

FOREWORD

“It is a compulsory fact that editors must have something interesting or disturbing always at hand, or they will not satisfy the corrupt appetite of their numerous readers. . . . A lie flies to the ends of the earth before truth can put on her shoes.” So wrote *Zion’s Trumpet* editor Daniel Daniels in his 4 July 1857 issue regarding Judge William W. Drummond’s accusations about Governor Brigham Young of Utah Territory. This current compilation of *Zion’s Trumpet* reveals the gathering of storm clouds leading to a federal excursion to replace Young in what later became known as the Utah War.

These translations of *Zion’s Trumpet* matter deeply because they record vital historical details. They also turn readers’ hearts to their fathers and mothers, allowing us to read the stories of our Welsh Mormon forebears and to personally feel their triumphs and tragedies. As readers, we smile at the very quotable lines as the authors employ a more flamboyant and fiery style than most today—unless you count Internet posts! But we appreciate that they recorded Welsh membership statistics, details of the handcart travels, and news of the impending Utah War. And we admire them for writing with the fire of faith.

Zion’s Trumpet has personal meaning to me as an editor. When I began copyediting the series in 2002, I learned that Dan Jones was the second-great-grandfather of Ronald D. Dennis, the editor and

translator of this series. Only later did I learn that Jones's successor as editor was Daniel Daniels, my third-great-grandfather. Jones left Wales in April 1856, and Daniels took his place not only as president of the mission but also as editor of *Zion's Trumpet*.

Daniels did not want to go into publishing, but he inherited the duties of preaching the gospel of Christ and also defending the kingdom in written form. Beginning with the 3 April 1856 issue, the pen passed from "Renowned Editor" Dan Jones (as Daniels called him) to the "Reluctant Editor" (as Daniels was nicknamed by Ron Dennis). Daniels humbly acknowledged his predecessor in these words, "We are far from being so conceited as to claim the same skill in a war as an old soldier who has been in the battle fighting with the family of the devil as if for life, and having done so from the first time the banner of Jesus waved over the hills of Gwalia until now, except for the time he was escorting a host of the Lord's Saints to their sure place of refuge."

In that light, another vital part of Daniels's duties as mission president involved raising funds and helping families prepare to gather to "Zion" in Utah. He served in both positions until December 1857, and his mission lasted well over five years. This reluctant editor passed the pen to another and returned home to his beloved family in Salt Lake City. He later moved to Brigham City and finally to Malad, Idaho. In 1865, Daniels was appointed president of the Malad Branch, then as bishop when it became a ward in 1866, serving in that capacity until 1877.

As a final note, with this last installment of *Zion's Trumpet*, Ron Dennis and I are grateful that the translation project brought together descendants of two fast friends, fellow editors, and committed Church members. We aspire to the same qualities.

R. Devan Jensen
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Religious Studies Center*