

Document 3 William Clayton

This is a section of a journal entry by William Clayton on July 22, 1847. It can be found in the LDS church archives. William Clayton worked as a scribe for much of early church history, including documenting daily life in Nauvoo and the trek of Brigham Young's Vanguard Company. This passage is adapted for easier reading by ChatGPT. Find the original below.

“There’s a wide, flat, and beautiful valley between here and the lake. I think it must be rich and good for farming because of the many deep green areas. The valley has a lot of streams, creeks, and lakes—though some of the lakes seem salty. There isn’t much wood around, except near the water, and that’s really the only downside I see. I think this is one of the most beautiful and pleasant places the Saints could find for a home. The land looks dry and doesn’t get much rain, but all the creeks and springs probably help keep it moist.”

Unedited version:

“There is an extensive, beautiful, level looking valley from here to the lake which I should judge from the numerous deep green patches must be fertile and rich...The intervening valley appears to be well supplied with streams, creeks and lakes, some of the latter are evidently salt...There is but little timber in sight anywhere and that is mostly on the banks of creeks and streams of water which is about the only objection which could be raised in my estimation to this being one of the most beautiful valleys and pleasant places for a home for the Saints which could be found...The land looks dry and lacks rain, but the numerous creeks and springs must necessarily tend to moisten it much.”

This quote can be found in the article linked below. The original is only available in print in the archives of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Salt Lake City, Utah.

<https://www.utah.com/things-to-do/attractions/mormon/mormon-trail-history/>