Because Patience’s life was long and extended over two continents and almost a century of history, preparing historical background information was an overwhelming responsibility. It would have been impossible for me to even adumbrate Patience’s history without the help of several rather remarkable people, some of whom have spent their lives in research on particular subjects, and who were always gracious in their willingness to share their accumulated information.

Drusilla Smith is an untiring source of information on the Loader family. She has accumulated sources as varied as books on the Lambert estate and unpublished manuscripts written by friends and neighbors. It was Drusilla who provided the information I needed to get started, gave me copies of pictures unavailable except through family contacts, and has given enthusiastic encouragement and assistance throughout the project.

Jan and Paul West contacted me, after I had made a number of queries to other family members, to tell me that they did indeed have the original, handwritten manuscript. They may never know, perhaps, how thrilled I was to drive to their front door and hold the very documents in my hand. And they trusted me enough to allow me to take the originals to make copies. Later, Paul shared with me his own feelings for Patience’s manuscript, and his expressions of admiration caused me to feel a renewed respect for Patience’s endeavor.

Sydne Winborg, Shannon Stearn, Robin Schroeder, and Rhonda Hunter searched out and provided significant genealogical information on their branches of the family—and also expressed delight and enthusiasm for the project.

Lyndia Carter has an exhaustive library and file on the Martin and Willie handcart companies and the Hodgett wagon train, including a number of documents which have been entrusted to her on the provision that she not share or copy them. She knows, off the top of her head, who was where, and when, on that trail; what the weather was like at a given time; and what was going on miles away in relation to a certain event. She
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volunteered to share her extraordinary knowledge with me, and spent several hours of her time poring over maps and explaining to me what was happening “behind the scenes” of Patience’s recollections.

American Fork Canyon is as familiar to Beth Olsen as my backyard is to me. Her research is never ending, her knowledge of historical people, places, and events in and around Pleasant Grove uncanny, and her willingness to explore, compile, and share is unmatched. Months after my interviews with her, pieces of information she had run across pertaining to Patience would suddenly appear in my mail. She is now my friend.

Curtis Allen is a walking encyclopedia on Camp Floyd/Crittenden and the people who lived, worked, and served there. He is so familiar with military records that he can find intricate pieces of information from half a dozen sources in an hour’s time. I had only to ask and he delved into his materials, evaluated his findings, and responded immediately.

Larry Winborg graciously provided the pioneer art that appears on the back cover.

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Jim Ailey read the introduction and offered a much-needed “non-familiar” perspective. Rebekkah Petree, Molly Hill, Brittany Trekell, and especially Bonnie Haas patiently labored through hours of help with proofreading.

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Thanks, all.