The Star-Spangled Banner Forever be Furled: The Mormon Exodus as Liberty

Richard Bennett

Abstract
You wanted to know what we waited to move for, wrote Sidney Tanner, an early Mormon pioneer, to his family in the East. "It was to go to a land of freedom where we could enjoy the peace of society and our liberty. We did not want to live in a country where there was no peace, no liberty and its citizens [were] not allowed their rights." So much has been written about the Mormon Trail that one wonders if there is anything of consequence to be said. Surely all the prominent details are well known. And were it not for the fact that new sources continue to come to light, one might almost agree to leave the topic alone. However, on closer examination, one soon sees that a host of subjects remains unaddressed and several fascinating themes yet undeveloped. The purpose of this paper is to examine one such theme that played more of a role in the thinking and worshiping of the Latter-day Saint exodus than has yet been acknowledged—namely, their unfolding sense of liberty, a double-sided liberty that included both freedom from persecution and oppression and the freedom to worship as they pleased and where they pleased. It was a dear and cherished liberation bought at the price of sacrificed properties and lost lives that contributed enormously to the success of their enterprise. It also was abundantly attested to in their many writings, songs, symbols, and celebrations.

Original Publication Citation
null

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Document Type
Peer-Reviewed Article

Publication Date
1998-01-01

Permanent URL
http://hdl.lib.byu.edu/1877/3038

Publisher
Mormon Historical Studies

Language
English

College
Religious Education

Department
Church History and Doctrine

Copyright Status
© 1998 Richard E. Bennett Used by permission of Mormon Historical Studies: http://mormonhistoricsites.org/publications/

Copyright Use Information
http://lib.byu.edu/about/copyright/

The Star-Spangled Banner, national anthem of the United States, with music adapted from the anthem of a singing club and words by Francis Scott Key. After a century of general use, the four-
The stanza song was officially adopted as the national anthem by an act of Congress in 1931. Read More on This Topic. Francis Scott Key: Writing The Star-Spangled Banner. Origin of the melody. “To Anacreon in Heaven” “To Anacreon in Heaven,” c. 1776, sung by the University of Michigan American Music Institute Chorus, with Scott Van Ornum on harpsichord and soloist Jacob Wright, conducted by Jerry Blackstone and produced by musicologist Mark Clague. From Poets & Patriots: A Tuneful History of “The Star-Spangled Banner” (Star Spangled Music Foundation, 2014). Lyrics “Exodus - Scar Spangled Banner”. [Music & Lyrics (G. Holt)] Oh say can you fucking see The missiles fall like rain Bloody mountains majesty Dead bodies on the plain By the bombing’s eerie light See the crimsons waves of red What so proudly they all fell The twilight of the dead [Chorus:] America - the violent America - the arrogant Will live in infamy We the people, for no people Secure the blessings of tragedy Do or dain we have enstablished The scar spangled banner [Solo - G. Holt] We pledge allegiance to no g Discover releases, reviews, track listings, recommendations, and more about The Mormon Tabernacle Choir* - The Star-Spangled Banner / America, The Beautiful at Discogs. Complete your The Mormon Tabernacle Choir* collection.