

### Most Known For:

- Widower of the Prophet Joseph Smith's widow
- Voted into the office of Justice of the Peace
- Assistant Constable for three consecutive terms

# LEWIS C. BIDAMON

By: Gracia Jones

He taught the boys to work, and he worked beside them in the hay fields and on the farm; he showed great interest and effort to help the boys get educated and prepared for useful careers.

Lewis did not gain anything financially, but took upon himself the responsibility of being a father to her children, a role he seems never to have resented nor shirked. They shouldered the burden of debt, court litigation, even the forced sale of the property, more than once.

## Character

- Lewis became an indulgent grandfather to Emma's grandchildren as well as his own. Some of them recalled how they would follow at his heels as he worked about the place, he never became cross or irritable with them.
- In his later years, Major Bidamon became a favorite with reporters passing through Nauvoo. He was always good natured, cordial, full of jokes and entertaining stories. He never allowed anyone in his hearing to get away with disparaging words about the Prophet Joseph Smith.
- For a copy of Barbara Hands Burnauer, Still "Side by Side" - click on this link to the Joseph Smith Historic Site's Red Brick Store, [www.redbrickstore.com/custom/cart/edit.asp?p=124081](http://www.redbrickstore.com/custom/cart/edit.asp?p=124081). This document shares the story of final burial of Joseph and Hyrum Smith and how they came to rest in the Smith Family Cemetery today.

"He was a fine-looking man, six feet tall, with a splendid bearing. He usually dressed very well, and always wore a "citizen's hat," as the high-crowned somewhat formal ones of the period were called."

-Joseph Smith III,



Major Lewis Crum Bidamon

- Born: January 16, 1806—Williamsport, Franklin, West Virginia
- Died: 11 February 11, 1891—Nauvoo, Illinois
- He was a Lieutenant colonel of the 32<sup>nd</sup> regiment of Illinois Infantry



Riverside Mansion as it looked about 1879



Emma Hale Smith Bidamon—1804-1879  
Near the end of her life.