry thing

13

was new to us and had to get
Settled and commence anew
to keep house employment was
hard to get but we got along very
well sometimes my husband woud
get work with his team which
made our living sometimes work
on the temple the work on that
house was progressing and intended
to be finished during the fall
and winter so it could be dedicated
in the Spring in Oct 24 [FTH: 1835] my second
son [Laconius Moroni] was born when he was 2 months
old we made a feast Br Harry
Brown and wife uniting with us
and we were to recieve our
Patriarchal Blessings under the
hands of Father Joseph Smith
we invited until the house was
full partook of refreshments and
wine received our blessings and
had instructions from some of the
twelve that was present and it was

14

a feast to our souls this was in the
winter in the Spring the Temple
was finished and dedicated [FTH: Mar 27, 1836]
the dedication lasted two days and
they were happy days to for the Spirit
of God rested on the house and on the
people Angels appeared and the fitting
hymn that was composed for the
occasion was realized the Spirit of God
like a fire is burning I felt that I would
like always to enjoy the sweet communion
with the holy Spirit as I enjoyed it in
that house Solemn assemblies were
called endowments given the Elders
went from house to house blessing
the Saints and administering the
Sacrament and it was truly a day
of rejoicing with the saints of God
and surely nerved us up for what
we afterwards had to contend with
there had a portion of the saints
settled in Jackson Co Missouri
but the inhabitants would not
let them stay there altho they
had paid for their land

15

so they forced them to leave the Co
the Brethren with their families
then went into Clay Co this was going
on while we were yet in Kirtland Ohio
we had been talking of going on to
Missouri Br Joseph had borrowed 50
dollars of us and we could not fit
up without it so my husband went to
Br Joseph to ask council about going and
told him that he did not need the
money if he did not go Br Joseph thought
a moment and then said Br Tracy it is
the will of the Lord that you should

Nancy Naomi Alexander Tracy 14

go and your money shall be forthcoming
tho I do not know now how I am going
to get it so we made up our minds to
go that summer there were many
Elders Sent out to preach from the
house of God that Spring my husband
belonged to the lesser priesthood as yet
but greatly desired to make a short
trip to N Y to once more bear a
faithful testimony to his fathers house

16

and his friends in general before we
went to Missouri the time was short
for we wated to go by the midle of June
this was in Apr [FTH: 1836] so Br Hary Brown and
my husband put their families together
and they started together for N Y were gone
6 weeks returned home and began to fix
up for our journey of 1000 miles this time
with an ox team with 2 families in one
wagon Br Dimickon Huntingtons family
of 5 and our own with 4 in family 2
of other families going in company with
1 team each these were Br Ezra Parish
and Wm Corey 4 families and 3 wagon<s>
it will be seen that this was not going
to be a pleasure trip like unto our first
move we were nearly ready to start
when Br Joseph Smith came to us
and says here Br Tracy is your money
I have just sold a half acre lot I told you
I would get it for you so we bid adieu
to Kirtland where we had lived 1 year [FTH: <June 1835 to June 36>]
in unaloyed peace and hapiness and
recived many rich blessings in conection
with the saints of God which I often

17

said better fitted and prepared us for
what was before us and I often

thought shall we enjoy ourselves when we
get to Missouri as we have in Kirtland
all things being made ready we started
on our journey we had no tent so we
made our beds in our wagon in general
we got along slowly the weather was
getting perty warm we had the summer
before us there was nothing ocured to
mar our peace until we came into the
borders of Missouri when one day
we came to a stream of watter with
avery narow brige over it about
10 feet high from the watter Br Coreys
team was ahead he drove onto the
brige got to the centre when one of
his oxen dropt and began to throw
itself in its struggles we expected
to se[e] the wagon with the children
percipitated at once into the stream
but the men got him loosed from the
other he died and was draged of by the

18

Brethren the[y] could not get a team past
the wagon to haul it of the brige
so the men drawed it of as best they could
and with their teams took his wagon
and family along until we got to a settlement
where he got another ox his team fitted up
again we went on a day or two when one of
his Br Coreys children was taken very sick
and died were quite a distance from any
settlement so we camped they made a rude
coffin for the child and buried it in the
forrest Sister Corey thought this a great
trial and so it was but the worst was
yet to come we went on till within 150
miles of our destination Far West when
all of a suden Br Corey went out of his
mind and raved and tore about and
seemed to want to kill the rest would
not be administered to and they could

Nancy Naomi Alexander Tracy 16

not hold him he was a large powerful
man any way at last he gave up and
seemed harmless well the Br counceled
and thought it best to stop for a few
days to see if he would not recover but
he never ralied again we went a few

19

miles tho to a settlement because our means
was exausted to see if we could not <get> something
to make him more comfortable we found
an empty log cabin [FTH: <Randolph County>] which the owner gave
us leave to go into my own little boy
was shaking with the ague almost evry
day and I had this sick man to take
care of his wife took to her bed and
3 more of the children were taken sick
Br Parish had gone on and Br
Huntington got a house half a mile
from us so the burthen fell upon myself
and husband to take care of he sick
he would go out and work by day and
get what necessaries he could for his labour
and bring it in at night Br corey lived
about 1 week after we stopt in this place
I was alone with the sick family with
the exception of 1 woman that lived near
when the husband and Father of this
family died but it seemed that I
was nerved up in body and Spirit
to do my whole duty and it was

20

marvelous to me how I endured
what I was called upon to endure at that
time but the Lord gave me strength for my
day and trial we went to work and fited
this man for his burial my husband got him
a coffin made altho it was rather rough
but we did all we could and the best we
could under the circumstances I think there

were 3 men that came to help bury him
his wife was held up to take her last look
upon him and then he was buried a
short distance from the house well we
were not going to forsake the rest of the
sick so we staid on and took care of them
until they were so far recovered that we
felt justified in leaving them for the
widow concluded to go no father that
year. we had gathered some provisions
enough to last a month or so and we
fixed to start again it was now getting
late in the season my child was better
and we wanted to finish up our travels
before cold weather before we left the
family that let us have the house to stop
in and other ways had been very kind

21

to us prepared dinner and invited
us to come over and partake
with them we went and I can truly
say that I never sat at a table spread
with luxuries that I enjoyed as I did
that meal it consisted of fresh Venison
Sweet Potatoes corn bread and Coffe
it surely was a great treat to us as we
had not had the privelege to get our
selves a decent meal since we had been
there we bade these friends good by
(their names was Birch) this was in Randolph CO
we went on and got to our journeys
end towards the midle of Nov [FTH: 1836] and camp
there was not a house finished in far West
for the saints had just moved in from
clay CO and were in destitute circumstances
they had now been driven from Jackson
county into Clay and from there into
Caldwell CO it seemed there was no resting
place for the saints of God for persecutions followed
them up but this was still an <other> testimony for
in all ages when God had a people on the earth

22

the[y] had been persecuted in like manner
but not atal daunted the people soon built up
a city and felt to trust in God knowing they had
been commanded to come out of Babylon and gather
together that they might not be partakers of her
plagues that would soon be poured out on the wicked
my husband went to work with a
will timber was handy he soon put up
alog Cabin there was no saw
mills so had to make the best use
of the timber as it was got strait
grained oak and split out boards
for the roof and floor and door
no window dirt chimney and fireplace
this rude structure was put together in
about two weeks ready for us to go
into for the cold and storms were
getting severe how I did apreciate
this shelter from the rude blasts of
December but what next our food
was gone and no alternative but for
my husband to go into an adjoining
CO and seek for employment to get us
something to live upon my two little
boys had come down with the whooping cough

23

but their Father had to leave us
and go went 35 miles over
the bleak Pararie with the team got
some work and Started home with
2 barels of corn and 100 pounds of coarse
flour but the cold was so intense he
almost perished on the pararie at one
time he felt himself going to sleep he
thought he was freezeing but was so
numb it was with a great exertion
that he could get out of the wagon finaly
got the use of his limbs but dared not
get in the wagon any more at last got

home safe with our winters suply
[of] food for what he had got would
be our dependence for he could go no
more but deer was plenty and would
come in sight often and he being a good
marksman we had plenty of Venison
which was a great help to our winters
Suply the little boys did not get over
their cough until spring they had it very hard
we had plenty of wood which was a great blessing

24

and the deer was fat and I could
make candles of their tallow
for our lights we were happy and felt
that the Lord was ever mindful of those that
trusted in him and we never felt to murmur
nor complain when spring came my husband
entered a piece of land 3 miles from Far West
planted corn and other things and we
raised quite a crop that season and all
things moved along pleasantly that
summer Br Joseph his Father and Bro
came up to Far West so we had the prophet
and Patriarch with us again in this
we felt to rejoice that we had the privilege
from time to time of listening to the words
of life and salvation that flowed from
his lips before we realized any benef[it]
from our crop we had to live very
close some times dig roots and pick
greens to make a meal also shoes
and clothing we could not get to
be comfortable but one thing the
spirit of mobocracy had lulled and
we had peace so far in Caldwell CO
but the third year after we had settled

25

there and began to spread out and
increase as also to prosper the enemy began

Nancy Naomi Alexander Tracy 20

to stir up the hearts of the people mobs would
come where there were small settlements
and abuse the inhabitants turn their
horses into the Brethrens cornfields burn houses
and so on until the Br had to stand in self
defence they had been smitten on one cheek
and turned the other until they thought
it was enough the Hauns mill masecree
which will forever be remembered
and the stain will be handed down to posterity
of the atrocious and bloody butchery that
befell those innocent citizens by fiends in
human form where was justice nowhere
to be found. and again on Crooked river
there was a settlement this was 20 miles
from Far west a band of Mobocrats with
a methodist Preacher at their head for
a captian (name Beauragard) [FTH: Bogart] rode into
this settlement took men prisoners with
out any cause what ever insulted women
destroyed property finally the Br dispatched
a mesenger in the night to Far west for
assistance the alarm was given at midnight
by the beating of the drum on the public Square

26

my husband dressed and went over as
quick as he could to see what the matter was
they made a call at once for Volunteers to go
to the rescue of these Brethren he came home
and told me that he was going to Crooked
river that night with the company to assist
in dispersing the Mob I had a babe 2 weeks
old and the Ague and fever had sit in
and no one to stay with me but I told
him to go I would do the best I could
the compay started right away with this
short notice for they had to stand as minute
men in these perilous times they rode on
and ito the edge of the timber that skirted
the river when the guard of the mob fired
upon them and killed one young man by

the name of Obanion two or three of the
Br took charge of him while the company
went on down to disperse the camp of
mobocrats the consequence was a battle
the enemy was routed but not without
the shedding of blood Captain D W
Patten was fataly wounded and died

27

the next day Gideon <Carter> killed outright
and others of the Br wounded but in the
conflict the enemy took to flight
and of course left their camping outfits some
left their horses while others cut their horses
lose and rode them away and in their
flight some left their guns and as is always
customary in a battle the spoil of the
defeated party is taken by the Victors and
in this case I would <ask> who were the agressors
and who fired the first shot our Brethren
went merely went to this place to try and
protect their neighbors from the ravages
of this mob and to make peace if posible
would they see men shot down and not
raise a hand in defence of their fellow man
verily the Brethren <were> justified in what they
<did> acording to the law of both God and our
land. my husband had his sword torn
from him in the conflict and in the spoil
he took a riffle now I suppose this would be
called stealing by saome of the large souled
authors of the abominable falshoods that
have been in circulation about the mormons
such as Mr Cullom aludes to in <his> notorious speech

28

<in the house> well to return to my narative my husband
came home next day I had not been
out of bed for I was to sick my little
boy 5 years old to wait upon me was
all the help I had I saw at a glance there

had been trouble and he related to me
what had hapened and of the Brethren
being being killed it overcame me
and I was sicker than ever the news
of this battle Spread like wild fire
through the State this was sufficient
to arouse the whole State to come out
against a few with their extermination
orders because for once our people stood
in self defence determined to protect their
Brethren from the outrages of these hostiles
for they were nothing else
but as I said the whole state was now
aroused and in arms to come against
us their leader General Clark march<ed>
<his> hosts of thousands up within one mile
and a half of Far West and camped.
Clark with some of his Officers

29

came into Far West and demande<d>
our prophet and his Br Hyrum and several
others of the Br and took <them> as prisoners
down to their camp and put a strong
guard around them
previous to their being taken into the camp
of the enemy Br Joseph had called the
Brethren together and talked to them
and told them to be valient and firm
and trust in God said he I never realize<*>
the enemy so near our doors but Br
be stout hearted. and many more
things to nerve up and strengthen
them in their hour of peril for it
seemed as tho we were to be swallowed
up by this mighty host
as I said <they> put a strong guard around
these Brethren held a court martial
and sentenced them to be shot next
morning I was still sick in bed
but that night I could hear their
Martial band playing and I can

never forget the sound for it seemed
that all the infuriated demons of
the lower regions felt to triumph

30

because they expected to see these pure
and noble men shot down when
[m]orning came their hopes were
blasted. true the poet says God
moves in a misterious way and so on
all at once a spirit more noble
than the rest (Colonel Doniphan)
ordered his men under his command
into line and to march siad he
I will have nothing to do with such
cold blooded ~~blooded~~ murder
this caused a division and insurrection
in their camp so their lives were
spared this time and they were broug<ht>
up into the city and permitted to take
leave of their families and aged
Father and Mother with their
little ones clinging to them and crying
this seene of parting was enough
to melt the heart of a stone my
husband did not wittness this for
the time had come that he had to
take care of himself for they were hunti[ng]

31

for all those thad [that had] been in the Crooked
river battle
these men were hurled of to prison
to suffer from hunger thirst and cold during
the winter months
after they had secured these prisoners
the General came onto the public square and
required of the Br to sign over their property
to defray the expences of the war and made
his speech and also gave his orders of
extermination also the Br had to sta

stack their arms my husband had given the gun that he took among the spoil to another previous so it was among the rest his own he had taken apart threwed the barel on the house and the rest into the cellar so they did not get it. well it is read in church history all these events and Clarks speech concerning our leaders and their fate and ours I merely bear my testimony to the facts because they came under my observation my house was near the publick square Capt Buregard [FTH: Bogart] with his men were camped near my house

32

they came to my house to search for arms and for my husband and they were close upon him but in Gods providence he evaded them and they never found him altho he could not remain around home yet he was in the City they had a double guard around my house my self 1 boy 5 years and another <3 years> and babe now 3 weeks old [Moses Mosiah] in my arms in bed thus was I in prison in my own house and sick at that with nothing to nourish and strengthen me and only my boy to give me a drink of water finally Br Wood came with his wagon and told me he would put me in his wagon and take me to his house which he did that day I shook 2 hours with the Ague and it was the <last> one I had I was shaking when I was put in the wagon as tho every bone in my body would drop to pieces

33

so the gaurd had nothing but the
vacated house to guard
now the crisis had come we had
got to leave the State and not atempt to put
in another crop if we did the Citizens would
be upon us again. this the General said was
a dicresionary power vested in him to let us
stay until Spring so when he had drove the
hoops as tight as he could he told his armies
to go to their homes and hold themselves
in readiness in case they were called
for again. it was in vain to importune
for redress there was no atention given
to our entreaties this crusade was
suffered to go on against an innocent
people and no notice taken of it no
alternative but to sacrifice our homes
and lands that was bought and honestly
paid for and why this outburst of perse
cution for the same reason that in evry
age of the world when God had a people
on the earth they persecuted imprisoned
and put to death in like manner for
their religion and because they worshiped
the true and living God and obeyed his commands

34

and not because they had broken any
law because in the strictest sense of the
word they were a law abiding comunity
and no one honoured and revered
the the laws of the land more than Latter day
Saints and were t taught to do so and I
know whereof I speak and it is true
and I feel constrained to write as I do for
perhaps to some one that does not [know] what to
believe there has been and is still so much
falshood afloat about this people I say here
is my testimony that there is not a people
on the face of the earth that is as careful

Nancy Naomi Alexander Tracy 26

to obey and uphold law and good order
as the LDS I have lived in the world
and traveled much have been Identified
with this church 50 years and I speak
according to knowledge. well it is all right
we are to be a tried people and to be
like gold seven times tried and if we did
not taste the bitter we could not prize
the sweet lets keep our covenants and trust
in God and he will work out our salvation
for us

35

but to return to my narrative it is
now winter and in consequence
of the troubles not much preparations
for comforts let alone preparing for
another move yet Br Joseph would
often send Cheerful messages to the saints
suffering as he was telling them to get
away as fast as they could for there
would be no chance for him as long
as one remained. Imagine our feelings
to leave the State and leave our prophet
and Brethren in a cold dungeon and
food loathesome beyond description placed
before them of which they could not partake
but leave we must and as fast as the
people could they started I think it was
the 1 of march that we started out to
go to Illinois for this was the direction
in which the saints were traveling
my husband fitted up our conveyance
the best he could which was a cart with
a bed sheet to for a cover and one horse
he was a noble spirited animal and done

36

his part well we called him Prince
but after he had taken us safely out of the
state he laid down and died

I could not describe our suffering on this journey 5 of us in this small conveyance we could not take any thing but our bed a little clothing and and food it stormed incessantly on the road sometimes we could travel no more than 5 miles in a day and when we got to the Mississippi bottom which was several miles across it was almost imposible to travel for mud and watter nights we would have to gather scrubs and sticks to lay our bed down upon and then before morning be drenched to the skin at last we reached the river having money enough to pay for being taken across we had been 3 weeks on the road we crossed at Quincy and went up the river a few miles stopt for a while to rest and as I have stated our horse died so we staid in Adams county 1 year before going up to Nauvoo raised a small crop in this place enough to live upon the winter we staid there

37

there were 5 families of us in this place that had come from Mo and shared in persecutions 3 families of the Tippits and Br G Perry we enjoyed our selves with one exception Br John Tippits lost his wife there and that cast a gloom over us all for a season for she was much esteemed by us all for her goodness in the spring again Br Alva Tippits loaned us a horse to go to Nauvoo I would not attempt to go into the details of the Brethrens escape from prison sufise it to say they got to Nauvoo before we did providence had worked out their deliverenc<e> after the saints had all got out of the state and they had been 6 months in that horrible prison. well here we were

Nancy Naomi Alexander Tracy 28

again not conquered in spirit but
determined to live our religion and stand
by the principles of the Gospel and build
up the kingdom of God the people here
in Illinois seemed hospitable and willing

38

to give us a resting place but how
long would they feel like this time alone
will tell it was a very sickly
place here especially for children we got
us a City lot and built a comfortable
log house at the foot of the hill near the
street that led up to the Temple lot we
sold this place to Br W Woodruff and
took another lot one block west of this
and were enabled to still build a
better house a frame with 2 rooms
my 4th child that was born after
we got to Nauvoo died in this house
when he was 1 year and 8 months old
after his death I took up a School
and taught a term of 3 months this
took up my time and passed of the summer
work on the Temple had commenced and
the basement Storie nearly completed
Elders were being sent out to the nations
to preach the Gospel emigration coming
in from different parts of the earth
and the kingdom rolling on about this
time the Relief Society was organized
with Emme Smith the President

39

Eliza R Snow her secretary I joined
this society it was for the relief
of the poor and every noble purpose
that came within womans sphere of action
we had much good instruction given in
our meetings sometimes Br Joseph would
come and instruct us once in particular

I remember of Emma bringin him in and
prayed at the opening of the meeting he
was full of the spirit of God his whole
frame shook and his face shone and looked
almost transparent this was about
the time that the Celestial order
of marriage was revealed to
him and he had taught it to
a few that could bear it but I
heard him say at one time on the
stand in the grove on the brink
of the hill where they held meetings
says he if I should make known to these
(turning to those that sat behind him)
that pretend to be my best friends what
my God has revealed to me they would be

40

the first to seek my life
amongst those that sat there were
Wm Law and Marks and surley those
men turned to be his most bitter enemies
altho they had pretended the greatest
friendship it was not all sunshine here
in Nauvo the clouds began to gather thick
around Br Joseph araigned many times
before the law but always was cleared
of the charges prefered against him
nothing what ever could be proven
against him it seemed as tho no man
was ever harased as he was and for
what reason. because he was a prophet
raised up in the midst of this wicked
and perverse generation to be an
instrument in the hands of God to lay
the foundation of his kingdom on the
earth and we read in holy writ that
in like manner they persecuted the
prophets before to return again
now we had an offer to sell again this
time we realized I think it was 200 and
25 it was all cash this time we now

41

went up on the hill near the Temple
and bought one quarter of an
acre it was a beautiful location in
front to the east lay the public square
on the south the Temple and the main
Street called Mullholland street here we
thought would be our home and move
no more my husband did his own
Carpenter work he built us a good
frame house here with 3 rooms and
good cellar I enjoyed living in this house
very much I could look over to the
Temple and see the workmen at their
work and hear the clik of the masons
hammers from morn till eve and their
Sailor songs as they were pulling the
rocks in place with pullies and I
thought it delightful one day I looked
over <to> the Temple I saw a large crowd
gathered at the North East corner I thoug<ht>
I <saw> some females in the crowd so I put on my
bonnet and shawl and went over Br
Joseph seemed very busily engaged

42

the crowd around the corner
stone was so great that I could
not at first imagin what was
being done at last Br Joseph says
Bethren stand back and let these
sisters come and see for themselves
there were only three of us Sisters
Whitney Cathoon and my self
the Brethren gave way we went
up to the huge rock and in the
centre was a square box chiseled
out I think some over a fot square
and about the same depth and
lined with zink in this Br Joseph

had placed the Bible Book of Mormon
doctrine and Covenants hymn book
and other Church works as well
as the newspapers the Times and
seasons and Nauvoo Neighbor that
were printed in Nauvoo and money
that had been coined in that year
these were all laid in this box then a
lid of stone cemented down and the
house built on the top of it this mad[e]

43

me think of the prophets in ancient
days hiding up records to
come forth in future generations
but I never had any explanation
but supposed it was for some wise
purpose this building progressed
with great rapidity and I was presan[t]
when the cap stone was laid the
saints turned out enmass to hear
the last ring of the trowel on
that house and to hear the adress
~~devlired~~ delivered on this ocalision [occasion]
during the building of this structure
the Br had a great deal to
contend with because the people
in the state were getting more
hostile towards us all the time
but the Lord held them at bay
until the house was finished so
the Lord excepted it at their hands
previously Joseph Smith had wrote
his views on the powers and policy
of the government and it was printed

44

it came out in pamphlet form
the Elders that were sent out
to preach the Gospel were councciled
to take this work with them and

produce it to the world my husband
was among the number and took
this work with him he was to go
to the State of New York cosequently
would go and visit his birth place
before he returned I had a great
desire to go with him and stay
among our rellatives until he ful
filled his Mission he went and aske[d]
counsil of Br. Joseph and Hyrum
they told him to take me along
and I should prove a blessing
to him so he recieved his instru
ctions and we rented our house
and started <out> our course was dow<n>
the mississippi river on the Steame[r]
Osprey to Sant Louis and on the
Robert Fulton down to the mouth
of the Ohio river and up that river
to Pittsburg then by rail and Canals
until we reached buffalo where we took

45

a steam boat down the Lake
Ontario and landed at
Sacketts Harbor some where about
the 25 [FTH: 20] of June we were now within
12 miles of Father Tracys my
husband walked 8 miles to his
Br in law Samuel Mattisons and
he with his team came after us
brought us to his house that night
and next day we all went to Fathers
and met with a cordial greeting
amongst our relatives in general
having been absent about 10 years
we had been visiting and enjoying
ourselves for one short week and
lo and behold the heart rending
news reached us of the murder of
our dear Prophet and Patriarch
who so short a time before had

instructed my husband concerning
his Mission and had come down
to the boat to see us off. could
it be true that those noble men

46

had sealed their testimonies
with their blood my husband
was so stricken with the blow
he could hardly bear up and
the cry was now your Church
will go to nothing now your leaders
are killed they did not comprehend
the prophecy concerning the kingdom
of God in the last days and that
God was able to raise up another
to stand as a mouth piece from
him to his people.
but now was it is true a gloomy
sorrowful time in Nauvo these
men gave themselves up to be tried
with a pledge of the <faith of> State that
they should be protected but the
result is to well known the plan
was Concocted from the offical
head down to the lowest demons
that commited the dark deed.
and this is our boasted land of
liberty that our Fathers fough[t]

47

and bled to redeem from
under the iron yoke and
would be permitted to <worship> God as they
chose and as their concience should
dictate. but where now is protection
from mob violence and persecution
how often have hte LDS sought
for redress to the rulers of this land
but they turn a deaf ear to our
entreaties but suerley the day is at

hand when God will laugh at their
calamities and mock when their fear
cometh and the saints will triumph
over their foes so we will leave them
in the hands of God for he says
vengeance is mine and I'll repay
I will return to my narrative
Before we went East my husband
was in the employ of one Amos
Davis Merchant in Nauvoo
and had been for 1 year and half
and when he settled up with him
he very generously presented my

48

husband with a suit of broad cloth
with hat and fine boots and my
self a dress pattern said he regretted
to part with him and when he
returned if he wanted employment
he could have his place back
while we were in New York
my husband preached the gospel
and baptised 2 also advocated
Br Joseph's views on the powers
and policy of the Government
we bore faithful Testimonies
to our relatives and in the Spring
bid our friends farewell to
return again to our home in
Nauvoo we landed at the City
of the saints about the middle of
apr on Sunday morning but
how lonely it seemed our proph<et>
and patriarch was not among
the saints in person but that
day his spirit rested upon
Brigham Young and as the
mantle of Elijah fell upon Elisha

49

so the mantle of Joseph fell
upon Brigham it seemed
that the Voice and every gesture was
like Joseph and he was
sustained as prophet seer and
revelator by the voice of the people
Soo[n] after we got back to Nauvo
my youngest Child 2 years and
2 months old was taken taken very
Sick and only lived 2 weeks
and died this was 2 children
I had buried in Nauvoo they
were laid side by side and was
about the same age Wm F [William Frances] and
Theodore F[ranklin] two fine Children
but it seemed almost imposible
to raise a child in Nauvoo.
the Spirit of hatred and enmity
seemed to fill the hearts of the
gentiles against us but Still the
Br kept on working on the Temple
determined to finish it and at last
suceded until the Lord was satisfied

50

and the ordinances were
atended during the winter previous
to their exit for it was again to
your tents O isriel so we did not
enjoy our butiful City and Temple
long but it was a fine Structure
to behold I well remember being
aroused from my slumbers hearing
such heavenly music evry thing
was so still and quiet when it
burst upon my ear I could not
imagine at first from what source
it came I got up looked out of my
window towards the Temple and
beheld on the top of the roof

the bands congregated and were
playing beautifully the moon shone
bright and the music delightful
at another time a fire caught
in the roof of the Temple how it
caught I never knew but it seemed
for a while that the house would

51

be consumed with the fire
wells were drenched all around
and finally wagons and teams
with barrels brought water
from the river men women
and Children worked until
they conquered the fiend altho
the damage was considerable
it seemed the evil one was
determined to harass the saints
in every way but the time was
approaching when again we must
take up the line of march this
time far away in the West
where white mans foot had never
trod to find a resting place amongst
the red men of the forest we were
permitted to receive our blessings in
the winter in the Temple previous
to starting out the ensuing spring
on our journey west my 6 son [Austin Walter]
was born march 15 and our journey
delayed until I was able to travel
I think it was the first of June

52

before we got started crossed the
river with our substance
what we could take with us and
camped for a few days we had but
1 yoke of Cattle so we could not take
much only our provision and clothes

where we were going we did not
know but go the saints must
and sacrificise their homes and their
all to satisfy the blood thirsty apetites
of our enemies it was the only chance
for the for the Saints to leave and go into
the wilderness for they could no
longer live in Babylon and serve God
a few families of us I think about
10 in all Comenced our journey
we had not as yet an Organize<d>
Camp as they were afterwards
organized we traveled on until
we came near Council Bluffs and
campt one afternoon on what was
called musquito Creek our second
son aged 11 years took his fish
hook and line as he was wont

53

to do when we stopt by
a stream he fished for
a while and came into
camp with a nice String of
fish says to his older Brother
you can have these fish then
came to me and says O mother
my head is so bad it seems all
on fire he was taken with a
severe atact of brain fever so of
course we had to stop traveling
we did evry thing we could
under the circumstances and
excercized all the faith we could
but he lived only 12 days there
were 4 families campt with us
but we were alone in the wagon
the night he died with the
exception of Cousin O Colvin
and I had to mostly make his
clothes to lay him away in
and put them on him myself Br

Blodget made him a coffin so
he was laid away in a decent

54

maner but alone in then an
uninhabited Country except
the Pottawatamie Indians a few
french and half breeds on the
Missouri river about 8 miles from
our camp this was a sad blow
to us and hard to bear he was
a very bright and promising boy
I had now buried 3 of my Children
and had 3 left I got into my wagon
after he was buried and wrote a few
lines as they came to my mind after
we laid him away it ran thus

Lachoneus your noble Spirits fled
And gone to brighter realms on hig[h]
Where pain and sorrow never come
While mortality lies mouldering in the <dust>

You was a dear and faithful boy
Unto your parents likewise to God
You loved to read his holy word
Your mind was old beyond your years

55

Sleep on dear Child and rest a while
Ere long the trump of God will sound
To wake the sleeping dead then
In that hapy reserection morn
We will meet again to more to <part>
To reign with Christ a thousand years
And Saints will dwell all robed in white

it was now the last of August
we made up our minds to Stay
there until the next Spring before
going farther as there was timber

and feed for our Cattle by this
time there were several families
stopt here to rest my husband
put up a Cabin also Brothers
Colvin Blodget and Odercart
built Small log houses for the
Winter thinking we would move
on in the Spring, we of course had
not much to live upon as we had
to leave all our Substance behind
only what we could take with one
yoke of Cattle but there was a good

56

many emmigrants traveling to
California and we got some
provisions of them and put in
turnip seed they did well so it helpt
us out likewise our own emmigratio[n]
were constantly pouring into this
place and stoping to rest some
went a few miles farther on and
stopt for the winter and called
the place Winter quarters there were
several families by the name of
Carter stoped with us so this place
was caled Cartersville and before
winter set in there were about 20
families settled here and built log
houses also put up a log School
house it was used to for a meeting
house it was about two miles
from this settlement where the
saints were called together as they
were traveling and a call made
for 500 Volunteers which took all
the able bodided men and left

57

the old and infirm and boys
to take care of the Women and

little ones all that read the
history of the Church know all
of these circumstances and how
the Saints suffered that winter for
this place or Winter quarters had now
become a general stopping place
little did we think when we stopt
with our sick boy that the saints on
their march would settle in here
and round about for the winter
we had school and meetings
and the winter passed of very agreeable
the saints would go forth in the
dance and the Spirit of God was
with them and they felt to rejoice
for there was none in our midst
to prohibit us from worshiping God
according to the dictates of our
consciences. we did not fear our
enemies and had the red man for our
neighbors and they were very civil
that winter our old Nauvoo friend
Amos Davis came through and

58

called on us he was traveling
through to Kanesville with
goods we made him as comfortable
as we could and he was glad to
see us when he left he gave us tea
sugar and rice that lasted me all
winter we felt it a God send to us
in those close times but we did not
leave this place as we expected in the
Spring we lived here for three years
and raised grain and vegetables and
did well my 7 son [Helon Henry] was born here
the second winter that we lived here
and when we left to go on west we
was fitted up with two yoke of
oxen and 1 yoke of cows both of
them giving milk when we started

out we crossed over the Missouri
river and went into the camp of
the Saints for there was a genera[l]
rally to move on this Spring 1850
and all gathered on the Bluffs
to organize the camps there was

59

100 wagons to move on in
our company Br Hawkins
Captain of the hundred then
there were Captains of 50s and of
tens Thomas Johnson was over the
50 that we were in after all was
made ready we started out on
our toilsome journey to the rocky
Mountains this was ~~the~~ or about
the 10 of June 1850 my husband
was <capt> over the 2 10 traveling was
very slow in consequence of new
roads and lengthy train we
took a widow with us by the
name of Brocket we traveld
on until we came to the platt
river Country without any sickness
but some times the Indians
would come into camp and steal
at one time a young Indian got
away with a sack of crackers the
old chief brought him back into camp
made him give them up and whipt
him severely before the camp this was

60

while we were in the sioux nation.
while we were near the platt in
the buffalo country the men thought
they to rest the teams for a day or
to and have a hunt several went
out the weather was very hot and
bad watter they came in at night

loaded with buffalo meat one young man Charles Johnson was taken with the Cholera that night and died at day break was rooled up in blankets a deep grave dug so the woolves could not dig him up for they were very numerous so they buried him this was the first comencement of cholera in the camp after this there were Several deaths in the company some of Cholera and some of other complaints at last one died with small Pox but so much caution was used that no more took it but all nearly were evacinated. we continued our journey now but the camp divided

61

into fifties and traveled in two companies so they could travel with more comfort than with such a large company we came on to the Black hills there were deserted Soldiers came into camp and plead to travel with us but they were soon overtaken by their officers and Strapt on horses and taken back to quarters and I supose had to pay the penalty the camp stopt in the Black hills to let the cattle rest and put shoes on them for their feet had become so sore and tender they could not travel we stayed here 12 days the men killed Elk and deer until we were all suplied it was salted and dried over the smoke so it woul<d> keep for the rest of the journey while we were here the woolves would make the nights hideous with theier howling there was panthers here <to> and I was glad

62

for my part when we rooled
out of this place for I did not
fancy this kind of enemies so
we left them as we did those that
had robed us and driven us from
our possessions and homes. the journey
wa long and tedious sometimes having
to camp with out wood or water
I have seen the cattle tied up at
night after traveling all day without
feed or watter I had 2 cows that
worked in the yoke all the time
but they gave us milk so when there
was no other alternative we could
drink their milk for supper
the traveling became more slow
and fatieguing evry day when
we got to the crossing of the
Green River it ran very swift
it looked deep and angry among
the first that went in to the river
was one Br Gifford he hung on to

63

the ox bows as long as he
could but lost his hold
and the curent took him down
some few had got across and one
of the Br jumpt into the stream
and swam to his rescue fecthed
him ashore but he was nearly gone
but came around all right after
a while the rest all got over with
out acident and moved on towards
the mountains that we were now
nearing at last we begin to raise
their heights and reach the summit
and look down into the valley
below the goal of our destination.
it looked like a Paradise dotted

with dwellings and gardens our
eyes dwelt and hearts feasted upon
the lovely scene after 3 months of hard
toil and travel under all circumstances
of a trying nature on the 15th of
September we came into Salt Lake
City we camped for a few days at
the West of the City to look around
and rest and see where to make a home

64

my husbands health was very
much impaired by our long
journey and constant exposure and
cold weather coming on we traveled
north 8 miles to Sessions Settlement
to get better feed for our stock and
camped for 3 weeks husband and son
went into the mountains and got out
wood and sold to get something to
live upon for in spite of Crickets
which had made such havoc in
the crops they left some but provision[s]
was hard to get as this was the 3d
year that ever any thing had been
attempted to be grown in this desert
land. the Widow Brocket was still
with us and shared our humble
fare it was now past the middle
of Oct and very cold and something
had to be done for quarters for winter
there had a number of families gone
north to the Ogden River and built
up a fort called mound fort

65

we consulted together and
thought it best to move on
to this place about 35 miles
Sister Brocket thought she would
go no farther as she could get a place

to live where we were she had been
very good in helping to care for the
children and doing what she could
but she was feble in health we
bade her good by and started north
we were the most of 3 days in going
to ogden River crossed over went
to the fort built a small Cabin
and moved into it the next thing
to do was to secure some bread
stuff for we were now on rations
my husband sold a yoke of our cattle
and got a large fat Ox this he traded
for 12 bushel of wheat and this was
all the show for bread stuff for the
winter with a few pounds of corn
meal I did not feel to complain I
would cut my Children a slice of bread

66

and tell them to thank
our heavenly Father for
it and they were satisfied and
we were all happy my husband
took up a piece of land one mile west
of the fort timber was very plenty
on the rivers and he put up a log
house with 2 rooms on this land
we moved down into it in the winter
the Indians had a rarge [large] camp near
by on the river they were very good neighbour[s]
we had no trouble with them the
young Indians would want to play
and wrestle with our boys at one
time one wrestled with my second
son living throwed and the fall put
his elbow out of joint which scared
the young native badly but the
Indians put it down for a mark of
bravery. well the winter passed of
but it was a cold hard winter in the
Spring we prepared to put some seeds

in the ground all we could get in those

67

scarse times but high watter
injured it a good deal and then
Grasshoppers come and we fought
them but we saved enough for our
bread but while this was getting
matured it was very hard to get food
to eat soometimes we had to resort to
roots and wild onions and that did
not satisfy hunger in the latter part
of the Summer we got a good many
service berries from the Indians which
made our fruit for the Winter and they
were very nice indeed in the fall of
51 there came a large sheep herd in
going through to California it was so
late in the season they abandond going
any further so they drove their herd
down the Weber river to winter a great
many sheep died the Indians would pick
the wool of and bring it and sell it for
a mere triffle I got 50 or 60 pounds of
this wool cleansed it thoughrly next
summer made it into cloth and clothed
my family up with it until they were
comfortable in May the 2 of this year
52 my 8 son was born David Seymour

68

there was high watter again
this Spring but the men had
levied and fixed up the banks of
the river till it did not do so much
damage so we had a tolerable fair crop
but had to fight the grasshoppers
again to get it my husband went to
work and made a Fanin [fanning] mill to clean
up the grain and it brought us in
a good deal of grain as it was the only

one around the Emigration was traveling through this year to Callifornia very lively it made a good deal of traffic for the Saints they would [trade] goods and Groceries for bread stufs and feed for their teams we also traded our Oxen that we came into the Valley with and got a span of horses for them this year there was some trouble with the Indians and it was considered best to fort up so the place selected was called Bingham fort one mile north from our home so my husband pulled down our house and moved it to that place there was a School house so we could

69

send our children to school it was also used for meeting house and we continued to live here for three or four years but my children were sick for the most of the winter my husband built a good adobe house and we were quite comfortable while we were here in this Fort my 9 and last Son was born the 19 of June 54 Charles Albert my second one that was living was called to go among the Lamanites and then my oldest went they called the place where they went Fort Suply [Supply] but in the winter Eli the oldest was brought home very sick with mountain fever his wife staid with me for he had married the Christmas before as I said he was brought home very sick and lay in a low state for a long time but good nursing such as wife and mother can give brought him all right in due time in <the> Spring he went back and took his wife with him and their first child was born while they were there when she was

6 months old they came home
in the Spring of 57 Apr 25

70

Mosiah our son went to
California this grieved us
sorely and caused us to mourn
if we had buried him by the
side of his brothers we would
not felt as we did under the
circumstances that he went away
under but he became dissatisfied
with that had transpired and to
use his own language he said
under existing circumstances he
could not stay here his father said
as he bid him Good by that he
should never see him again and
he never did this Spring we moved
back on our farm from the fort my
husband was sick a good deal and
did not like to travel back and
forth to see after his work so we
came back. In September the 18 <1854>
my first daughter was born this
being my tenth Child it being our
first girl we thought to give her a long

71

name Mary Ellen Naaomi [Naomi]
that winter the Brethren was
out nearly the whole winter keeping
back Johnstons army but my
husbands health was so poor he
could not go with the rest it was
the first time he had ever staid
behind when there had been any
trouble he was constantly wor<r>ing
and fretting because he could not
go with the Brethren but he was
to sick in the Spring of 58 word

came from our leaders that we
were all to move South so we
had no seed put in the ground
because we did not expect to be
here to harvest and if the army
came in to take possession the
people was intending to commit
the whole to the flames before they
should possess the dwellings and
homes of the saints and after the
desert had been subdued from a wild

72

waste and made to yield abundantly
and to bloom with the bounties of the
earth I say the Saints was going to
make one general Sacrifice there was
men left to watch their movements
while the saints were traveling south
Eli our oldest son was one that
staid he sent his Wife and Child
on with the rest to the south all the
help I had was Austin he was 14
years old the team to drive and
loose stock husband sick and babe
in my arms it was worse than
it was in crossing the plains for
me when we got to Salt Lake
City we stopt for a month then
moved on the towns were nearly
all vacated we got as far as provo
and my husband had the 3 parelectic
stroke but in a few days we travel[ed]
on with him got as far as Payson
and could go no fa[r]ther with him
we camped and built a shade with willows
to break of the hot sun

73

by day and the dews by
night in this situation

Nancy Naomi Alexander Tracy 50

I remained with him day
after day not expecting he would
live Sister Jane Colvin a widow
with her family was camped near by
she used to help me what she could
this was trying times and hard
times my Children to were getting
destitute of Clothing but I did not
allow myself to murmur or complain
my husband said if he could live
to see his family in their home
once more he would be willing then
to die and the Lord gave him the
desire of his heart in this for
there had been a compromise made with
the Army and they were to pass
through and go to their quarters
peaceably and word came that all
could go back to their homes I did
not stay long after this message
came but took my sick husband
and started for home got there
on the 4 day of July was truly

74

thankful to get to a place of
rest my husband was so glad
to get back that he revived up and
went around the place to look after
things and tried to save some volunteer
wheat for that was all that grew
on the place in this year he kept
around until the first of August
then was prostrated and never
rallied again and died on the 25
of the same month <1858> his sufferings
were very great until death relieved
him our oldest son was not at
home and did not know of his
Fathers death there was only 3
wagons to go with me to bury him
the people had but few of them

returned from the move south I
felt very lonely and worn down
but God strengthened me in my
afflictions as he ever had in all
my Sorrows and made me equal
to evry task.

75

in all our married life
which had been 28 years
we had been mobed and driven
from place to place the longest we
had ever lived in one place was in
Nauvo we lived there 8 years before
our expulsion from Illinois we moved twice
while there but it was to better our
condition. in 2 or 3 weeks after I buried
my husband my little girl now 1 year
old was taken very sick and I thought
for a while that she would follow
her Father it seemed that my cup of
sorrow was running over but the Lord
heard my prayers and she was raised
up to me again. I had received
letters from my son Mosiah that
had been gone 2 years he gave me
his Adress and I wrote to him of
his Fathers death and how he grieved
about him he wrote to me that he
would come home if his life was
spared but he has never come
and whether dead or alive I know not

76

winter was apraching my
children destitute of clothing
and but little to feed them on I did
not know what to do I had my hay
cut and had more than my Stock
would consume I had a chance to
sell some for shoes and store pay

which I was very glad to do this
helped me out for the Winter I think
I sold 20 dollars worth of hay I felt
very greatful for this blessing this
scanty alowance had to fit us up
for the winter but was not
sufficient for our comfort for my
husbands lengthy illness and
death and not raising any thing
on the acount of the move to
the south we were left in close
circumstances but the Spring
came again and I tried to
put in what seed I could get
altho it was hard to get I borrowed
some wheat to sow by giving

77

interest and got along
the best I could under
the circumstances but hard
times stared me in the face
until harvest came this was
new to me to have to manage
out door affairs I was not
equal to the task my oldest
son had a family of his own
to care for the one that was
with me to help me was only
15 years old and was all the
help I had Consequently my
husbands Brothers farm was
joining mine and he proposed
looking after our interest and
working the farm I consented
to this proposition and was
married to him for time in
April 1860 I felt that this would
release me from so great a
care and responsibility as I
had resting upon me I felt
completely worn down with toil

78

and hardships of which my
whole life had been made
up after embracing the gospel
it had been one continual
scene of persecution and sacrifices
of our property from our first
gathering with the Saints in
Kirtland Ohio sometimes I
felt I could not endure any more
and then my Heavenly Father
would strengthen me and I felt
to be humble and to be resigned
knowing that Gods people always
had to suffer persecution I
felt that my religion was more
to me than all the world beside
and I felt determined to live it
let what would come through
all my sufferings I never doubted
but felt to cling to the Gospel as
also to encourage others all in
my power to do the same

79

I also felt to teach my family
the principles of the Gospel
and to listen and obey the councils
of the Lords anointed. in Sept
1881 1861 I had a daughter [Nancy Marinda] born
by this second marriage I was
now 44 years of age and
broken down in health but
with the help of God I was
enabled to attend to my house
hold duties and take care of my
Children beside making
what home wear I could to
clothe them with and it is
a marvel to me now when I
look upon my past life my

journeyings in poverty persecutions
Sacrifices and sufferings midst
sickness and deaths I say I marvel
that I am alive to day to tell
the tale and it is more than
the power of mortal man that
has sustained and preserved me

80

to see 1885 ushered in
it is truly a day that is
big with events and none but
the true latter day saint understand
the signs of the times and the full
fulfillment of prophecy in the earth
the wicked are slaying the wicked
the earth quakes destructions by sea
and by land fires Collisions of
cars on railroads and even more
nations rising against nations as
has been told us by the prophets
has it not been said that those
that will not take up the sword
would flee to Zion this will come
true for the latter day saints will
be the only people at peace and
will cling to the constitution to
save it while their enemies are
tearing it into shreds
and are full of animosity and
hatred to the kingdom of
God and truly when the
wicked rule the people mourn
[b]ut when we see all these things

81

taking place we know the
end is near and the kingdom
of God will prevail therefore
let us be firm and true for
it must needs be that

Nancy Naomi Alexander Tracy 55

offences come but Wo to them by
whom they come

I will now make an end
of my narative and perhaps
in the future my Childrens
Children may read with
some degree of interest
this short history altho
a hundredth part hath
not been told

farewell

