

The Zion Story

(Story prompts for those who have been inspired to moved to Missouri)

Your Key Information:

Date and location where this history was compiled: _____

Full name _____

Father's Full Name _____

Mother's Full Name _____

Your Date of Birth _____ Location of Birth _____

Spouses Name(s) and Marriage Dates/Places:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Children's Name(s) and Dates of Birth/Places:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

10.

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Current Mailing Address: _____

Current email Address: _____

What is your preferred method of contact? (circle one)

Phone

Text

Email

Skype/Facetime/Other

In-Person

Personal Website: _____

Are you on Social Media? If so, please list which sites and how you are listed:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Other general information:

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*Please provide the following information in as much detail as you are comfortable with.
Share as much as you would like.*

1. Tell us about you in as much detail as you would like: (a written self-portrait if you will)
 - a. What you look like
 - b. What your talents are
 - c. What your priorities in life are
 - d. How you like to spend your time (now and earlier in your life)
 - e. What church you belong to
 - f. Is there a story from your life that would help us get to know you as a person?
 - g. What education have you received? What schools have you attended? Do you have any degrees or special training?
 - h. What books have you read that helped you gain a better understanding about Missouri's past, present, and future?
 - i. Have you read any books related to Zion/the New Jerusalem, or the last days which have helped you prepare for the future? Please tell us what they are, what you gained from them, and how the knowledge you now have has impacted you.
2. Tell us about the family you grew up in. Tell us about your parents, siblings, and extended family members.
3. Tell us about your family as an adult. Share about your spouse and children. If you are a grandparent, tell us about your grandchildren. Also tell us about how you raised your family and why.
4. Where did you live prior to moving to Missouri? Provide some details about the various places, their culture, and what your life was like there.
5. What prompted you to decide to move to Missouri? Did you feel led by inspiration to move? If so, in what way did that inspiration come, and what did you understand from it?
6. Were those you knew supportive of your desire to move to Missouri? How did they respond when you told them?
7. What kinds of preparations were necessary to make in order to move to Missouri? Were there any miracles along the way?

8. Tell about the actual move. How did you travel? Who came with you? What did you feel as you crossed the border into Missouri? Where did you stay that first day/night? Describe your first impressions of Missouri in terms of the terrain, the people, and the culture.
9. How long did it take for you to find a permanent place to live? Where did you stay in the meantime? Describe your temporary lodging and those you first met upon arriving.
10. How did you find your permanent home? Describe the home in detail including where it was located. Did you rent it or purchase it? Describe the process of acquiring it in detail, including the cost and any special preparations you had to make in order to move in (i.e. repairs, improvements, modifications, etc.) Who owned the home before/when you moved in? What were they like?
11. Describe the community in which you first lived. How were you received? Who were your first friends in the community? Tell us about them in detail.
12. Where did you shop? Describe the businesses you frequented and tell where they were located. What made you choose those particular stores?
13. If you lived in more than one locality in Missouri, tell about the following for each location you resided:
 - a. What caused you to move?
 - b. Did you stay in the same community but move to a different residence? If so, describe:
 - i. How your life changed by making his move.
 - ii. Did you remain friends with those with whom you previously associated?
 - iii. Did the move help you or hinder you in any way?
 - c. If you changed which community you lived in, describe the new community you moved to.
 - i. How were you received? Who were your first friends in the community?
 - ii. Where did you shop? Describe the businesses you frequented and tell where they were located. What made you choose those particular stores?
 - iii. How did your life change by making this move?
 - iv. Did you remain friends with those with whom you previously associated?
14. Did you feel that you had a "mission" in moving to Missouri or to a particular part of Missouri? If so, what was that mission?
 - a. How did you embark upon it?
 - b. Did it go the way you thought it would? Why or why not?
 - c. If you feel you had several missions or that your mission changed throughout the time you lived in Missouri, please describe the additional missions, and how you knew the mission had changed for you.

- d. Please share anything about your personal missions that you feel comfortable sharing such as who else was involved, what kinds of spiritual direction you received, and how you followed that direction.
15. For each church congregation you attended, please write about the following:
 - a. Describe the congregation you attended. Was it a small or large congregation? Was it part of a larger organization? Who were the key local church leaders?
 - b. Tell about your experiences in attending church.
 - c. What callings/church responsibilities did you have? Who did you work with? How were you received by the members of your congregation?
 - d. What challenges did your congregation have? How did the members respond to these challenges? How did the local church leaders respond?
 - e. Tell about some of the positive experiences you had in the congregation. Describe them in detail and tell who was involved.
16. Can you share a little about in-home visits or ministering? Who visited you? Who did you visit? Share at least one or two key experiences that you remember having with in-home visits and where you had those experiences.
17. How were the members of your church received by the community when they moved in? If you lived in several locations, did this differ from place to place?
 - a. Were there any challenges to overcome in building bridges between the church and its members and the community? If so, tell about them in detail, and if they were resolved, how they were resolved.
 - b. Were there common projects or joint efforts between your church and other churches in the community? If so, please describe these in detail including how they came about, what the effort was, who the key people were, and what the outcome was.
18. Tell about the other churches in your area. Were they friendly with one another? With the descendants of the Mormons? How did you build relationships with the members of other faiths?
19. How did you support your family? Did you have to commute or were you able to work locally? Tell about the process of finding/obtaining work. Was it a different experience than you had in other localities prior to living in Missouri? In what ways did it differ?
20. Tell about your occupation(s) and the company(ies)/organization(s) you worked for. If you had several occupations, tell what caused you to change jobs. Which was your favorite job, and why?

21. Did you or your family experience any financial hardships? If so, what happened? How did you get by? How long did the challenges last? How did you overcome them?
22. Did you or your family experience any personal challenges such as transportation issues, culture shock, isolation, health issues, or consistent trials? How did these challenges impact your lives? How were you able to overcome them or learn to cope with them?
23. Did others in your circle of friends/family have challenges? What were some of the hardest ones? How did you support one another through your challenges?
24. Tell about your community involvement. What organizations did you belong to or provide service to or through? Tell about some of the key people involved and some of the key projects undertaken.
25. What was the condition of the town you lived in? Was it undergoing renovation or did it need to? In what ways? Who was responsible for helping to improve it? Did their efforts succeed?
26. Tell about the local government. What kind of government was in place? Who were some of the key leaders? Did you participate in government? What were your experiences with voting or serving in government positions? Did you attend public meetings? Tell about a few of them.
27. Were there any major projects undertaken in the community? What were they? Who was involved? How did they turn out?
28. How did you feel about living near some of the local historical sites? Which one(s) were your favorites? Why? Did you have any special or spiritual experiences at any of the historical sites? Please describe them in detail, if you feel you can. How did these experiences change your life?
29. How has the community/culture of the area changed over time? Who has been instrumental in changing it? Describe this in detail.
30. Have you seen any change in how the descendants of the Mormons are received in the area? In what ways has this changed? To what do you attribute the change?
31. Have you had any missionary experiences while living in Missouri? If so, please describe them and what the outcome was.
32. Have your children/grandchildren remained in the area? Why or why not?
33. How do you feel your life has been changed by your experience of being in Missouri?

34. Have you met others who have had similar experiences in Missouri to yours? Who are they? What have their experiences been like?
35. If you found out someone was feeling inspired to move to Missouri, what advice would you have for them? Would you assist them with the move/transition? In what ways?
36. Do you have plans to leave Missouri – or have you left Missouri at any point? Under what conditions would you/did you leave?
37. If you left Missouri or plan to, have you returned or do you desire to return? Under what conditions would you/could you return? Did you or would you return to the same area of Missouri? Why or why not?
38. As you lived in Missouri, were you cognizant of the need to prepare yourself and your family for the future establishment of Zion? What were your experiences in this realm?
39. If there is anything else you would like to say about your experience in Missouri, please feel free to do so in as much detail as you would like. Remember that the information you share will help future historians to piece together the history of the Latter-day Saints returning to Missouri in the Latter-days and the efforts they made and experiences they had in preparing for the Second Coming of the Savior.

Digital Attachments

1. Please attach scans of key documents pertaining to your Missouri experience (i.e. news articles, key journal entries, letters of commendation or invitation, certificates of achievement, by-laws of organizations, etc.) If you have an extensive collection, please describe:
 - a. The contents and format (i.e. in a binder, in a filing system, digitized records, etc.)
 - b. Where the collection is archived
 - c. The name of the custodian of the records, with their contact information.

(This general information would then be made available with your history for future historians to access so they can contact the custodian directly if desired.)

2. Please attach .jpg files of key photos pertaining to your Missouri experience. If you have an extensive collection please describe:
 - a. The contents and format (i.e. in a binder, in a filing system, digitized records, etc.)
 - b. Where the collection is archived
 - c. The name of the custodian of the records, with their contact information.

3. Once you are ready to contribute your history to The Zion Story please email us at TheZionStory@gmail.com
4. If you would like to contribute any family artifacts/pictures/journals/documents/etc. to the collection along with your history, please email us at TheZionStory@gmail.com. In your email please indicate nature of the item(s) you would like to contribute we will contact you for more information and to arrange for the donation and/or to borrow the items so they can be digitized if that is possible.