No Place To Call Home
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Chapter Four

Nauvoo, Illinois

Memoirs, June 1842 to September 1846

[Departure for Nauvoo, June 14, 1842]

*June 14th* We left for Nauvoo. We were in hopes of finding co— but as none presented itself we set off alone. Our neighbors accompanied us to the creek, which was a large millstream that we had to cross, by fording, it was then quite high, we had waited a week or more for it to fall, and it then barely fordable. Mrs Thompson was very kind to me in my sickness, offered me any assistance I needed, and in getting ready to move she was also willing to assist me. They invited us to come and take breakfast with them the morning we left. Br Busby came with us to br Dentons who then lived on the farm in Clay co, that Addison Pratt formerly owned then sold to Dr Knight. We found a br Biby there when we arrived who accompanied us to Terrahaute. While we were waiting at br Duncans and consulting what we could do for company a young by the name of Andrew St John came along from the south of Ohio. Said he wished to go to Carthage Ill, and would like company, would drive a team or work his passage some way for the sake of his board. Accordingly my husband made arrangements with him to assist us in driving our cows, and we boarded him. We got along very well on our journey. Just before we reached Terrahaute we were met by a large co of the citizens who were going out to meet expresident Van Buren. Who was on a pleasure tour, through the western states. He was escorted from village to village, from city to city all the way to Vandalia which then was the capitol of the state, but afterwards was changed to Springfield. He passed us several times on our way, and we had an opportunity to witness the great attention paid him by his courtiers.

We found our strange travelling companion quite an honest sort of a fellow; he was entirely ignorant of our faith, but no way prejudiced against us. On arriving at Carthage he left us and we proceeded on alone to Nauvoo.
My husband sold the horse that St John rode, in Carthage, tied the other to the wagon, and the cows followed, so that he managed to get along alone, very well until we came to the settlements when the cow was somewhat troublesome, and he found an acquaintance who offered us some assistance.

[Arrival at Nauvoo, June 1842]

On reaching the temple we found br Pratt at work raising the large stones, on the second story. He left his work and escorted us to his habitation. Where we found them all rejoiced to see us, and welcomed us with smiles and kisses. And then we found ourselves the second time gathered with the church, and a temple being building to the Lord. We naturally felt to rejoice, and praise the Lord, for his mercy to us, in preserving our lives, and forwarding us on our way, in keeping his commands.

Every house was occupied, and we were under the necessity of going into a cellar kitchen belonging to Benj Clapp who was himself on a mission to the south. It was directly opposite br Pratts, I spent the most of my time in their house for 2 weeks when my husband bought a house of Benjamin S Wilber, on main street. It was a small frame on maine and cutler. I was well pleased with the place, altho the house was small and unfinished, yet it was situated in a pleasant neighborhood, where we could see the great mississippii, with its numerous steamboats passing and repassing. Besides we had fine prospects of the temple could distinctly see the men at work, and hear the sound of their hammers, while cutting the stones.

Br Wilber had a nice garden growing, and we had one half of it with the improvments, for 220 dolls, he also had several peach trees, which bore fruit before we left there.

He agreed to give us possession in two weeks, but did not get his new house ready to move in that time and offered to let us come in with them. We accordingly lived together awhile. My husband worked in a shop with McArthur at cabinet ware.

[Sister Lois Crosby’s Arrival at Nauvoo]

In about one month after our arrival in Nauvoo Sister Lois Thompson and her [husband] came from Mass, we had not seen her for nearly 7 years and were certainly much rejoiced to meet her at the gathering place of the Saints. Her husband however was an unbeliever in the gospel which was a source of unhappiness to her as well as to us.

She had fondly hoped that on arriving at the church he would be more believing, but it seemed to have a contrary effect, for he certainly became more and more hardened, continued so dissatisfied and homesick that he threatened to leave, and would have done so, if she had been
willing to follow him, but she told him if he went he must go without her, and by that means she kept him.

[Jonathan Sent Again on a Mission]

The next fall there were numerous elders sent to different portions of the states. My husband was among them; he left his home in 3 months after our reaching Nauvo, and was absent 13 months. He had very little means to leave with us, but trusted us in the hands of the Lord, in whose work he was engaged, feeling sure that we should be provided for in some way or another.²

[Opening a School]

He left about the middle of Oct. ’42. Shortly after I opened a school, as the only means of raising a little fund to support myself and son, who was then 6 years old. My house was small, and cold. His sister and husband lived with us, and when the children all got together we were too thick to be agreeable to each other.

We had one of the coldest winters that was ever known in Ill. The Miss—— was frozen 5 months, or from the last of Nov—— to the 6th of Apr—— so that teams crossed it on the ice.

Mr Thompson was very unhappy, and was continually cursing the place, and people, which made it very unpleasant for his friends. It was nearly all he could do, to get wood to keep us comfortable. I taught one quarter, and then closed until warm weather.

In Apr ’43 I opened school again, and taught another quarter. I had 27 schoolars. Sis T—— assisted me some.

[Joseph Smith Kidnapped]

In the course of the summer, br Joseph Smith was kidnaped by a number of missourians, while on a visit to the north part of Ill— with his wife. He was rescued by the authorities of Dixon, and a company of the brethren went out to meet him, and escort him home. A great many of the citizens also went out to meet him, after he came near home. As they came down to maine street I let the schoolars out to go and join his train, which filled the road to a great distance, all rejoicing to meet their prophet once more alive, and welcomed him to his beloved city and friends.

[Jonathan’s Arrival Home with Smallpox]

As the sickly season drew near many began to feel its effects, and H Thompson and myself shared the general fate. Both of us were sick at one
time, with chills and fever, and none but Lois to take care of us. Alma was then in his 7th year, and assisted his aunt in waiting upon us. I received several letters from my husband in his absence, and wrote often to him, Informed him of my sickness and requested him to come as soon as convenient. We looked for him in Sept— but to our great disappointment he did not arrive until Dec—— and then came sick with Smallpox. His bro David and family came with him. He was attacked with the disease while on the Ohio river, but knew not what it was. Began to breakout at St Louis. There was a young Dr on board who travelled some distance with them, and prescribed medicine for him, but did not define the disease if he knew what it was.

We often thought it a mercy that he did not, as he would no doubt have been put off the boat, and left to the mercy of Strangers, or sent to some hospital. The Mississippi being very low the boat could [not] come over the rapids and they were obliged to take land conveyance from Warsaw, and did not reach home until after dark. We were rejoiced to meet him, and the rest of the friends, but sorry to see him so afflicted. He had suffered greatly on the boat from the noise and confusion which surrounded him, and felt extremely thankful to get into his own house, where all was peace and quietness. The next day we sent for the elders of the church to administer to him, and they advised us to call a physician to know what ailed him. Accordingly we sent for Dr John Weld, and he pronounced it the Smallpox, but somewhat modified by the kind pox.

We also sent for elder Sherwood, who said he had had it twice; once by vaccination when a young man, and again that same winter, by being exposed to it while moving a family out of the city, that had it. Mr C was confined to his bed 4 weeks; his bro David was in every day and waited upon us faithfully. I also stopped with him continually with Alma, but none us had it excepting sis Thompson. She was confined with a son, and the next day she had several pox on her face, which however did not fill, but in 4 or 5 days the babe broke out very badly only lived until the 10th. He was one complete blotch. The conclusion was that the child nursed it all from its mother which saved her from being sick but proved his death. Myself Alma and bro Davids wife felt the symptoms considerably, but nothing further.

[Nauvoo, 1844]

Jan 1844 Nancy Henderson came to live with us. She was ten year old a very healthy fleshy girl. Her father had died not long previously, and her mother died a year or two before. Her Grandmother Henderson brought her to me, and wished me to take her and do by her as I would if she were my own child.
Soon after Mr C recovered from the Smallpox he commenced work on the temple. Alma and Nancy went to the masonic hall to school. Bro Hathaway was teacher. When my husband returned from Mass—— he brought me a hundred weight of palm leaf; all prepared, ready for braiding. I learned the children Alma and Nancy to braid on the sides of the crowns, and they soon began to help me.

[Samuel Stevens’s Family]

In the course of the spring or summer I was informed by a sister Empy that a young lady by the name of [Jane] Stevens (had been stopping with her) late from York state. I told her that I believed she was a connexion of ours, as I had seen the name Samuel Stevens in the *Times and Seasons*, whom I believed to be a cousin of mine and sister Pratts, and thought probably she was his daughter. She told me that she had gone out to the prairie and was stopping with a br Marks, son of elder Wm Marks. I requested her to inform the said young lady when she saw her, that she had connexion near her, who wished her to call on them. Shortly after the church were in great trouble. Bros Joseph and Hyram were taken prisners to Carthage, and many of us passed restless days, and sleepless nights. Mr C—— went to elder Marks to enquire for cousin Jane Stevens, and left word with them to her to call on us the earliest opportunity.

*June 26th 1844*, a man by the name of Capt Morris from Moira N York, called and put up with us. My husband I think baptised him, when on his mission the year previous. He gave us an account of our cousin Simon Steven’s family who lived in Moira, and also informed us concerning cousin Carlos, who he had accidentally fallen in co with on his travels to the west. Said he left him at work up in the north part of Ill. Said C wished him to visit his sister Jane, and take a letter to her from him. Mr C concluded to go with him next day in search of her.

[Carthage Jail Massacre]

*June 27th 1844* we arose with heavy hearts, full of doubts and fears respecting the safety of our beloved Prophet and Patriarch who were then incarcerated in Carthage jail. The city was full of rumors concerning the mob who were assembling at Warsaw and Carthage.

Mr C—— and bro Morris set off in to find cousin Jane. Walked out to the young Mark’s, on the prairie, but found she had come into the City. They left her letter, with directions for her to call and see us.

That Pm the governor with a large posse came to Nauvoo, and requested the legion to deliver up their arms, which they did. He then made a lengthy address to the saints, exhorting them to keep quiet &C.
which they obeyed to the very letter, but felt greatly insulted by him, knowing that there was no occasion for his remarks, or counsel.

The next morning at an early hour, the news of Joseph and Hiram’s [Hyrum] massacre was spread throughout the length and breadth of the city. We would not believe the first report, but finally it was confirmed to us beyond a doubt. And Oh the sorrow and sadness of that day! many were made sick by the intelligence, others deranged. Many walked the streets mourning and wringing their hands. I lost my strength and appetite, could not attend to any business for several days. Pm their bodies were brought home; and arrangements made for their burial. Every body was invited, or rather had the privilege of seeing them by walking through the house, we went in at one door, passed by their coffins, gave them a short look, and then went out on the opposite side. They were much disfigured. I thought they did not look natural, in the least, could scarcely tell them apart.

[Leadership of Brigham Young, August 1844]

I shall not attempt to describe the confusion and doubts the church was thrown into for a short time, with regard to our leader, or president, until the return of bro Brigham Young, and other members of the twelve, when all, or nearly all were at rest, upon that subject.

Sidney Rigdon came to the stand and tried to show to the people that he was the rightful successor of Joseph. And his arguments were so powerful, that many were almost persuaded to believe him such. But as soon as the twelve apostles with bro Brigham Young at their head took the stand, it was shown conclusively where the power rested. It was the first time, that I ever thought he resembled bro Joseph. But almost every one exclaimed that the mantle of Joseph had fallen on Brigham. For one I never had any doubts afterward.4

[David Crosby’s Death, Oct 1844]

We all soon became comforted concerning our leaders, but persecution continued all around us. The brethren were obliged to be on guard all the time. The sickly season soon commenced. I was sick several weeks. In the meantime bro David B—— Crosby took sick and died. He was much exposed by being on guard, and going from home to work for his living. Times were very hard for the poor brethren. He went out to the prairie to cut hay, where he took his last sickness. I had not seen him in two weeks when he died, having been confined to the house with chills. He was mild and gentle, an industrious honest saint, and bro. Died Oct 29th 1844 Peace to his spirit. His family mourned his [illegible crossout] there
loss extremely. My husband labored on the temple, which was prosecuted with renewed vigor, after the death of Joseph and Hiram.

The church renewed their zeal for the cause by holding frequent meetings from house to house and exhorting the brethren to set their house in order, according to the order of God. The twelve and high council were appointed to that office. Father Bent came two or 3 times to our house.5

Sister M[arial] Crosby moved in with her bro H[arvey] Thompson. Thus passed away the year 1844.

[Nauvoo, 1845]

1845. Came cousin Jane A Stevens to live with us. I learned her to braid palmleaf hats. Nancy H—— and Alma also worked some at it.

Carlos Stevens was a regular visitor. We admired him much. He and his sister had left their parents the spring previous, had been keeping house on the prairie, previous to her coming to live with us. In june or july the rest of the family arrived in Nauvoo.

Their mother was sick and had been all the way up the mississippi Had been sorely afflicted with musketoes, had large sores on her limbs which continued to run for a long time. They all came to our house, stoped a week or more. When they rented a house east of the temple Jane commenced a school in the upper part of the house, but taught only two weeks. She afterwards went to Dr Phinehas Richards, where she stoped awhile, but her health being very poor, soon returned home. Sister Lois Thompson gave birth to her son David

Sept—— Amelia [Stevens] came to nurse her. After staying one month, she came to live with us. This fall the seventies completed their hall. The dedication continued several days untill all the different quo- rums had each had a feast, and rejoicing in it.

Early in the fall the persecution was renewed in the surrounding settlements, insomuch that the branches were advised to move into Nauvoo. Bro Bullocks from Lima came in, and stoped a week or two with us. They lost a considerable property by the removal. They with a number other families moved into the then called Foster house, which bro Joseph used to call the Mammoth home.

[Death a Frequent Visitor]

The upper part of the temple was finished this winter, and endowments were given to the majority of the brethren. We received our washings and anointings sometime in Jan. Afterwards were sealed by bro Kimball.6 I had forgotten to say that bro Samuel Stevens died after a short illness in
Oct—— 45. His wife was taken sick in Jan ’46, and after about 4 weeks sickness she also died, having been only 6 months in Nauvoo.7

I went to visit her, washed and anointed her from head to foot, with sister P’s help. She seemed very anxious to live to receive her endowments in the temple and we also felt very sorry that she could not. I anointing her, inadvertently told her, that it was for her burial. Notwithstanding my anxiety to have her live. But the words some way pressed themselves out of my mouth.

She died in the faith of the everlasting gospel, her last words were those of counsel to her family about preparing to go with the church to Cal——8 Her children were almost inconsolable at her death. Amelia came to live with us sometime previous to her fathers death. We both visited them often in during their illness.

A sister Newel who was near neighbor to us died the same day that bro Stevens did. I was present at her death. She died with chills conjestive chills. Left a number of small children, and husband to mourn for her. Death became so frequent a visitor in Nauvoo that we were perfectly familiar with it. Amelia lived with us all winter.9

Carlos and the other children kept house a few weeks after their mothers death, but finally Jane got married to Kimball Bullock, and went to the west or winter quarters.10 Took Alvira [Stevens] with her Carlos and Barnard came and lived with us.11

We enjoyed ourselves very well for awhile. Haying season coming on the boys left us, and went to Alton where they worked about 3 months. Did very well, staid untill after harvest. When they returned found us all sick. Barnard assisted about house Carlos went to work for Mr Kenny at the stone house; staid 2 or 3 weeks and then returned sick.

[Mob Attacks in Nauvoo]

The mob soon commenced operations against the few remaining saints12 and new citizens, who were determined to stand their ground as long as they could; every instrument of warfare was called into requisition. My husband being sick at that time, the [militia] of the city came and took his rifle, and bowie knife, promising to return them, but he never saw them again.

They resisted the mob for several weeks. I could sit, or lie, in my house, and hear the canons roar, and count 40 in succession. Our healths were miserable all the time. Still my mind was quite calm and tranquill untill toward the last. 2 or 3 of our brethren were killed, which caused my heart to sink, and I began to fear we should be overpowered by our enemies. Our officers reported many of the mob killed, but the exact number was unknown. Various reports were in circulation. Sometimes we
were expecting friends to come to our relief, at others the mob was gaining numbers. But pen cannot describe our feelings and situation.\textsuperscript{13} Being annoyed as we were with sickness, fleas, bugs, and musketoes. No one to come into wait on us, and we unable to wait on one another. In the meantime there was a Dr Wm Smith come in from Laharp, and stoped with his family in a house just opposite of us. He showed himself very friendly, gave us some medicine, and receipts to make more.

Amelia Carlos and Barnard, had their lodging in Thompsons chambers. Sometimes came to our house to eat, and at others cooked and ate there. The war was finally concluded, by a party of mediators from Quincy, who professed to do justice, but the concessions were all on the side of the Saints. They were to lay down their arms, and leave the city in ten days, with a promise of receiving their arms again on the Iowa side of the river. The mob was then allowed to come into the city without destroying any property, or molesting any one.

Accordingly on the 17th (I think of) Sept—— 1846, they came in and patrolled the city, wherever they pleased. Mr Crosby was then able to walk about, and was out in the street and saw them.

Caroline ends her memoirs of Nauvoo here in September 1846. On the 17th of that month the last of the Mormons were driven from the city by mobs after a three-day battle culminating in the surrender of Nauvoo one day earlier. The next existing folder of her writings begins 10 May 1848 and is a diary of her journey from Bentonsport, Iowa to Salt Lake City.

Fortunately, Jonathan Crosby’s own memoirs bridge the gap here in Caroline’s writings. Of the fourteen thousand or more Saints who left the Nauvoo area for the West in 1846, it is estimated between two thousand and three thousand lagged behind, halting temporarily in southeastern Iowa and northern Missouri.\textsuperscript{14} Suffering from poverty and ill health, lacking food, funds, good wagons and teams, many sought housing and jobs, among them the Crosbys. The following is extracted from Jonathan Crosby’s “Biographical Sketch Written by Himself.”

In February 46 the Church began to move. A large company left, crossed the River & went on to Garden Grove & Pisga. We stayed in Nau—— untill after the mob came when we were all sick & in poverty also, tormented with musketoes, flees, & bedbugs, we could lay abed, & hear the roar of cannon & guns in time of ware. & when the mob came into the City, one of them a old Missourian mober came into my house leveled his gun at me to shoot, demanded my armes but I had none but a pistol, I gave him that & he left, shortly after 3 or 4 of the mob came in & talked quite friendly said we should’nt be hurt, but we might stay as long as we pleased. Although I was sick I made out to get a waggon fixt up & loaded our things in to it & got a yoke of oxen of a brother & hauled it down to
the river & thare we lay 2 or 3 days sleeping in our waggons, awaiting to be ferried over; at length they took us over the west side of the big slue whare we stayed a week or more & the quailes were very plenty.\textsuperscript{15} I had a gun that I got towards our place I sold to German he gave me a coat a gun & an old watch for it; it was worth several 100 dols. & with the gun killed some of the quailes, which was a great help to us in our poverty. In the time of the ware we were out of anything to eat, & all sick with the ague, I was just able to walk about, so I cald on bro Joseph L Haywood\textsuperscript{16} & made know our Condition, & he in much kindness provided some food for us, which was verry thankfuly received. . . . While we were lying by the big Slue I killed many quails others that were camped thare did likewise. After a week or more I borowed a yoke of oxen & moved up to Jackoak grove, thare we camped a week or more in company with severel others; then I got a brother to take his team & hawl us over to Sugar Creek a few miles further. (Whare Pres. B Young & company camped in winter after leaving Nauvoo) Quailes were very plenty every whare som have said that they went out & picked them up alive,\textsuperscript{17} but I saw no such thing with me they so wiled I could hardly get near enough to shoot them.

Shortly after arriveing at Sugar Creek a man came to us. (A gentile,) & learning our situation, said he wanted some work done on his house & if we would go, he would come the nxt day and hawl us thare, a few miles further on. The next day he came with team & hawled us to his home. (His name I forget) We were quite unwell I had a chill every other day, but nevertheless I went to work, some of time I had to stop. Several weeks we stayed thare & were treated verry kindely, but the ague hung on to us, & as winter was coming on, he was afraid we would be a burden to him. So he proposed to take us to Bonypart, 5 or 6 miles further, & we were quite willing to go. In Bonipart we found brother Melvin Wilber with his family, with them we stayed a week or 2. We had 2 cows that we brought from Nauvoo, only one gave milk, the other was quite fat so I kild her & sold some for bred stuff, so we had enough to eat. (It was in November I think) Soon we moved into Bentonsport,\textsuperscript{18} into a house with a brother Cheney; David Moore a mechanic worked in one room of the house, but did’nt stay but a day or 2, we mooved into a little shanty a little way off, but I worked in thare with Moor a while made a few bedsteds; then I got chance to work on a house makeing sash & Doors at a very low rate. So we lived, provisions were very cheep & I made out get aplenty, & with my work I got a yoke of oxen, a yoke of 2 year old steers & cow, got fitted out with provisions, & in May\textsuperscript{19} fore part I think I yoked the cows & steers, started of for Kanesvill or some whare else, did not know whare. About the middle of the day we came to slew, & in crossing it got stuck; unhitched the teem & commenced unlodeing the waggon, When on looking back saw a yoke of oxen coming all yoked up, so I hitched them on with my
one & pulled out, turned them loose again, put in things we took out, & went on, we looked upon that as favor & blessing from Father.

At this point Caroline’s journal of reminiscences begun in Tubuai in 1851 is replaced with a daily log begun 10 May 1848 of the trip from Bentsonsport, Iowa to Winter Quarters and on to Salt Lake City. After reaching the Salt Lake Valley on 12 October 1848, her journal records a synopsis of events until 7 May 1850, at which time a daily record of the trip to California and the Society Islands begins.