

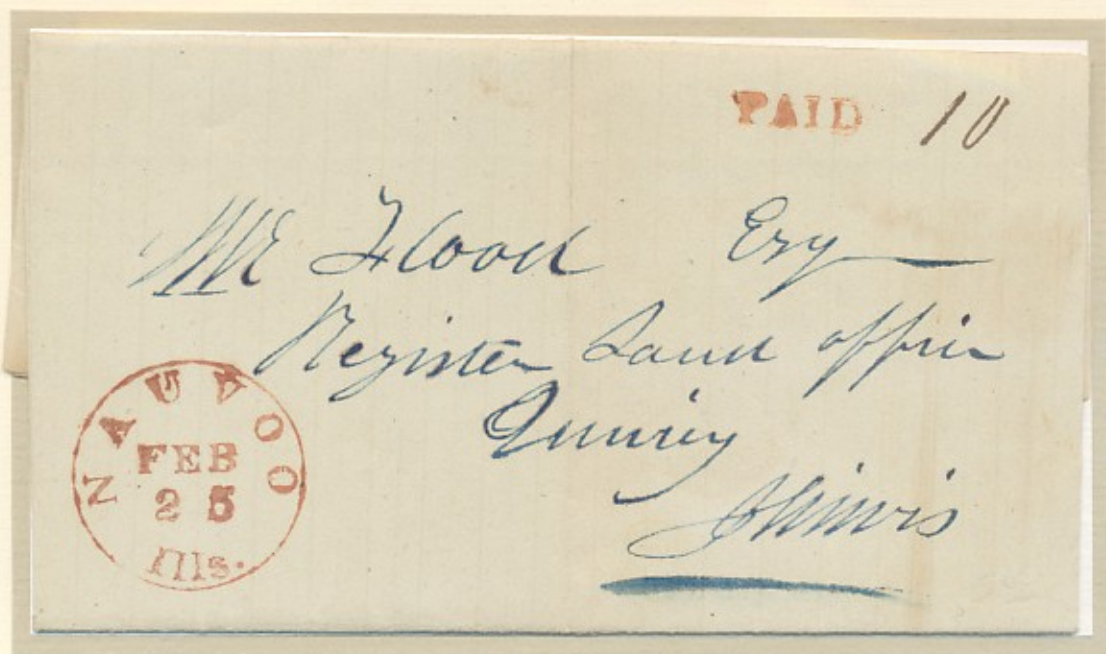
THE WESTERN MAILS



KINGDOM ON THE MISSISSIPPI

NAUVOO is located directly across the Mississippi from Montrose, Iowa on the Illinois side of the river. It is the only place, for many miles, where the bluffs do not come close to the river, thus forming a large area of bottom land at the head of the Des Moines Rapids. In 1824 the village of Commerce was platted on the site and in 1837 another village was platted alongside of Commerce and named Commerce City. In 1839 Joseph Smith began buying up land in and around the two villages. By June 11, 1839 he had replatted the site and called it NAUVOO - a Hebrew word conveying the idea of "beauty and repose". The folded letter shown above is datelined "Commerce, Ill. May 31st 1840" and is postmarked "NAUVOO/Ill/19 JUNE". James Moses writes a long letter to his cousin on the virtues of Mormonism: "I suppose you consider me one of the majority of deluded ones as you observed in your letter... if a firm belief in the Gospel of a crucified and risen redeemer as manifested to all nations & as recorded in their sacred writings is delusion, then I am deluded - if refusing to fellowship the modern systems of sectarianism which are entirely contrary to the pure doctrines of the bible is delusion then I must acknowledge that I am deluded." The cover shown above shows the Type I postmark.

THE WESTERN MAILS



The folded letter shown above was written by Hiram Kimball, a cousin to Heber C. Kimball, one of the twelve Apostles of the Mormon Church. The letter is in regards to some land abstracts and is dated at Nauvoo on February 24, 1845. The red postmark is Type II of the Nauvoo Post Office.



under a Strong Guard in the Camp of the Mob, about
four o'clock in the afternoon, when I there heard the
Deft say unto Symon Wright, that he Deft had taken
the Plffs Horse, Saddle, Bridle, & Martingales, & had sold
them to Capt Samuel Boscawen at

at my being there, & that I had not left the Country, & I
ordered me to do so, and shortly after Deft had went off,
I was informed that Deft was carrying off Plaintiffs Goods
from Plaintiffs House, and upon my then going to said House,
which was Plffs Property, I found Deft had taken possession
thereof, and of the Dry Goods & other Goods aforesaid; having
therefore used Coercive measures to drive Witness and her
Family therefrom, the Premises & House, (exclusive of the
Goods and other Property aforesaid) were value for Twelve
Hundred Dollars, or upwards, and were situated in Har-
west aforesaid; and that sum having been the price
paid by Plaintiff, to Edmund Pettbridge for said Lot & House,

Emma Smith

I certify that the foregoing Deposition was Sworn and Subscribed
to by the said Witness at the time and place above named.

John C. Bennett, Mayor of
Nauvoo, & Com. in the
above case.

... .. conversation was between

Hyrum Smith

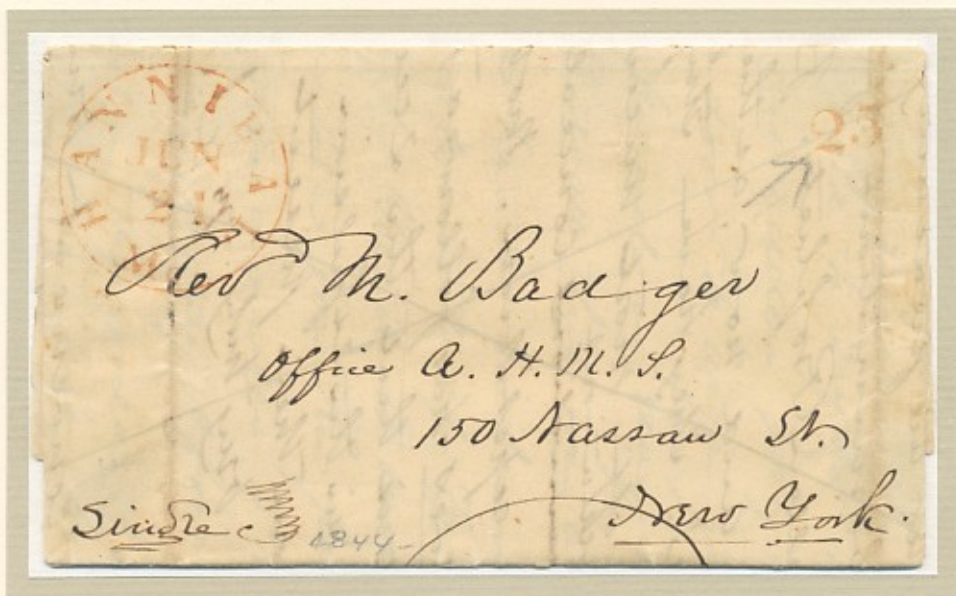
I certify that the foregoing Deposition was Sworn and Subscribed
to by the said Witness at the time and place above named.

John C. Bennett, Mayor of
the City of Nauvoo, & Com. in
the above case.



JOSEPH SMITH FOR PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.

Letter dated Feb. 18th and postmarked NAUVOO ILL FEB 21 [1844]. A very interesting report on the Mormons and Nauvoo. The following extracts are of note: "I am going to hear the Prophet [Joseph Smith] preach to day at the temple - it is fine weather - we have all kinds of preaching here - Congregational unitarian Baptists & finally any body that wants to Preach can have the privilege & a congregation to preach to - last fall a man from England lectured here - his object was to establish communities to have men put in their Property as common stock & all live & work alike & have one common store house & interest - a few weeks ago a Millerite [Wm. Miller - a U.S. preacher who had declared the end of the world and the second coming of Christ would take place in 1843, a religious sect] lectured here & I suppose you would like to know what I think of Nauvoo - I think it is a smart child for its age & suppose that Nauvoo is the most civil city in the west [It was the biggest in Illinois before the Mormons left - bigger than Chicago]. But the great net has gathered all kinds of fish - The walls of the temple are about 25 feet high - they calculate to get the roof on next fall....large brick buildings almost without number were erected last summer - there are 2 steam saw mills & grist mills in town - 1 water mill - lots of merchants & mechanics of all kinds - finally Nauvoo is a thriving town....A word on Politicks - I suppose you have plenty of such.... but who will the Mor[mons] vote for President - well they have nominated Joseph Smith - they are fools - do they suppose they can elect him - perhaps some of them do but the principle is the thing - you see the Mormons have no fellowship with Vanburen or Clay [Henry]Celinda Fullan".



ONE WEEK BEFORE THE MURDER OF JOSEPH SMITH.

"Hannibal, Missouri June 20/44
Rev. J. T. Tucker, reports to the American Home Missionary Society, just one week before the assassination of Joseph Smith. Little did he expect that Smith would become a "fallen Prophet" in death so soon! He writes to Rev. M. Badger in part: "One grand device of Satan is just now being exploded in our neighborhood with a terrible noise and stench. The Mormon camp is in dire confusion - a party having sprung up in its midst* - who are preaching reformation from the abomination of Smith, whom they brand a "fallen Prophet", fallen from his high estate, and now, as they say "an incarnate fiend". They have stripped the prophets cloak off most unceremoniously, and the pollutions concealed beneath are too vile for repetition. Mob violence among themselves has followed this Exposure, and the prospect is that the scenes of Missouri will be repeated [see the violence at Far West in this collection] in the expulsion of this miserable sect from their present location. [Nauvoo] J. T. Tucker."

Joseph and Hyrum Smith were murdered, in the jail at Carthage, Ill., just one week after this letter was written - June 27, 1844.

*The "party" referred to was probably the split off by those who followed James Jesse Strang and/or Sidney Rigdon, who was excommunicated and set up the Church of Christ.

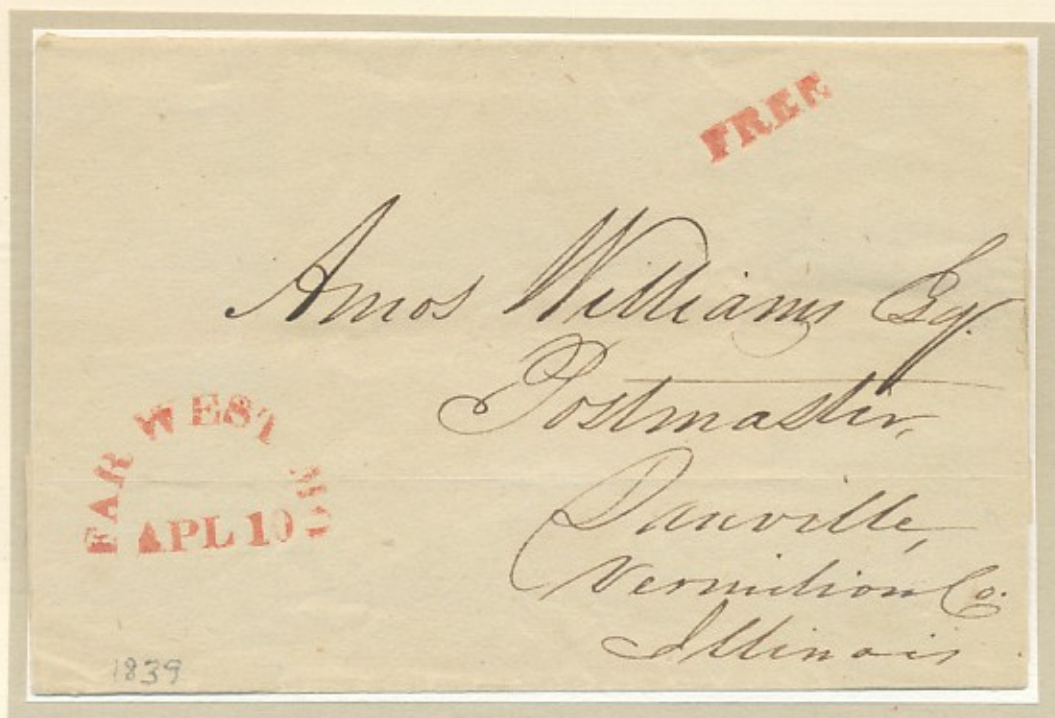


MOB WAR IN HANCOCK COUNTY 1845.

The following extracts are from a letter postmarked at QUINCY ILLS SEP 21 [1845]: "We shall probably have a very serious War with the Mormons in Hancock county, which has commenced by burning dwellings, and yesterday the Mormons shot a respectable Anti-Mormon by name of Worrell [Franklin] * . Some 50 houses have been burnt near the line of this county [Adams]. The recorder of Hancock county arrived here today with the Deeds - next month is the regular time for holding the circuit court at Carthage - The fact is, the Mormons out vote the citizens & have the contract of all offices, and justice cannot be attained in that county. The eastern papers have no idea of the state of annarchy in that county. It is said that Backenstos [Jacob R.] the Sheriff of Hancock shot Mr. Worrell [see below] - by tomorrow I expect we shall have bloody news from that region - A number of Mormon families have fled to this city for safety, and so soon as they congregate here, we shall have fighting - The Mormons sent an express to Gov. Ford [Thomas], calling on him for aid. It is said his reply was "They may go to Hell" , pretty language for a Governor! Between Loco Faco's rulers & Mormon neighbors we are in a poor situation... ..F.C.Moore".

*Worrell was commander of the guard at the Carthage jail. He was killed by Orrin Porter Rockwell, the body guard of the dead Prophet, on orders from Sheriff Backenstos. The sheriff was a non-Mormon, Democrat friend of Joseph Smith, who had been elected sheriff by the Mormons. He raised a posse to stop the bloodshed and burnings and for this he was hated by the mob. The sheriff was moving his family to Nauvoo when he was attacked by Worrell and a dozen men, which resulted in the death of Worrell.

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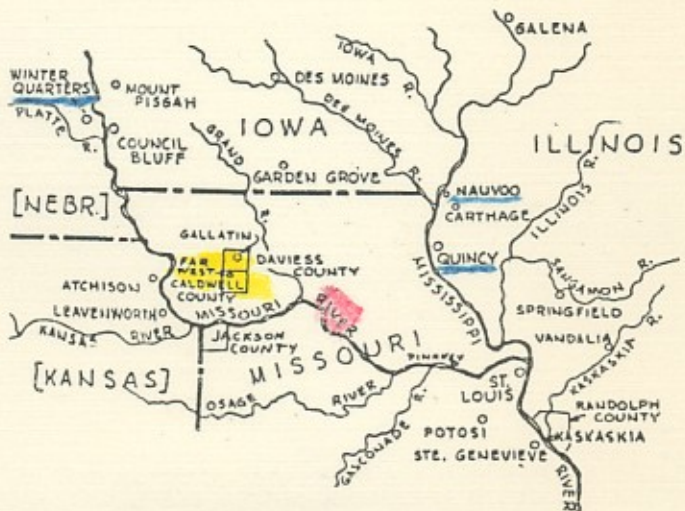


FAR WEST, MISSOURI

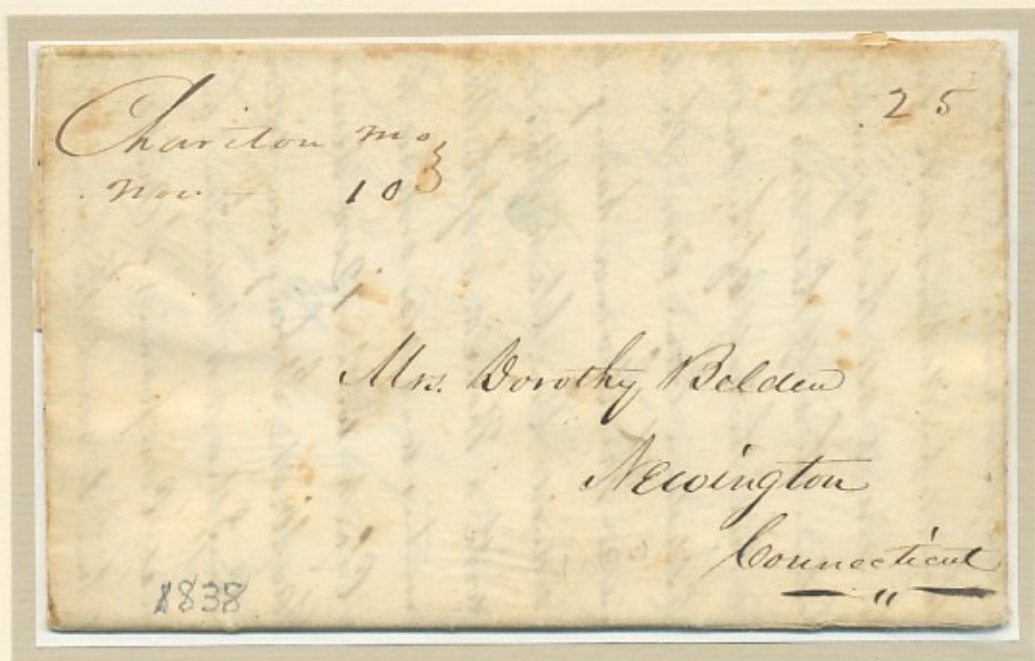
In 1838 a large group of Mormons settled in a little-inhabited region of northwest Missouri. They established their own county of Caldwell with Far West as the county seat. With increasing numbers the Mormons spilled over into adjacent counties which resulted in a multitude of incidents which led to a little civil war between the Saints and gentiles. On the threat by the Governor of Missouri to have the state Militia "Expel or exterminate them," the Saints decided to pick up and go back to Illinois. In the meantime General Lucas of the militia had arrested Joseph Smith and other leaders of the church. They were tried by a court-martial and ordered to be shot for treason in the public square of Far West. Alexander Doniphan, who was to win fame in the Mexican War, was called upon to execute the condemned but refused. He wrote General Lucas that *"It is cold-blooded murder. I will not obey your order. My brigade shall march for Liberty tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock, and if you execute these men I will hold you responsible before an earthly tribunal, so help me God."* The order was never executed and the prisoners were permitted to escape. Most of the Mormons took the steamboat route down the Missouri and up the Mississippi to Quincy. The last of the Saints left Far West on April 20, 1839, just ten days after the cover shown above was postmarked.

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MORMON COUNTRY



Map on the left locates FAR WEST in relation to Caldwell and Davies counties. The exodus by the Mormons was down the Missouri River in steamboats, into the Mississippi and up that river to Quincy and Nauvoo, Illinois. Howard County is shown in red. The cover shown below was mailed from Chariton, Chariton County, Missouri, as postmarked on November 10th. - only five days after the Haun Mill massacre. Chariton borders Howard County to the north.



TERROR AND BLOODSHED IN CALDWELL COUNTY

The following letter was written by Joshua Belden, a non Mormon, giving a detailed description of the confusion and terror that gripped Far West in Caldwell and surrounding counties in the fall of 1838. Belden tells of the attempt to stop the Mormons from voting on election day - that Mormons had no more right to vote than niggers in Davies County. How the Mormons plundered and burned part of Gallatin, the seat of Davies County, and the Mormon's victory in the Battle of Crooked Creek, which, ironically gave the governor an excuse to issue his order to exterminate or drive the Mormons from the state. He also reports the massacre of the Mormons at Haun's Mill in which 17 men and boys were killed and 15 wounded. This last affair convinced Smith that the time had come for the Saints to leave Missouri at all cost.

SEE content of letter on opposite page.



MORMONS AGAINST THE MOB

Mormon letter postmarked at NAUVOO October 31.1846. The writer states that "Gov. Ford is now in Nauvoo with 200 soldiers for the purpose of reinstating the new citizens . When he learns, I fear it will be worse times than it has been, but rest assured Mc or me will never risk another battle. The lead balls flew so careless round us before that we do not want to play the game any more. We never had to exceed 110 men fighting on our side while the mob never had less than 500, and from that to 1500.....P.T.Sanders".

The Mormans began the exodus from Nauvoo, across the ice on the Mississippi, in February of 1846 and most of them had left by years end. Although the writer is a Mormon he ads "P.S. We returned to Nauvoo because we could not go any where else." Apparently they were out of funds for the time being "We have nearly eaten up my two houses and lots, they were at a moderate calculation worth 400 dollars, and I have sold them for 65 dollars mostly in trade.." This was the experience most of the Mormans had - selling their property for little in order to go west with Brigham Young and the Church!

THE WESTERN MAILS



A remarkable letter written by a Mr. E. Thompson, a non Mormon, from Keokuk, Iowa Territory on May 26, 1846. He reports on the comings and goings of many of the leaders in the church following the assassination of their Prophet Joseph Smith. It reveals the confusion and dissension among the Mormons over spiritual wives and who would become the successor to Smith as the Prophet and president of the church. That the church survived, at all, is little short of a miracle. Brigham Young became the new head of the church, over the protests of Sidney Rigdon, who was excommunicated and went to Pittsburgh. James Strang who claimed that he had a visitation from the angels of God, who ordained him to be the Prophet of the Mormons, led a small group to Voree, Wisconsin. Among those who followed Strang were the Apostle John E. Page and William Smith the younger brother of Joseph Smith. In 1847 Strang led his flock to Big Beaver Island in Lake Michigan where he set up a kingdom and crowned himself KING. By 1856 dissension within his church over polygamy, created the same situation that occurred in Nauvoo and resulted in the assassination of Strang by two of his associates on June 16, 1856, almost twelve years to the day since the assassination of Smith. In 1852 the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was organized, by some former members of Strang's church, at Plano, Illinois. Joseph Smith, the son of the Prophet and his first wife Emma, became the Prophet and president of this organization which later moved to Lamoni, Iowa and finally to Independence, Missouri. The main group, under Brigham Young, made the great trek across Iowa and the Rocky Mountains to the valley and shore of the Great Salt Lake. By March 1st the first the great Exodus from Nauvoo was on its way west and as reported in this letter "The Mormons are all leaving as fast as possible - there is some six large flat boats constantly crossing the river (Mississippi) with there Teams and Cattle."

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MORMONS CROSSING THE MISSISSIPPI ON THE ICE.

MORMONS CROSSING THE MISSISSIPPI ON THE ICE.

"THE MORMONS ARE ALL LEAVING AS FAST AS POSSIBLE"

A great letter on the confusion following in the wake of the assassination of Joseph Smith and the Exodus of the Mormons from Nauvoo in 1846.

Keokuk May 26th 1846

".....I will tell you the most of the spiritual news.....I called on Abram's last Sunday evening in Nauvoo and they all appeared to be greatly elated in having just received the certificate of deposite of \$170 but I feel sorry for Aunt Seikey and there connection for its there settled intention to go West with the Mormons - if you had got my letter of April I think it would have put a stop to the deposite been made - They sold there house last week for a span of horses and some one of there brethern has taken the horses some 50 or 100 miles off to trade them off for oxen - Mary Ann (I think that is her name) there there eldest girl is one of Mr. Bates Noble's spiritual fixings (wife) - before this money come he had given them a new waggon - last winter she had a misscarrage and was crazy the most of the time and disturbing the whole neighbourhood breaking the windows which remains boarded up to this day and shouting to the utmost of her voice Oh! Brigham youve deceived me youve deceived me, Kimball youve deceived me &c - Noble's youve deceived me &c (but I think such expressions quiet sane) - Mrs. Wandell told us of it & they living directly opposite in Ishmaels house - Mrs.W has brought over a very unhappy time with her husband for the past year and particularly since there endowment fixing in consequence of him wanting to have more wives telling her she is keeping him from a great glory and that he will only be a dim star in the Celestial kingdom - they was here at our house several hours early in the spring waiting for a boat - Old Father Pratt is living in St.Louis altogether on the charities of the people getting most of the cold victuals from the City Hotel - he is quiet childish. Cornelius Cox & family moved down to St Louis from Nauvoo last week.

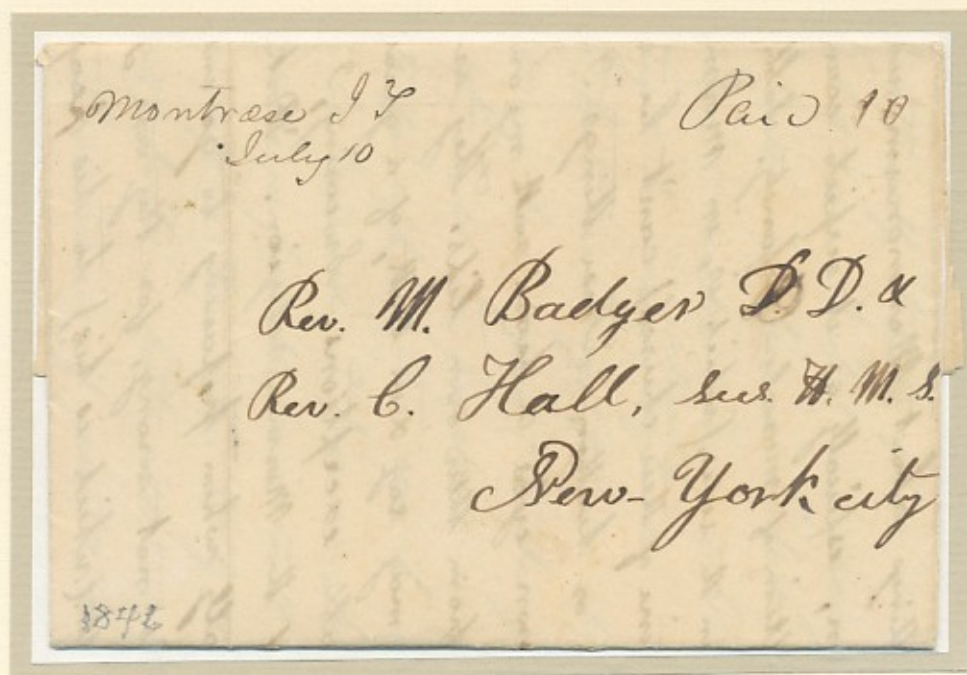
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Now another spiritual - you will recollect that I told you in one of my letters that when I was going last fall to fetch our corn down in a flat boat that Miss Merrill & old Mother Pratt wanted to come down to Keokuk to take S.B (steamboat) to St Louis but they got a chance to go down before I got ready - she having let herself to the City Hotel for 6 months to take charge of the linen department but when Prof O.Pratt (Orson Pratt) returned home last fall from his eastern mission he put up at the Hotel and was there several days at \$2.25 pr day & him & Miss M in a private room the most of the time neglecting her work & much to the annoyance of Mr. Barnum the landlord; - she went out & purchased any quantity of clothing, muff, Mantle &c the Prof. furnishing means for Miss M had barely means enough to pay a deck passage when she went down. The apostle(Pratt was one of the 12 original apostles of the Mormon church) also went & purchased a new carriage & harness & match(ed) horses - trunks & Buffalo robes & after he got a full equipment & paid for them out of Temple funds the following morning he drove up to the entrance of the hotel (she having told Mrs. B (Barnum) that she was going to be married to a gentleman from the East) and Miss M jumps in & the apostle & his lady drove up to head quarters viz Nauvoo by land - the ice running in the river they was S U (?) some time before O (Orson) went east she being some 6 or 7 months advanced in pregnancy when they left for the West. Mrs. Green. being at the hotel at the time and she told us I underst(and) and another of the Profs' ladys was the daughter of Mrs. Stone the barber. The Mormons are all leaving as fast as possible - there is some six large flat boats constantly crossing the river with there Teams and Cattle - I crossed over on one of them yesterday - The first main story of the Temple is finished - it was dedicated to there god on the 1 2 & 3 of May - none admitted without paying one dollar each - its a splendid building whether it was built according to the pattern or not - over the large east window is printed in large Gilt letters "The Lord hath beheld our sacrifice" Come after us. The last time Brigham(Young) preached in the Temple on the Sunday prior to him leaving, there was a very large congregation, the lower pillars settled down some six inches & upper ones too - they all being dependant one on another - it made quiet a crash - the people rushed to the windows & doors, but the first man that jumped out of the east window was B(Brigham) with two six shooting pistols in a belt on his side - several of the sashes was broke & 2 (persons) got there arm's broke. At the time they was giving there so called endowments the outer walls shook to that degree that they had to cease there performances. I have got a Warsaw Signal that contains a expose of endowments by a female signed Emeline . I find it to be correct by those that have been through the farce - that in the terrestrial kingdom for they had all the glories exhibited, in the Terrestrial they took solem oaths & covenants that the man & woman would be true to each other, but when they got into the celestial kingdom then they might have free course, run & be sealed - the keys of that kingdom was kept by Mr.Ezra T. Benson & Mr.Lee(John D.) a great man with the seventies(a proselyting office in the higher priesthood of the church)acted the part of the devil - they say he did it to perfection NO DOUBT. The paper is up at Denisons I forgot to fetch it home - I will send it next week with the HANCOCK EAGLE published in Nauvoo - The Eagle says that 4 fifths of the Mormons have already gone - the council is (says?) that all is to leave Nauvoo and get as far as they have means - Emma is not married yet - she went to keep the mansion again, but she as rented it again, most of the good houses have been sold to new comers, there is most any quantity of grogerrys (saloons) about the city & a ten pin alley near John P Green's house on Mullholands L(and) - I have tried my best to rent that field of ours to some one of the new comers but cannot succeed - the good mormons have broke a good many picketts off. I dont suppose there is over a dozen lots planted for gardens in the whole City for they burnt up most all of the fences & it looks desolation. Mr Longs

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folks sold out for an old hack and a span of horses. Brigham was at a ball in the winter time w(h)ere Hannah Long was and asked her if she would not be married to him. She said she was willing but she would ask her parents and they was not willing - there was some dozen wanted her & as many wanted Eliza Parry - So the old folks told me, such a time of running in the time of the endowment scrape you cant imagine worse than a lot of dogs after a slut. I saw Mr Jennings yesterday but have not got there money yet - he sent by a Mr Crispin to Ohio to collect some notes &c but he received a letter from him a short time since & that he has pretty well backed out of Mormonism & that he had better come and attend to his own business & so either him or his brother is going to Day. I beleive him to be upright man - they have the prospect of selling the house for \$500. I wrote to C S Green a short time since but have not received any answer - I think I shall go down in about a week or so....." The writer continues about money matters and then continues "I have some prospect in selling out here for 300 dollars - half money & half trade in exen cows &c which they is just as good as the money _ I could sell them to the Mormon emigrants in short order - I could have done it 3 weeks since but I posponed it thinking you would be here by this time as I feel rather delicate in taking so much responsibility on myself alone, but whatever I have done I have done it for the best. I have written to the man today - it is a Dr. D Hoover - Iowaville Van Buren Co.I.T. When I go to Nauvoo I generally go to the Strang(James J.Strang) meeting - they have quiet a congregation & have great liberty & power in preaching - you will find by that Strang pamphlet that I sent you that he claims to be the man that was appointed by Joseph(Smith) - not ordained - appointing aint ordaining, in the last M & A of the C of C (?) headed Strang-ist of the Strange,Prest Rigdon(Sidney) mentions about 20 times about being ordaining & being ordained by Joseph. They had a conferance about a month since, in Nauvoo and Mr Syfrett went after Orson Hyde had done preaching & gave notice that a conferance of C of J C of L D S(Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints) was then in session near the old stand & requested all the honest in heart to attend, some not understanding what he said he repeated it again to the utmost of his voice. W.Smith(William,younger brother of Joseph Smith)his mother Emma & family are from Strang - Prest Mark's(William Marks,president of the Nauvoo stake) - J.E.Page (one of the 12 apostles who was excommunicated in February 1846,before this letter letter was written) - Savage(Levi) whom we heard preach near the Stone Quarry one conferance time - he is one of the 12 (apostles). B Winchester(Mormon missionary) wrote to Strang to Voree(Wisconsin,Strang had started a church there) if he would appoint him one of the 12 he would unite with him. Strang wrote to him that he neither wanted him nor his influence.....E.Thompson"





MONTROSE, IOWA TERRITORY The post office was established as FORT DES MOINES on Sept. 28, 1835 while in the Michigan Territory. The name was changed to MONTROSE on Mar 28, 1838 while in the Wisconsin Territory. Montrose is located in Lee County Iowa across the Mississippi River from NAUVOO, Illinois. Cover shown was postmarked at "Montrose I T July 10" 1846, G. C. Beaman, a Protestant Missionary for the American Home Missionary Society, reports on conditions in Iowa and the Mormons in great detail. The Saints were in the midst of their exodus from Nauvoo to their new Zion on the Great Salt Lake. The following excerpts are from the letter: "I close with a few things about Mormonism, which is only another name for black-legism, especially as it respects counterfiting & horse-stealing, & general corruption of morals - Profanity - Sabb-breaking & unlawful intercourse between the sexes, (which is, in Mormon dialect, spiritual wifery, & a doctrine of their church) can't be surpassed by any set of people christian or heathen. . . . Working on the Sabb. they say is right especially when preparing to go into the wilderness - stealing they contend is not wrong, for they are God's people, & He has give the earth (which is his) to his people, & they have a right to it. . . . They contain no elements but those of destruction, they will die of themselves, if let alone." **SEE** opposite pages for typescript of letter and much, much more! As it turned out, Beaman was not much of a prophet!

Montrose, Lee Co. Iowa, July 7, 1846.

Brs. Badger & Hall,

For several reasons I have concluded to write you a few lines. By reference to Records of H.M.Soc. will be perceived that I have been under the care of your Soc. as miss. while laboring at Piketon, Pike Co. O. & at Burlington Lawrence Co. O. in which two places I have preached since 1831. For various reasons, but chiefly on account of so many of the members of the chh. at Burlington moving to Iowa, I moved with my family, (wife & 2 children) to this place last spring. Calling on some of our old friends here, we unexpectedly stoped here in the midst of the Mormons. We arrived about the middle of last April when the Mormons were moving towards the Rocky Mts. very fast & many new settlers coming in. The same was true on the other side of the Miss. river in Nauvoo & the surrounding country. After consultation among the friends here, it was thought very important to have preaching as the change was making- I was urged to stop, & finally concluded that it was duty to do so, although the prospects for support were poor. About this time I saw Br. Asa Turner- He advised me to stop, & said no doubt the H. M.Soc. would aid in support. In the course of 2 or 3 weeks Br. Reed, your agent, came along; he said I had better stay, & if proper application was made out for aid, he would sign it. We both went to Nauvoo & found that a Mr. Furness from Quincy had purchased property there with several others, mostly Presbyterians, & had also bought the 70's Hall for preaching in & had engaged Rev. Mr. Marks of Quincy, about to go to the Gen. As. to get a Minister for them, but wished me to supply them once each Sabb. till that time. Br. Reed advised me to do so. I have : last Sabb. a Mr. Maron, late from Lane Sem. came there as a candidate. I expect to go there no more.

The attendance here is rather better than in Nauvoo, but not very good in either; but perhaps as good as ought to be expected considering the circumstances, the excited state of the community & the withering effects of Mormonism. Things are, however, settling down & the prospects for doing good directly are becoming more & more favorable both here & in Nauvoo. There is no church organized in either place.

It was the intention of those professing religion & others disposed to unite, before this time, to make a formal application to the Home M. Soc. for aid; but no one has taken hold of it, in past, because favorable changes are continually taking place, so delay will increase the amount subscribed here- I feel a delicacy in pushing it- The principal reason, however, is because I had my horse, saddle, & bridle stolen some 4 or 5 weeks since, which deprives me of the privilege of visiting & becoming intimately acquainted with the new commers, & thus collecting the facts necessary for an application. As I am not likely to get my horse again (he has gone to California) & have but 1.25 in the world to purchase another with. I do not know when the facts for application can be obtained. Horses are scarce here & none to be borrowed. I presume, however, application will be made as soon as possible, & it will be very desirable, (at least to me, as I have only a log cabin 18 by 16 ft. with no chimney to live in, & as I must build a little addition this fall or suffer in winter,) that the Commission, if granted, be dated back to last April, the time I commenced preaching here. On account of this great delay I felt it important to write this letter by way of anticipation. I will add, this whole region for 10, 15 & even 20 miles around on both sides of the river was filled up, with few exceptions, with Mormons. Leaving out Br. Jones of Keokuk who has been here a few times, there has been no preaching whatever in this place or Nauvoo for years, except Mormon, which is, most of it, blastphemy. When I came here there was no preaching of any kind here or within 3 or 4 miles- Now I preach twice every Sabb. & the Methodist occasionally. There are no families here or very near here but presbyterian & but few of them, though most of the leading men in the place are favorable & desire to have preb'n preaching & a reform in Society. The soil in this region, the half breed tribe section, cannot be surpassed in richness, & when it comes into market, (which is supposed to be soon) will be filled up & improved very rapidly. This point on the Miss.

at the head of the rapids is in many respects considered very important.

I close with a few things about Mormonism, which is only another name for black-legism, especiall as it respects counterfieting & horse-stealing, & general corruption of morals- Profanity, Sabb.-breaking & unlawful intercourse between the sexes, (which is, in Mormon dialect, spiritual wifery, & a doctrine of their church) can't be surpassed by any set of people christian or heathen- These things I have seen with my own eyes & heard with my own ears from their own lips. They are true of a majority. I may say & in truth, of a great majority, though there are a few honorable exceptions. Swearing, I have been told by them when reproving them was a part of the Mormon religion. Working on the Sabb. they say is right especially when preparing to go into the wilderness. Stealing they contend is not wrong, for they are God's people, & He has give the earth (which is his) to his people, & they have a right to it.

Some 12,000 or 15,000 have left- they are still going - There are perhaps 500 or 600 yet in Nauvoo & some have scattered around in the country. It is hoped that they will all go but it is to be feared that they will not all go for some time. Many of them, especially those who come from other parts of the country & other countries, (for all come here to N. to start with the rest) deny & denounce Mormonism, when they see what it is at head-quarters , where they have been trained, & instructed by the prophet himself Joe Smith. These are generally honest, decent, moral & sincere persons, but have been deceived. They are falling to pieces & will soon come to nough. They contain no elements but those of destruction, they will die of themselves if left alone. They think they will soon come back & take possession of their splendid temple & their lands, but not till the gentiles are all destroyed, which will be in 3 or 4 yr.

MOBS. There has been considerable excitement in Hancock & some joining cos. in Ill. & a mob of 400 or 500 has been called, but no serious injury done & I think will not be, certainly not if they sell their Temple & church property which there is a prospect of their doing to this southern man for an Asylum. He is expected up again & will probably buy.

Yours respectfully & in
G.C.Beaman.

Letter addressed to: Rev.M.Badger D.D. &
Rev.C.Hall, Sec.H.M.S.
New-York City

Postmarked in mss: Montrose I.T.
July 10

Rated: Paid 10 mss.

Docket notation: "Rev.G.C.Beaman, Mon-
trose, July 7, 1846- Appeal
for aid. _._"

675

Editors note: Joseph & Hyrum Smith were murdered in the jail at Carthage, Illionis June 27, 1844
Brigham Young and 2000 Saints crossed the Mississippi River Feb.15, 1846 and the great EXODUS was on.

THE WESTERN MAILS

THE MORMON WAR

Howard County Nov 5th 1838

Dear Mother.....You have probably heard of the disturbances which have for some months past, disturbed the quiet of the citizens of some of our upper counties. To give any thing like a detailed account of the rise and progress of these disturbances, instead of a sheet it would require reams of paper. Of the fact that the Mormons have claimed the upper counties of this state as the scite of their New Jerusalem - a claim, as they say - founded immediately on a revelation from the Almighty himself, is well known to all, who have heard anything of the history of this deluded people. This claim, the leaders of the Mormons, have not been backward to proclaim in public, have spared no pains to impress it on their followers. They have also both publicly and privately declared that every Slave was free - And not in any way bound to obey their Masters - that this wicked generation, was shortly to be cut off. Meaning all of the citizens of Missouri, except those of their own faith. For some months past they have been fortifying their town, Far West providing themselves with Arms Ammunition &c- As though, they soon intended to take possession, by force, of the lands they profess were given to them - And have been very troublesome neighbors. Nothing of a very serious nature took place, until the 1st of August last the day of our general election. An altercation then took place between a white man (as we term our own citizens, in contra distinction to the Mormons) and a Mormon. The particulars of this altercation I have now no time to state. The Mormon was protected by his party - The civil authority interfered - The Mormons refused to be tried by any tribunal, other than that of the Mormons, and at their own town Far West - The officers of the civil authority were repulsed in their attempts to take either the first transgressor or the leaders of the Mormons - They refusing to be taken alive. The matter soon became of sufficient consequence to demand the attention of the Governor. The Militia were ordered out - the Mormons to the number of some three hundred retired to De Witt (Carroll County, Missouri) a small town owned principally by them. The Mob, a name given to the citizens who had volunteered their services against the Mormons - camped out a short distance from De Witt. Many individuals from this neighborhood - went up - some to join the Mob - others, as peace makers. The Mob numbered about two hundred - in the meantime - the Governor repaired to the spot, found that he could do nothing - disbanded the militia and sent them home. At this time, it would, perhaps, have been difficult to have substantiated any charges against the Mormons, which would justify the interference of the Governor. At least so the Governor appeared to think. Many charges and some of a pretty serious nature were brought against them. They themselves professed to be desirous of peace & at length both parties consented to submit the decision of their case to their men. Three men from this neighborhood were selected. Their decision was that the citizens of Carroll, the county in which De Witt is situated - should pay over to the Mormons a certain amount for their property in De Witt - and that the Mormons should leave the county. Thus peace was supposed to be established. A part of the Mob returned to their homes - others went to assist the people of Davies county, a county adjoining Carroll, to drive out the Mormons from that county also. In the mean time the Mormons were removing their families to Far West - a town in Caldwell County - a county peopled almost entirely by Mormons. Far West was fast filling up - it was still more strongly fortified and several Block Houses were built. Soon the Mormons commenced making depredations on the property of the citizens of Davies County (adjoining county to north) - driving off their stock - picking and carrying off their corn - burning their houses - and driving the inmates thereof, women and children out, & often times without any covering except their night clothes, to go for miles to seek a shelter, or a place of safety. In some cases the suffering was extreme - Women with infant children not four days old were driven out in the night, exposed to the inclemencies of the weather, denied even a blanket for protection against the cold - and in that situation were obliged to go some ten or twelve miles before they could obtain shelter. The County seat and another small town were burned to ashes. Where

THE WESTERN MAILS

ask you were the citizens of the county? The County is new - but thinly populated - And most of those able to bear arms had left their homes, and were under arms. The Mormons however greatly outnumbered them and could easily scatter in neighborhoods which were entirely unprotected and commit their depredations with impunity. Expresses were soon sent, for aid, to all the adjoining counties. At first, none seemed to believe the half that was told them - other Expresses came which stated that the half of the outrages had not been told - And that unless assistance came soon the whole county would be sacked & burned. The Governor having been appraised of the situation of affairs ordered Gen. Clark (John B.) of this county (Howard) to repair immediately to the spot with a Thousand of the Militia. The Militia from other Counties was also ordered to repair there. A week ago this day Gen. Clark with 1200 armed men took up a line of march for Far West. It being very inconvenient for me to leave home at that time, I did not volunteer - but stood a draft, and escaped. Several Companies of Militia were on the ground before Gen. Clark had time to reach the place. Not less I suppose than 1500 men. Capt. Bogarts (a Methodist minister) Company of 60 men had been sent out to reconnoiter & had been surprised by some 300 Mormons and compelled to flee - Only one was killed on the ground - two died of their wounds the day after - the rest escaped. Another Company of some 200 - were fired on from a Block House, which they had not noticed until within 70 yds of it. They returned the fire, took the Block House & found thirty five of the Mormons dead on the ground in & about the Block House. Not one of our men was either killed or mortally wounded - about this time Seven of the principal leaders of the Mormon party (Joseph Smith, Sidney Rigdon, Lyman Wight, Parley Pratt and George Robinson to name 5) and 400 armed men gave up their arms & surrendered them selves as prisoners - and since all have surrendered. The number of the Mormons able to bear arms has been variously reported from 2000 to 3000. Not less I would suppose than 5000 of the Militia were ordered out. Many had not reached the place of their destination, before they were ordered to return. Six hundred were within a half mile of my place when the news of the surrender of the Mormons came. During the excitement, every man & family suspected of Mormonism was ordered & compelled to leave nearly if not all of the upper counties in this state. When they will go I know not or what will be done with the prisoners is a matter, as yet, of mere conjecture. There is but little sympathy for any (except the women & children) and it is most sincerely hoped that all will be sent from this state, after taking from them their arms & delivering up the Maj leader (Joseph Smith) to suffer the penalty of the law. My paper is nearly filled, but half is not told of the Fanatic Madness of the Mormons & the suffering of the Citizens of Davies Co. Our troops are expected back this week - and there can be no doubt but that peace will now be restored to our State.....yr affectionate son Joshua (Belden)"

- 1 The elections were held on August 6th.
- 2 This "altercation" was caused by a Mormon attempting to vote. As he stepped forward he was told that Mormons had no more right to vote than a nigger in Davies County. The hand fighting that followed was a minor victory for the Mormons as they all voted that day.
- 3 This was Gallatin the county seat of Davies County. Some houses and property were burned but not all.
- 4 This is the Battle of Crooked Creek on October 24th. It was reported to the Governor Lilburn Boggs as a massacre of the militia by the Mormons, giving him an excuse to issue his order to exterminate or drive the Mormons from the state. While it was a victory for the Mormons, they lost one of their apostles, David David Patten, well known as "Captain Fearnought", who was shot in the abdomen and died in terrible agony fifteen hours later. One militiaman and three Mormons were killed on the field as stated in the letter.
- 5 On October 30th 200 militiamen attacked some Mormons at Haun's Mill killing 17 and wounding 15 men and boys out of 38. This massacre decided Joseph Smith to surrender and order his saints to go back east to Quincy and Commerce (renamed NAJVOO) Illinois.

The Temple was built between 1841 and October 1845. With the exodus of the Mormons from Nauvoo in 1846 the temple was put up for sale. About two years after



The Temple at Nauvoo

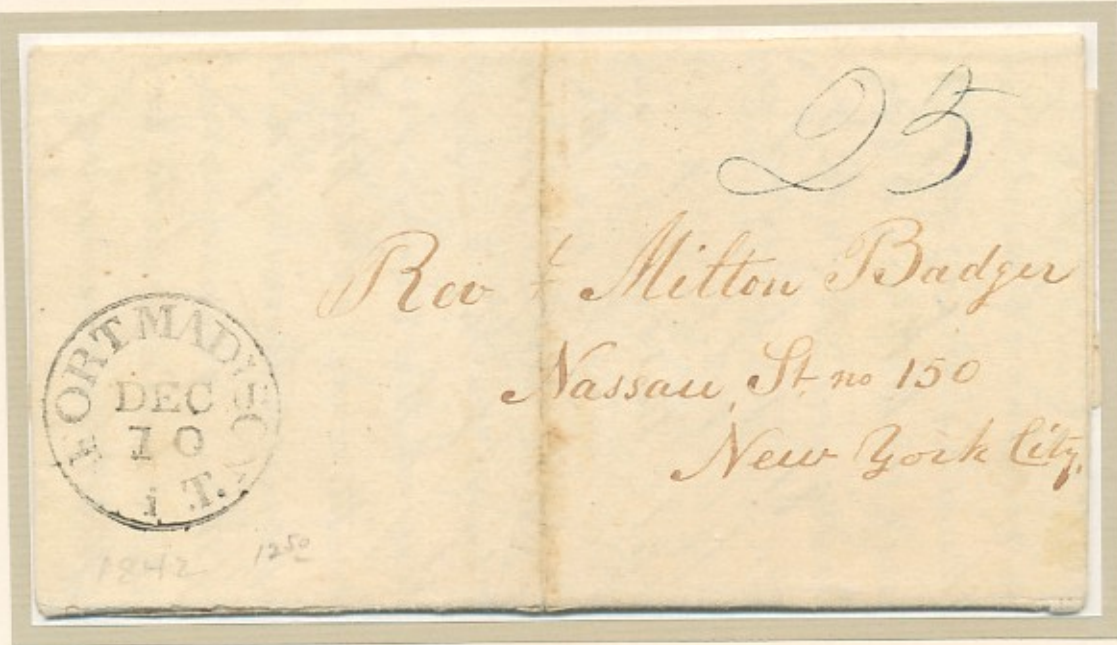
the Mormons left it was purchased by Etienne Cabet for the French Communist Icarian Society. It was set on fire by an incendiary on Nov. 10, 1848 - probably anti-Mormans.



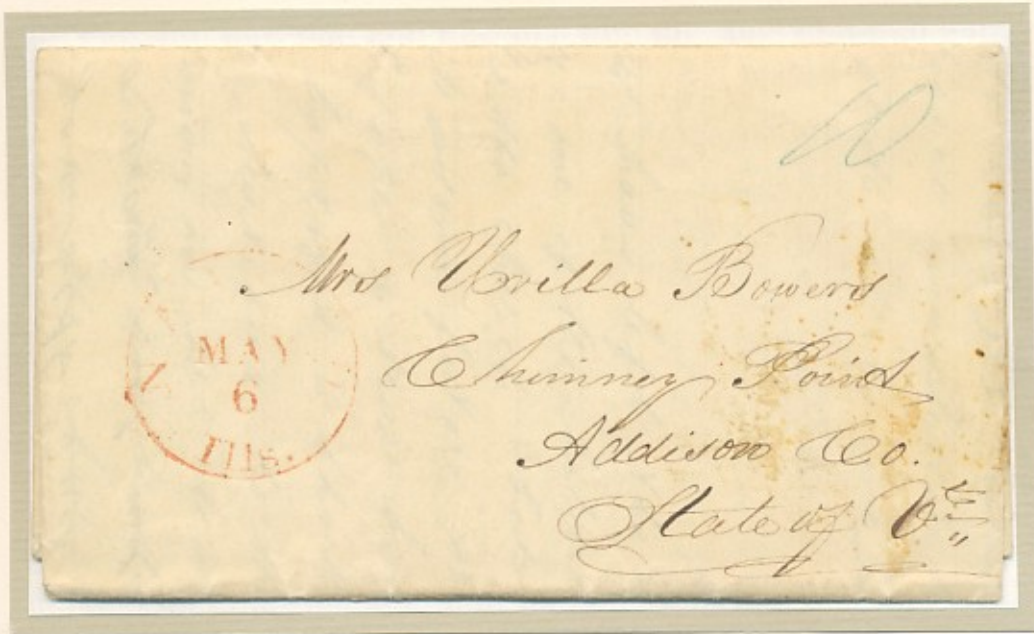
BURNING OF THE MORMAN TEMPLE

MONTROSE, IOWA NOV. 13, [1848]. Letter written and postmarked at Montrose, across the Mississippi River from Nauvoo, just three days before the Temple was destroyed by fire. "Father and myself are running as clerk on a Steam Boat - it runs from St Louis to Rock Island - it is one of the most beautiful countries to look on as the Boat is winding its way up the river [He goes on to say it is not good farming land and you could starve to death on it].....But let us change the subject. I suppose that you have heard about the Morman temple that Joseph Smith was the prophet of - it was burned to the ground a few days ago - it was set on fire after the surfeses [services] of the day was done - it was the most splendid building - it was bilt of Stone - it was as large as the State house at Boston and most splendidly bilt - it was two hundred feet high, and set on a rise some higher than whare the meeting house sits in old B.

I. S. Fontelly".



FORT MADISON, Iowa Territory December 10, 1842. Letter by a missionary, in which he reports to his home office, that the west side of the Mississippi just across the river from Nauvoo " is a very important point" and that "The beast [Joseph Smith] has already looked upon it with a covetous eye & Lieutenant General Prophet Joe arrogantly claims it as his" Smith first attived on the site that was to become Nauvoo on May 10, 1839. The Mormons had bought up all the land including the village of Commerce , Ill.



WE CANNOT LIVE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Perhaps you will be surprised to hear we are all going to live beyond the Rocky Mountains - that is the Mormons are going the persecution is so great that we cannot live in the United States - a part of the Church have gone - it is about three months since they started - wee are going to start tomorrowthe Mormons will continue to go untill every true hearted Saint has left the States.....I am I hope a true hearted Mormon - I was baptized a short time after Mothers death - She testified to the truth of the book of Mormon on her death bedRozilla U Cartere"

Postmarked at NAUVOO ILLS.MAY 6 [1846]

THE WESTERN MAILS

MORMONS, CATHOLICS, PROTESTANTS

Rev. J. C. Holbrooke reports to the American Home Missionary Society on the incursions of the Mormons and the Catholics on the Protestants in territorial Iowa. The following is extracted from the letter postmarked DUBUQUE IOWA APR 6:

"Dubuque, (I.T.) April 5, 1842 Rev. M. Badger..... I also should have mentioned another fact - Mormonism - its pretensions & effects, which occurred at Potosi, illustrative of the destrutive influence of Mormonism. Every minister knows that whenever Gods's people are , & put forth special efforts for the salvation of sinners, then the Devil stirs up his instruments to promote a revival of his work. Sometimes he uses Universalists; sometimes Infedelists, & sometimes the Mormons. In this case the latter were his tools. As soon as our meetings commenced, a Mormon preacher began to favor the people with his labors to enlighten them in the mysteries of that system, & with the revelations said to have been vouchsafed to **Jo Smith, the prophet of "the latter day saints"**. He was in the habit of announcing his appointments at the close of our exercises, at which he was frequently present, in these words: "There will be preaching _____ by one of the Elders of Israel, commonly called Mormons". He succeeded in drawing away & deluding some, & one case was peculiarly affecting. It was an intelligent young man, who had been recently awakened, & who had even gone so far as publickly to ask the prayers of Christians in his behalf but whose stubborn heart would not yeild to the claims of the Savior. He attended nearly all our meetings & intense anxiety was depicted on his countenance. But in an evil hour he went to listen to the Mormon preacher & there he found a refuge of lies, & in a short time, came out a professed believer in that delusion. He was not however entirely easy, & said that he intended to be baptised by them, & if he then found no relief he should renounce the system. But alas! there is reason to believe, he grieved Spirit, & was "given over to strong delusion, to believe a lie" & that his soul will be damned and this, too, while four other persons residing in the same house with him, embraced the truth & are rejoicing in the hope of salvation by Jesus Christ. How different their prospects & his for eternity! ... There is probably no more soul destroying ever at work in ~~this section~~ - some parts of the west than this; It is by far more dangerous than is generally supposed. Its preachers are scattered abroad, & great as is the folly of the system, yet I know that many persons are deluded by it & these too not only among the ignorant but among those of whom we should expect better things. The preachers profess to believe the Bible, & found their discources upon it. They find Mormonism shadowed forth in the Old Test[ament]. & say that there has been no real religion in the world since the days of the Apostels until the "latter day saints" arose. From Mark 16:16 they argue that baptism (by immersion) is a saving ordinance, & that the 17 & 18 verses of the same chap. are of unlimited application, & the promise is none, ever has been since uttered, & ever will be in full force, & that none, "signs shall follow them that believe", & "they shall speak with new tongues" - "shall lay hands on the sick & they shall recover" & c, & that these are the evidences of real faith. They profess to perform these miracles. They also teach that all the offices mentioned in 1 Cor. 12:28 were designed to be perpetual vis, "apostles", "prophets", - "miracles" "gifts of healings" - "diversities of tongues" & c - & that they exist in the church "of latter say saints" -

In the balance of the letter the writer reports on the competition with the Catholics.

DUBUQUE
APR
6
IOWA

AB
A. & B
To be inserted

Rev. Milton Badger No 3
Sec. of Amer. Home Miss. Soc.
150 Nassau St

New York City

700
MONTICELLO



DUBUQUE
FEB
2
IOWA

PAID

AB

John Scott Esq
St Genevieve

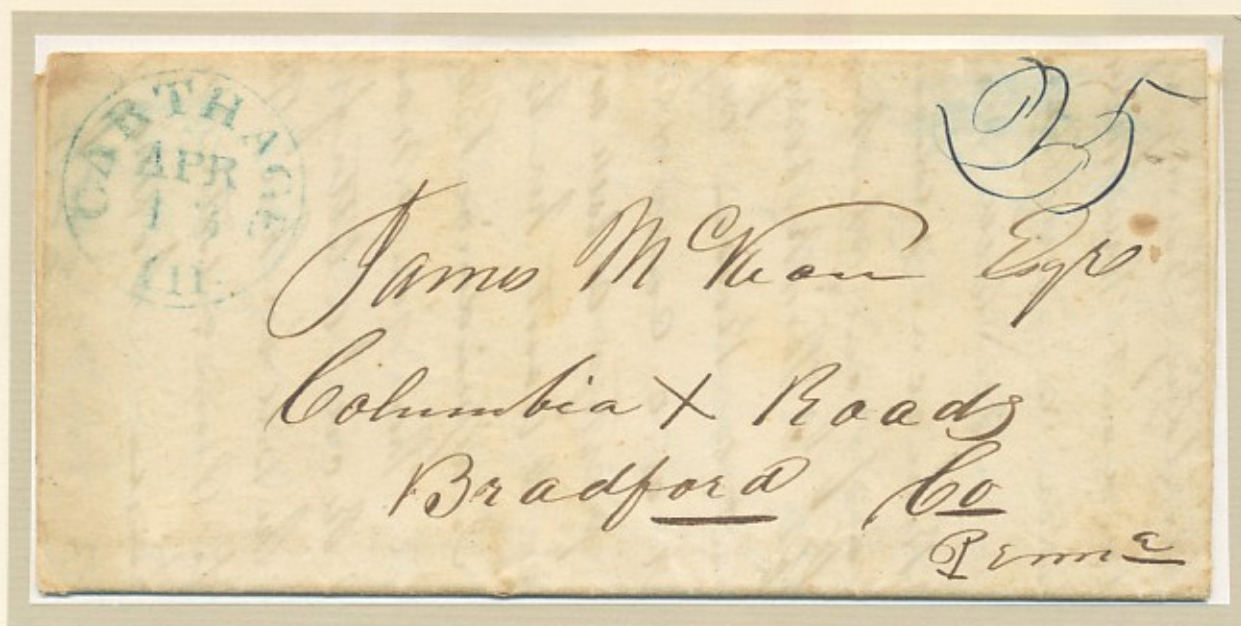
Chye box
51.

1841

Missouri

THE WESTERN MAILS

"Thare is a city a Building of Mormons Called Nauvoo" A non Mormon writes from Carthage, Illinois on "Sept 10. 1840." The following extracts are taken from the letter: "I will know give a statement of some of our Western Times, as we have Some of the greatis Rascalls in the country of the whole world. Thare has been a great dell of Horse Stealing and counterfiting going on about here lately and Robing &c and thare has been a great dell pa[i]ns Taken lately to break them up and last week Thare was a Horse Stolen on the Mississippi above Burlington & deposited in the hands of a Tavern keeper & searited - The The Tavern Keeper had a gang of about 20 thare - The Sheriff Summoned 20 men to take them and the Horse - as soon as the Sheriff came to the House The Robers comensed firing uppon them - Then the Sheriff comensed also - They killed Six of the Robers [but] 25 of the Sheriffs men took the prisoners and have them deposited in Jail - I expect some will be Hanged & some sent to states prison - and also on Monday evening last thare was two horses taken from our court House (whilst the owners was in to meting) and after hunting 4 days they ware found in the Timber Tied & saddles taken off about two miles from This place & one other Horse with them not known - it is Supposed to be some of our citizens in this place - I must give you a Ste[t]ment of the prosperty of the Mormons - within 18 miles of this place thare is a city a Building of Mormons Called Nauvoo - They comensed last fall and know have about three hundred & fifty dwellings and perhaps Two thousand inhabatence - last week they had a great meting and baptised 50 persons - They have Two stores & 2 public Houses - There Emigration is about Ten a day - I was in thare city yesterday & The likes I never Saw building Going up in every direction - Thare city is laid out three miles Square on the Missippe River a very handsome Location for a city - ..O & E. McKean" Letter is addressed to his brother and sister.



NAUVOO was founded by Joseph Smith in 1839. Following his assassination June 27, 1844, the Saints moved out of their "Kingdom on the Mississippi" and headed west during the spring and summer of 1846. When they left they virtually depopulated Nauvoo, which had become the most populous city in Illinois. See more on Nauvoo elsewhere in this collection.

No. *780* B

Ad. Hall

5  **5**

THE KIRTLAND SAFETY SOCIETY BANK

Will pay **FIVE DOLLARS** on demand

to O. G. ... or bearer

KIRTLAND OHIO *Feb 10 1857*

A. Smith Cash. S. Riggs Pres.

Cash and Gold Specie & Liberty N. York & Philad.

Kirtland Ohio *10 Feb 1857*

No. *1015* B

Cred. Prov. 10/15

TEN  **TEN**

THE KIRTLAND SOCIETY

SAFETY

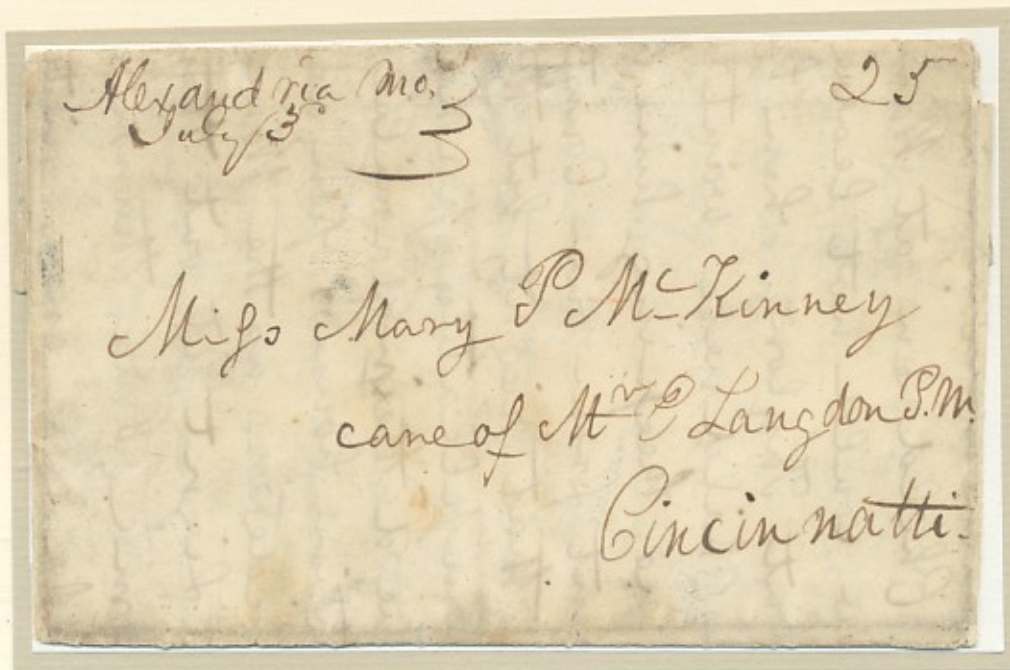
Bank: Will pay **TEN** dollars on demand

to O. G. ... or bearer

A. Smith Cash. S. Riggs Pres.

Cash and Gold Specie & Liberty N. York & Philad.

THE WESTERN MAILS



THE MURDER OF JOSEPH SMITH THE MORMON PROPHET

Historic letter written from Waterloo, Missouri on July 2, 1844, five days after the murder of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, while they were in the jail at Carthage, Illinois under the protective custody of governor Ford. The murders took place on Thursday June 27th with the letter being dated on Tuesday July 2nd. The following extracts are taken from the letter shown above which is postmarked at "Alexandria, Mo./July 3d" and rated "25" for over 400 miles: "our little village was thrown into great excitement a few days back, the people from Warsaw (Illinois, across the river from Alexandria), sent an express who arrived at 12 o'clock on Thursday night (June 27th, the day of the murders), roused the inhabitants, here with the ringing of Bells and beating of drums, to come to their assistance, against the Mormons, - that morning Joe Smith and two or three of his followers delivered themselves up to the Governor (Thomas Ford), who then had several thousand men with him, - they put them (Joseph and Hyrum Smith, Willard Richards and John Taylor) in jail in Carthage (Hancock County, Illinois) and in the absence of the Governor who had gone to Nauvoo, a company of 50 men from Warsaw, went into the jail and killed Joe and two of his men, a Dr Richard (and Taylor) escaped unhurt (Taylor was shot five times but survived), and I am told he is one of their most influential men they have, - they sent in great haste for the Gov. who lost no time in getting to Carthage, and when he discovered the deed they had committed he immediately disbanded the troops, and was himself missing. There never was such a distressing time known, Women and children screaming, and the perpetrators, of the deed at a loss what to do, and the Warsaw people were (more) alarmed than those at Carthage - immediately they sent to Mo (Missouri) for help, - the news came here 6 or 8 hours after the outrage was committed - the gentlemen had a meeting here, and determined to go and protect the women and Children at Warsaw....about 30 men went from our county (Clarke), they guarded the Town that night, but the inhabitants were so completely panic(ked) that they have moved their families over to Mo (Missouri) and left their houses open, and their own people concluded as the Women was safe they might fight it out themselves and returned home, - I was thankful to see Taylor (Berry), - we are waiting anxiously to hear from Illinois..... Agnes B. Berry."

THE WESTERN MAILS

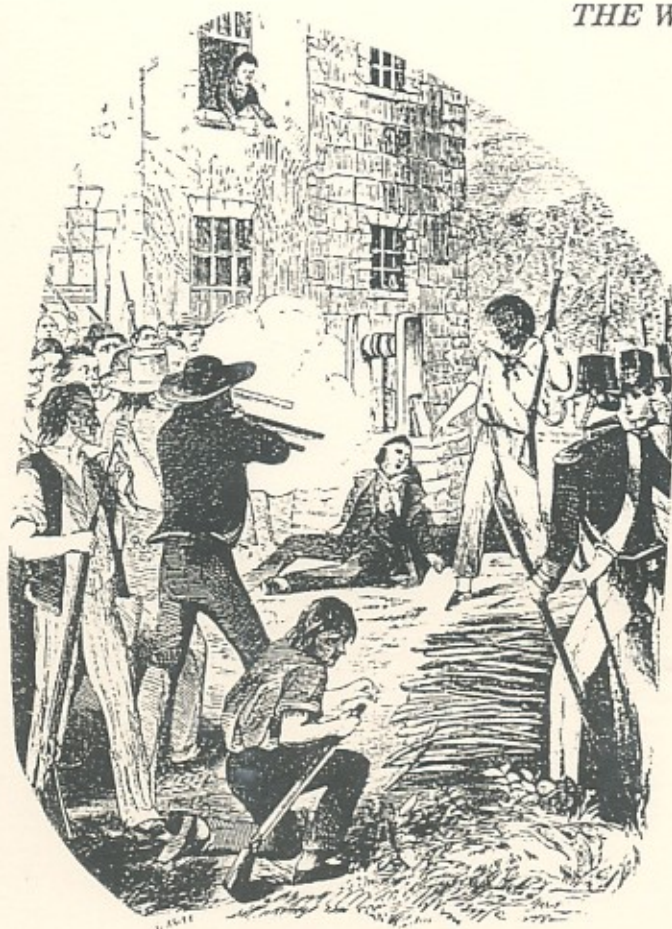
DEATH OF JOSEPH SMITH AT THE HANDS OF A MOB

By 1840 Joseph Smith was having problems with several officials of the church regarding economic and financial matters. Little or no objection was made to his spiritual doctrines until he discovered "spiritual wives" as he preferred to call polygamy. In 1844, the wife of Robert D. Foster, confessed that Joseph had preached the "spiritual wife" doctrine to her and in the process had tried to seduce her. This incident set up a series of events which proved fatal for Joseph Smith. Foster and William Law denounced Smith and were then excommunicated from the church. In retaliation they set up a newspaper, the NAUVOO EXPOSITOR, in which they took Smith to task for the wrongs they accused him of. Smith responded by destroying the press and all copies of the paper he could find. Governor Ford persuaded the Smiths to give themselves to the civil authority, with the assurance that they would receive a fair trial under the protective custody of the state of Illinois. The Smiths, Willard Richards, John Taylor and several others gave themselves, up, to the jailor at Charthage, setting in motion the train of events described in the folded letter below.



Postmarked "Jerseyville Ill. Sept 10" (1844).

"Jerseyville Sept. 6th 1844.....we had a wonderfull time here in June last with the Mormons, there was a printing press sat up in a Town three or four miles from Nauvoo the Mormon City - they printed some pieces against the Mormons that gave offence to some of the leaders of them - Joe Smith their Prophet (and) his Brother with some others of the leaders went with a mob and pulled down the office - destroyed the press and all that was in the office, Joe, his Brother and two others (Richards & Taylor) was prosecuted taken and put in prison, Joe sent for the Governor (Ford) to come and see that he was protected, the Governor went and ordered a Guard of fifty men to be kept round the prison till he could have a hearing in Court, but he (it ?) was not long then till there was a verry strong Mob appeared, all in diguise (blackened faces) ordered the Guard to make no resistance on the perril of their lives, - Mob went to the grates and fired (and) killd Joe, and his Brother, wounded one (Taylor), the fourth prisoner (Richards) hid till the prison was opened - then made his escape, it was a verry fortunate affair for there was as many as three thousand men on a side (mob) all acquipt. for action, if that had been the case it then would have been many lives lost, I do not that there has been much of a stir made to find out who the Mob were, since that time it seems to be peaceable times.....John L. Cross."



DEATH OF JOSEPH SMITH.

TRIAL OF THE ASSASSINS OF JOSEPH SMITH.

The postmaster at Macedonia, Hancock County, Illinois writes : ".....The trial of the murderers of the Smiths came on yesterday. The jury was made mostly out of persons implicated as being accessory to the murder. They will undoubtedly be acquitted altogether - evidence is positive and pointed against them. The mob have been endeavoring to raise a fuss but their time for that seems to have passed. Nauvoo is rapidly increasing. The capstone was yesterday laid on the Temple. Tis a sublim and curious structure....I.E.Johnson P.M."

Joseph & Hyrum Smith were murdered by a mob of anti-Mormons June 27, 1844, while being held in the Hancock County jail at Carthage, under the personal guarantee of safety, given by Gov. Thomas Ford.



Folded letter postmarked "Macedonia Ill/May 25 [1845] I.E.Johnson P.M. Free ".

THE WESTERN MAILS

Utah Territory

To the Hon: C. W. Downing
Secretary of State

Executive Office G. S. City

May 29. 1851

Sir:

I have the Honor to acknowledge the receipt of one copy of the journals of the Senate and House of Representatives, and one copy of the acts and Resolutions of the Fifth General Assembly of the State of Florida, for the use of the Territory as which I provide

Respectfully

Your obedient servant

Brigham Young
Governor



Salt Lake City, U.T.
June 1st 1851

Official Brigham Young
Governor

Salt Lake City, U.T.
June 1st 1851

Official Brigham Young
Governor

To the Honorable
C. W. Downing
Secretary of State

Tallahassee

Florida

1851

Brigham Young franked this cover as Territorial Governor of Utah, although he did not have authority to do so under the P.L. & R. rules of the Post Office Dept. As indicated by the letter it contained, it was on official business of the territory.

It also bears the earliest use of the "Salt Lake City U.T." manuscript postmark - June 1, 1851

Great Salt Lake City,

Oct. 31st, 1864

Dear Sir:—

Your favor of 22nd ult. informing me of the conviction of yourself and friends respecting the religious belief and practices of the Latter-day Saints, and your and their decision to throw in your lot with us in this country, has been duly received, and perused with interest. I am pleased to know that you have taken pains to carefully read and investigate our doctrines and principles as set forth in our own publications, besides perusing what our enemies have to say respecting us. This course of reading must have given you a very good idea of us as a people.

You inform me that you and your friends desire to become "Mormons," and that you wish to ascertain if the project is feasible, and also the best method of accomplishing this object. We have Elders in the East who, if you could see them, would readily administer the ordinance of baptism to yourself and friends; the pre-requisites being, that you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Saviour of the world, and repent truly and sincerely of all your sins. (You see by this, that the project of your becoming a Latter-day Saint, or "Mormon," is quite feasible, and the method an easy one for the truly repentant. I should recommend you to take these steps at the earliest opportunity, and if you go forth with a broken and contrite spirit, believing in Jesus Christ

that the Elders of this Church go forth to proclaim these things unto the people, that none may be left without excuse.

I have given you these quotations from the Bible, but we have the Book of Mormon, an inspired Record written by the ancient servants of God on this continent, and the book of Doctrine and Covenants, containing revelations to the Church of God in these days, which agree in their statements with the Bible; and thus we have the testimony of three witnesses bearing record of the same great truths; by their testimony every word will be established. Besides these, we have works written by our Elders upon doctrine; The Voice of Warning, by Parley P. Pratt, Spencer's Letters by Orson Spencer, and many other works of a similar character.

You may think that I have written you a good long sermon, and quoted a good many scriptures; but all this will profit you nothing unless you humble yourselves before the Lord so as to receive his Holy Spirit to enlighten your minds.

I remain Yours

Respectfully

Brigham Young

P.S.

By addressing a letter to Post Office Box 3957 New York, you can open a communication with an Elder of our Church who is at present in New York by the name of W^m. H. Miles. I have no doubt but that you can make arrangements with him to have a personal interview with him, and can learn many things from him that cannot well

SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
MILLENNIAL STAR.

AUGUST 1844.

ADDRESS TO THE SAINTS.

BELoved SAINTS,—In a strange and melancholy garb, we have been led this month to print a supplement to the STAR.

But why these tokens of woe and mourning? Will it be believed in the face of high heaven, in the present age, that men are required to seal their testimony of truth with their blood? Yes; such is the fact. The Prophet of the Lord in the last days, together with his brother Hyrum, have been MURDERED—basely, dastardly murdered—in prison, with the pledged faith of a state of the American union for their protection.

But can it be; is it not a dream—a phantasy of the brain? The land of freedom, boasted freedom, and of equal rights, stained with the blood of martyrs to the principles of the gospel of Christ! “The land of the brave, and the home of the free”—the country that has presented herself as the asylum of the oppressed—as a welcome refuge for the sufferers for conscience’ sake, become the altar of sacrifice of the servants of God, by the cruel hands of a bloodthirsty mob! Can such things indeed be? Slumber on, ye mighty fathers of a degenerate race—ye who fought and toiled, who bled and died for liberty, and for conscience’ sake. Oh! wake not from your honourable repose, to a consciousness of the dark deeds of your fallen sons, who, not contented with a long career of persecution, even unto death—of spoliation and ravage of the Saints of God, have filled up the cup of their iniquity by one of the most treacherous murders in the annals of time. Columbia! thy glory hath departed—virtue and innocence weep on thy shores—justice has fled from presiding over the deliberations of thy senate, while the hand of lawless violence, over thy wide spread territory, is raised for the destruction of thy subjects.

ord: Built by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. "Fidelity to the Lord." was placed over it, the great body of the executed were crowding to the shores of the Mississippi, with their heads toward the occident. On the very day when the costly Temple was dedicated, it was abandoned to the "Gentiles." Thirty months afterwards it was destroyed by fire, at midnight; and in May, 1850, the City of Nauvoo, then inhabited by a colony of Icarians, from Paris, was desolated by a tornado, and the partially-restored Temple was cast to the earth in ruins. In September, 1846, the last lingering Mormon settlement was driven out of the

Because food is the only remedy which nature has furnished for his relief; and can the Saints ever arrive at perfection, if they have no prophets, apostles, or inspired men among them? They cannot. Why? Because these are the means which God has ordained in his Church to bring it to perfection. Hence any Church having not apostles, prophets, bishops, gifts, miracles, &c., is in an imperfect state, and must remain so; for, it cannot be of God. "He that is of God, heareth God's words—ye, therefore, hear them not, because ye are not of God."

GREAT WESTERN FLOOD.

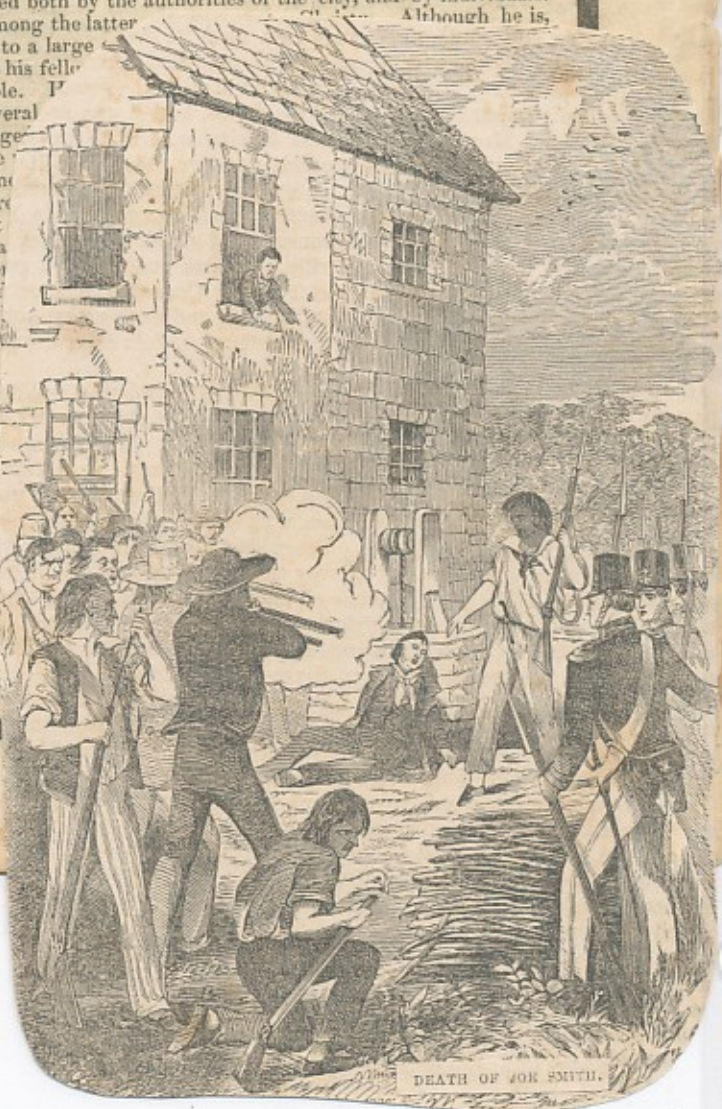
Belleville, Illinois, June 20, 1844.

The distress in the American Bottom, at this time, is certainly almost incalculable. The water in the channel of the Mississippi, opposite the city of St. Louis, is now thirty-nine and a half feet above low water mark! Of course, this immense body of water is no longer contained within the river banks. Bursting over its usual limits, the flood has spread itself from bluff to bluff over the American Bottom. This Bottom, you are doubtless aware, is the most fertile piece of soil in the Union. From this fact, it has been extensively improved—almost wholly covered with beautiful and valuable farms. The flood has not only destroyed the growing crops on these farms, but it has also swept away almost the whole of their improvements. The tenants have fled for relief to St. Louis and the Bluffs. They have not been deceived in their expectations of relief from the city of St. Louis. The hand of charity has been very liberally extended both by the authorities of the city, and by individuals. Pre-eminent among the latter

himself, a loser to a large extent the property of his fellow-men, less indefatigable. Welcome! Several constantly engaged done well in the

The flood is not recede. The first it is the highest tradition that a yet none of them a half to recede spread. It will cherished home they behold! and furious el felt in every the present se. The western r will be crampe

With regard press, writing their credit, su est disturbance yesterday with



DEATH OF JOE SMITH.

Account 200
May 21. 1842

Mr. Josiah Smith
B. Young or H. C. Kimble
Narrow
Hancock Co. Ill.

Albion
John Bond

Macomb Ill. Jan. 28th 1844

In relation to the Subject presented
by Bro's Young & Kemple I have been
carefully feeling of Mr. —

I find that but one thing can effect
the object that is cash up say 500⁰⁰
So far as I have been able to learn him.

I will see him again shortly & either
be out or write again, if you have
any further instructions, write or send
down & I will do what I can

yours I^d John Vaner

NB I have written cautiously for
certain reasons

Ball's Knot, Logan Co. W.
September 13th 1844

William Clayton Esq.

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 31st ultimo, enclosing Deed for Nauvoo & Commerce Lots has been received. My health will not permit my coming to Nauvoo immediately, but I expect to meet my partners, Mr. Hitchcock, and perhaps Mr. Tuttle, at that place sometime next month. I cannot specify exactly the time as they have not yet informed me, but presume sometime early in the month. I will attend to the execution and proper acknowledgement of the Deed as soon as possible, and will come prepared to have a final settlement of our affairs. I hope the delay will cause you no inconvenience.

I am glad to learn that the late unfortunate difficulties have not paralyzed your energies, and that you are still prosecuting with vigor your beautiful Temple and other improvements. Wishing you every success I remain

Yours

Very Respectfully

John Gillet

John Dill

Sep. 15 1844

12 1/2

William Clayton Esq.

Naucoc

Naucoc & Co.

Illinois

12 1/2

to 3

John Dill
Sept 19

Head,
Nov 27 1845

S

S

Miss Clayton Esq

Stamford

of Ocean St
Nov 29th

Stamford, Conn.

Misses

1845

Toulon, Ill. 1843-46

Wm. L. Stone

Dear Sir

I have concluded not to go to your
city till the 1st of Febr. Next. Another Person
I should have some business to do there at that time
and I shall wait and go with him unless you have
the money ready for me sooner and inform me of
the fact I then want to settle all my business
there if possible Messrs M. & Foster & Wilson have
been at my house do not think I have paid Foster
his part of the Jewels claim it was one half of
\$1000, which leaves ^{part of} my Jewels claim \$500.
I will receive his claim from you in payment
or for or it goes I also traded a Village lot
in Evansburg transferred to B. J. to Foster
for that & of lot 3 in Block 2 on Mainland addition
to Harwood, he says it has a Mortgage on it
Mr. Sawyers to trade me a claim on Mr
Pech of your vicinity that is secured by Mortga-
ge on what is called Sawyers Hill, Brick house lot
D & for land I have in Evansburg Co, P. D.
Now Sir I want you to write me whether
his said claim is good and can be collected also
if Foster's title is good for said lot and what
is its probable value as also what will
be the prospect of your raising anything at
that time

General Joseph Smith / Lt. Nauvoo Ill.

March 4 -
March 7 -
March 28 1843
Nauvoo Ill.

ERRRET BIAS of La Porte, Indiana wants to locate at Nauvoo and sell U.S. military
equipment. The following extracts are from a much damaged letter, under date of
March 7 AD 1843. I cold raise some means on fifty stands of United States armes
which i have in my posesion with, Capes, belts, Crest plats, bayonets Screwdrivers
sawers & all compleat and in good order, wich armes ware phases in my posesion at
the time of the last Sock & Fox war [Black Hawk war 1832] - the storage since said
time and my serves at the time of said disturbance, I think is ample Compensation
the united States for said armes, wich I propose to dispose of as follows -
first to in list a liteinfantry company in your city and sell said armes to the
members of said company on time - say twelve months in monthly payments wich wold
assure the payment to me and make the same esey to the purchasers to gether with a
ended Stand of Military cutlers Side armes and so fourth wich Sale wold inti-
y reliave me and in able me to locate in the City of Nauvoo - Now i disier to know
i cold sell said armes an.....[so much of the letter is missing and it can be
culated that he wants their opinion on the legality of such a proposal]
ere is a docket note dated " Nauvoo March 28, 1843" that apparently questions his
hts to sell U.S. property signed " W. Richards / J. Smith". Most of the note is miss-



St. Louis March 28, 1843
Dear General Smith
I have the honor to receive your letter
of the 21st inst. in relation to the
proposed sale of the arms and accoutrements
of the late Black Hawk war which you
propose to sell at Nauvoo. I have
the honor to inform you that the
Board of Directors of the City of
Nauvoo have considered your
proposal and have decided to
purchase the arms and accoutrements
proposed for sale at the price
you have named. I have the honor
to inform you that the arms and
accoutrements will be delivered
to you at Nauvoo on the 1st
of April next. I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Wm. Richards

Joseph Co. Meliana

March 7 1874

to address you on a
the evening but a moment
to going to Warsaw my
you will see by the list
intention anxious to locate my
Cannon St. (which place is
seen) where I wish to see the pleasure of your society and
the fellowship of many members of your
Church of which I prefer to be one
but I have ~~to~~ lately met with a loss as un-
expected as it was unforeseen and found the contents
of my trunk which has in value a large property near
which I yet in my; but think that I could raise
some means on fifty stands of United States arms
which I have in my possession with bayonets, belts,
Crest plates, bayonets, screwdrivers, wipers & all complete
and in good order, which arms were placed in
my possession at the time of the last Soc. & Pop. war
the storage since said time and my services at
the time of said disturbance, I think is ample
compensation to the United States for said arms,
which I propose to dispose of as follows first
to in list a literary Company in your City
and sell said arms to the members of said
Company on time say twelve months in monthly
payments which would insure the payment to me
and make the same easy to the purchasers to
gether with a splendid stand of Military Cullers
side arms and so fourth which sale would entirely
release me and in able me to locate in the
City of Warsaw Now I desire to know if I

Parvan Feb.3d 1853

Der Mother

As I take my pen in hand to address you once more I hope that this will find you well and enjoying the pleasure of life but you are not enjoying the spirit of God but I hope that you will see your folly and repent of you sins and to be Baptise for you sins and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost which will lead you in all truth, which I write to you I write to all off my friends and relative to obey the law and ordnance of God in the name of Iseral God of which the power which is invested in me I declare it unto you also that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and Brigham Young is his successor as a prophet of God in the Priesthood as for Prophet there is many in the Kingdom of God I want you and all of my relative to serche Scriptures for in them you have eternal live also when the Scriptures speakes of a figure let it go for a figure of the church of Christ when it speaks for reality let it go so now the Scriptures ware written by inspiration or in other word with the spirit of the Holy Gost so you see at once that a man or woman must have the spirit of the Holy Ghost to read them or/ther wise he or her is left im the dark and grose darkness cover the worl and grose darkness the mind of the people Revelation ___ have a grate deal to say not time to write in for the saints have a grate deal to do and omley a few years to do it in for in the year of 1866 the devel is to Render the Kingdom to the Saints and in the year of 1906 that the saints are to ~~###~~ deliver the Kingdom to Christ and in the year of 2906 that Christ is to deliver the Kingdom all in order everything in God Kingdom in Order so you see that everything has it place and it time now I will tell you that I expect that I will be married by the time that you get this the memory of home is swet when I think of you my memory is allwise in hope that in a few years I will see you an all off the rest of my Relatives I was this fall out 395 miles east of salt lake which which is from heare to help the poor of 695 I took out 15000 of flour and 9 yoak of cattle and I have enough to my own eat I have 40 bushel of potatoes 20 bushels of turnips 100 bushels of

999th

Maman

Leith

1853

Miss Currid

Ms. B. Potter

Bellevue

Dackson Co.

Ill. W. A.

Parsons " J. J. W. A.

a few more times than I must leave the
nearest place that we can trade is got
argues the need is still more than ten
of ances to me that you get any thing
in the way of clothing give my love
to Ed & D and tell her that I have
not forget her yet but I expect
that she has one of a fair well
yours with respects to Ed & D

That I you do not answer
this one sheet thus to be the
you may expect more of you with
last from me of you to do with
to the money of hope that
you as the price you give
you will give in this week after the
in and yet live from business of the
is the price of men and others therefrom

THE MORMON TEMPLE & TWELVE WHITE OXEN

James L. Duncan, under date of "Farmington Iowa Jan 13th 1845" describes his journey from Vermont, by stagecoach to Boston and thence by sailing vessel to New Orleans. He is looking for a business opportunity, but finds nothing and goes to St. Louis by Steamboat, where he reships and continues to Quincy. Here he rents a team of horses to "Nauvoo where we saw the Temple and going inside and viewed the twelve white oxen as complete workmanship as nature itself - over these was the font [baptismal font] the appearance was magnificent when compared with the cottages which extend for two miles each way" and that is all he has to say about the Mormons.

Fawn Brodie states "At first the Mormons were baptized in the Mississippi and later in an elaborate font standing on the backs of twelve white wooden oxen in the temple basement. The Nauvoo Temple was reconstructed, at a cost of 30 million dollars and dedicated June 27, 2002.



FARMINGTON Iowa post office established Sept. 20, 1837 in what was then Wisconsin Territory, thence to Iowa in 1838. Bottom cover bears the only example of this postmark struck in BROWN. Otherwise not known in black - RED only. Cover above used in 1845, below 1843.

A PLURAL WIFE OF JOSEPH SMITH AND BRIGHAM YOUNG.

" Nauvoo Ill March 12, 1844

Capt P Gray/Dear Uncle and Cousin

".....since I saw you I have traveled ten thousand miles by sea and land. I left my dear Father and Mother and Brother and sisters and spent two years in England with my Brother in law P P Pratt and sister Mary Ann Pratt, who were Missionarys to that country. But through the mercees of God my life has been spared [to] return to my own Native land and now residing in the Citty of Nauvoo with my Father and Mother and two youngest sisters who come from the East last summer..They are living in the same house with my Brother in law Pratt. We are all well - Mother never enjoyed better health in her life and well contented here it is a fine Citty here only 4 years old menny hundred houses about ten thousands inhabtants nearly all belonging to the same Church - you will perhaps say we are all a deluded people and our Prophet a false Prophet - But dear uncle it is not so - this is the work of God, we read in Joshua about the Lord would proceed to do a marvelous work and a wonder the wisdom of [which] wise should perish .&c. I believe this to be the work of God and that He has spoken from the Heavens in these last days and restored the priesthood as in ancient days, and that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God. While I were in England I saw Captin John P. Blo.....in Liverpool he were about to sail - I gave him some of Elder Pratt's writings - he went to here him preach. I also sent you a Book of Mormon by him - A copy from the records that Joseph Smith found which were hid up by a people who peopled this continant years before it were discovered by Columbus and Christ apeared to this people as he to the people on the contnant Asia and that Book is a record of that people. we read in palmns that truth should spring out of the Earth. &c &c....this may seem strong to you but I ashour you it is the truth of heaven I hope you or cousin Poshway will come and visit us this summer if you are in New Orleans and can spend time - The boats are now running there has [been] 5 passed here since yesterday - we have a fine view of the river about a mile from the river on a piece of ground near the Temple we are much pleased with this part of the country - I have traveled a great deal in this country as well as in England and all the cities or towns that I have lived in or visited I never was more pleased or contented then I am here. Brother and sister Pratt sends thier love to you....Please to excuse my bad writing and spelling....
your absent neice Olive G. Frost"

Olive G. Frost

OLIVE GREY FROST was the 34th plural wife of Joseph Smith. Fawn M. Brodie dates the marriage "after April 12, 1843" but this letter indicates 1844 as the probable year. On the death of Smith she became the 11th plural wife of Brigham Young in February 1845. It has been stated that when the dead bodies of Joseph and Hyrum arrived in Nauvoo from Carthage, "Olive Frost went entirely mad". She was born July 24, 1816 and died in Nauvoo October 6, 1845. Her sister, Mary Ann, was the wife of Parley Parker Pratt, one of the twelve apostles of the church, was also a plural wife of Smith. In this letter Olive does not refer to Joseph as her husband and she did not get back to Nauvoo from England until after April 1843. The above is from Fawn Brodies book, NO MAN KNOWS MY HISTORY - The Life of Joseph Smith, Alfred A. Knopf, N.Y. 1945.

Pratt was killed by an irate husband, whose wife had deserted him and thier children, to become a Morman and a plural wife of Pratt, on May 13, 1857. See newspaper clipping in this collection.

25-

Wm. H. Gray



Camp of Enoch Pughet
Bennett.

Nauvoo, Ill.

MORMAN LETTER, New Orleans.

1844

09.77

Olive G. Frost
Wife of Joseph Smith
1844 - Capt. Wm. H. Gray
of Brigham Young
died 1845 - 10/2/45
Married Young
Feb. 1845



-8- The First Post Office,
Nauvoo, Ill.

Capt J Gray Navarre 21st March 1844
Dear Uncle and Cousin.

I with pleasure sit down to
write you a few lines. being requested by Aunt Lucy
when my sister visited her last fall.

I received a letter ^{last week} from my sister Lucretia Brown
she informs me that she with her husband visited
Northampton last fall. she expresses great pleasure
while visiting there. Aunt Lucy gave her your address
for me to write to ~~you~~ you to New Orleans.

Dear Uncle and Cousin since I saw you I have
traveled ten thousand miles both by sea and land.
I left my dear Father and Mother Brother and sisters and
spent two years in England with my Brother in law
P P Pratt and sister Mary Ann Pratt who were
missionaries to that Country. But though the mercies of God
my life has been spared returns to my own Native land
and now residing in the City of Navarre with my Father and
Mother and two youngest sisters who came from the East
last summer. They are living in the same House with
my Brother in law Pratt. we are all well Mother never
enjoyed better health in ^{her} life and well contented here it is
a fine City here only 4 years old nenny hundred
houses about ten thousands inhabitants nearly all
belonging to the same Church you will perhaps say
we are all a deluded people and our Prophet a false
Prophet But Dear Uncle it is not so this is the work

Letter No 11.

Addressee: Col. Wilson Andrews
North New Salem
Franklin Co. Mass
with hast. Please forward.

Postmarked: NAUVOO Ills. MAY 3 (1846)

Nauvoo, May 2d, 1846.

Dear Brother & Sister & Mother, I expect you have been to the office for a letter until your patience is gone, but I assure you it is not my negligance. I was six weeks from Boston to Nauvoo into one day. 28 from Boston to New Orelans it began to rain and the wind blew. About sunset that night after I left you standing on the wharf, the ship rolled and pitched about, we all began to be sea sick. I began to vomit and I was glad to scrutch for my berth with out any ceremony, no undressing. I got off my cloak and bonnet the best way I could. Thales was not much sick, did not vomit but twice at all. The company were al as sick as I was, except an Englishman. He took care (of) us all night and day. Made us gruel of oatmeal, and rice soup, to keep us from starving. It was very fine living. I was hungry enough to eat anything I ever saw cooked, but we had vomited so much they dunst not have us eat anything. If I could have found a piece of dry fish I should have helped myself without asking. I could not sit up until Monday about 11 o clock then we had haste-pudding and malones. After that we eat all we wished to. Thales caught the measles on board ship (and) had not recovered when we arrived at New Orleans, (although he was not very sick I gave him saffress tea, croup syrup and Brandreth pills.) April 9th in the evening we slept in the ship. The next morning brother Wallace went in search of a boat for St Louis, found one, the Pride of the West, Capt. Smith, fifteen dollars cabin passage every thing found, and a negro to wait upon you, make you bed, bring you water, take care of your room in every particular, (or) three dollars steerage, and find yourself and half price for Thales. I took cabin with the millionares and two of the mormon sisters with me. Carpet two dollars per yard, everything else equal to it, the table was furnished every day with roast turkey or pig, and all kinds that you can think of, puddings and pies, the best I ever ate, plenty of claret for dinner. I took a glass with a piece of ice in it, to drink with my dinner. The best of tea and coffee for breakfast and supper and a darky behind your chair every meal to run at your bidding. I have not wanted for a good cup of coffee. I forgot to tell yo we went immediately on board the boat and had everything found us, until it sailed which was the 11th in the evening (at) 10 oclock. This was Saturday. (a) week from the next Monday (at) 10 in the morning we arrived at St Louis. Brother Wallace went for a boat again, found one going to sail that evening, about a hundred rods from where we landed. We all walked and (had) a drayman with his mules to take the baggage (O I forgot to tell you it took three great negros to carry my chest on to the boiler deck where I could see it and open it when I pleased without any expense to me) We all thought we could go steerage passage to Nauvoo. The time would be short and we could live almost any way. When we got to the boat it was crowded with all kinds of human beings, horses and dogs. No place for us there. Four dollars cabin passage and all found. We all went cabin except the englishman. He went below and took care of the baggage. It was steamboat Tempest. It did not sail until the next evening. It cost us nothing but such delays did not suit us very well. We had been so long on the way we expected our friends would think we were shipwrecked. We had been sailing about three hours, such halloping a man overboard, such running to and fro some after their sons, some after their husbands. I run for Thales (and) found him in his room with brother Wallace both in bed. It proved to be a young man from St Louis going up the river to get work. He had a horse with him, his father and his

cousin, a young lad about like George. He (had) only fifteen dollars with him that was in his pocket. It was very dark. They searched for him but could not find him. It cast a gloom over the boat for that night. The next night towards morning they cried out again a man overboard. They stopped and searched for him but could (not) find him. They both fell in stepping from the steamboat to the barge that was fastened to the boat. The next afternoon we arrived at Nauvoo, saw Miram Clark. Thales says here is Kinam then Maria, then a gentlemen says is this Irene's mother, she sent me to see if you had come and to take care of your baggage. Then I saw Irene come bounding across the lots. You may guess the rest. I found her babe much handsomer than I expected. It has not one homely feature. She is keeping house in the house with Lois Crashes that married a Thompson. She has enough to eat of all kinds. Francis is steamboating from St Louis to Galena, Passes Nauvoo every week. He has just bought a hundred pounds of nice sugar and a box of rasins. She has pork and ham, dry fish, mackerel and veal. We have the old fashioned soups milk a crust. Mother knows how Thales likes that. Irene is first rate cook. She cooks and I eat my allowance I assure you. I am growing fleshy. We expect to start west in about two weeks. Francis has gone to St Louis to get things for us on the journey and others sent by him to get coffee, tea, sugar, powder and everything that they can get cheaper than they can here. Good(s) are very cheap in St Louis. I have got me a flor-nse bonnet. Irene and I have been out today to get some trimming. I will send you a piece of it, 25 cents per yard. Saw some of the nicest goods I ever saw in my life. Team after team is going over the river every day for ^{the} west. I saw Sister Aikins before I got my bonnet off the (day) I got here. All the family came in a few minutes then sister Ponds children. Brother Pond had gone to help some over the river. Sister Pond was not in a situation to walk so far. The next morning I started for brother Russells to see Catherine but she had gone before I got there and I have not seen her yet. She suffers a great deal with the ague and so does her husband. I am determined she shall write. Sister Russell has got her chest that she sent by water. I paid no extra freight for my big chest, after I left Boston, in all the tugging from place to place it cost me only one dollar in the whole. Tell mother Pomeroy had a letter from his mother in March. Irene has answered it. They have written back and forth several times. His mother says they must come that way and not go any farther west. This is the thing she never expects to see again she feels very bad. Mrs Clark and her three children keep house in a chamber where sister Aikin lives. Mrs. Harris treated Emiline well. She has been there and stayed a fortnight. She has had a letter from James. He is going (on) a whaling voyage (for) three years, then he coming home to be a husband and be steady. She has gone with a family to the west and so has sister Brimhall. I have not seen them. We are going to have two yoke of oxen, two cows, four sheep and everything else as much as we can carry. Give love to every one that inquires after me. Tell Mr Goodmough brother Aikin have his letter without a murmur in my hearing. I want to tell mother something about the prophets Joseph and Hyrum. She knows he said he should not be brought back alive. He told the twelve before he went to Carthage what to do with his body and when they brought the bodies home every body saw them in the mansion home and then they took care of the bodies and filled to coffins with stone and had them buried and the world does not know any thing about it. I saw ever so many locks of Joseph hair I wondered how they came to save so much. At last they told me he was not buried. I went to a festival in the temple. Irene carried her babe. After I saw five babies I thought I would count all that came. There was thirteen like Irene's and as many more that could walk. If some die I think there is a number live. Thales is out of patience with the mud. He wants to be going where we can pitch our tents and have grass all around us. I am not home sick or discontented but I am happy and satisfied so far. You must direct your letters to Francis Pomeroy and we can have them forwarded to us.

From your daughter and sister U B Hascall

I did Whitemans errand. I shall send a piece of Eugenie's dress which I bought

she knows he said he should not be brought back alive, he told the twelve before he went to Carthage, what to do with his body and when they brought the bodies home every body saw them in the mansion home and then they took care of the bodies and filled two coffins with stone and had them buried and the world does not know any thing about it I saw ever so many locks of Josephs hair I wondered how they came to save so much at last they told me he was not buried, I went to a festival in the temple where carried her babe after I saw five babies I thought I would count all that came there was the same like stones and as many more that could walk, if some die I think there is a number live. Phoebe is out of patience with the mud, she wants to be going where we can get a ^{little} and have good all round us I am not home sick nor discontented but I am happy and satisfied so far, you must direct your letter to Maria Comery and we can have them forwarded to us from your daughter and sister. U. B. Hascall

Aunt's trip to
Nauvoo, Ill.

1846

Col. William Andrews

North Nauvoo

Will back, Please forward to Mrs. Hascall

Aunt's
no. 1



URSULIA B. HASCALL describes her journey from Boston to Nauvoo, via ship to New Orleans and thence by steamboats, up the Mississippi river, in six weeks. She is getting ready to go overland to Salt Lake City and states, "Team after team is going over the river every day for the west. We are going to have two yoke of oxen, two cows, four sheep and everything else as much as we can carry". She then says " I want to tell mother something about the prophet Joseph and Hyrum. She knows he said he should not be brought back alive. He told the twelve [apostles] before he went to Carthage what to do with his body and when they brought the bodies home every body saw them in the mansion home and then they took care of the bodies and filled two coffins with stone and had them buried and the world does not know any thing about it. I saw ever so many locks of Josephs hair I wondered how they came to save so much. at last they told me he was not buried".

Nauvoo, May 2d, 1846

I will send a piece of Experiencing this which I brought in - 24th Decr

Dear Brother & Sister & Mother, I expect you have been to the office for a letter until your patience is gone, but I assure you it is not my negligence, I was sick weeks from Boston to Nauvoo into one day I left from Boston to New Orleans it began to rain and the wind blew about sunset, that I might after I left you standing on the wharf, the ship rolled and pitched about, we all began to be seasick, I began to vomit, and I was glad to scratch for my berth with out any ceremony, no undressing, I got off my cloak and bonnet the best way I could Thales was not much sick did not vomit but twice at all, they company were all as sick as I was, except an English man, he took care us all night and day until made us gruel of oatmeal, and rice soup, to keep us from starving, it was very fine living, I ^{was} hungry enough to eat anything I ever saw cooked, but we had vomited so much they should not have us eat any thing, if I could have found a piece of dry fish I should have helped myself without asking, I could not eat until Monday about 11 o'clock then we had breakfast and molasses after that we eat all we wished to, Thales caught the measles on board ship had not recovered when we arrived at New Orleans, (although he was not very sick I gave him saffron tea, cramp syrup, and Mandrakes pills,) April 9th in the evening we slept in the ship the next morning brother ^{Wallace} went in search of a boat for St Louis, found one, the pride of the west, Capt, Smith, fifteen dollars cabin passage, they found, and a negro to wait upon you, make your bed, bring you water, take care of your room in every particular, three dollars storage, and find yourself and half price for Thales, I took cabin, with the millionaires, and two of the mormons sisters with me, carpet two dollars per yard, every thing else equal to it, the table furnished every day with roast turkey, or pig, and all kinds that you can think of, puddings, and pies, the best I ever ate, plenty plenty of claret for dinner, I took a glass, with a piece of ice in it, to drink with my dinner, the best of tea and coffee for breakfast and supper, and a derby behind your chair every meal to men at your bidding, I have not wanted ^{for} a good cup of coffee

THE PROPHET'S DEATH

A Hitherto Unpublished Account of the Killing of Joe Smith, the Mormon.

During the Troubles Which Grew Out of the Settlement of the Saints at Carthage, Ill.

And Which Is Brought Together from a Mass of Rare and Valuable Manuscripts.

Smith's Remarkable Career, Which Has Had No Equal in the World.

Difficulties Attending the Development and Building Up of the Church--The Feeling of Hatred Engendered by People of Low Character.

The First Conflict of Arms, and the Pusillanimous Conduct of Gov. Ford.

The Night Attack of a Mob on the Jail, and Death of Joseph and His Brother Hyrum.

Grief at the Funeral--The Midnight Mystery in the Skies.

The Mock Burial--A Funeral Cortège, and Great Mourning Over Two Big Sand-Bags.

of the county. They voted *en masse* with one or the other party, and twice turned the state election in favor of the democracy by casting a solid vote in favor of its gubernatorial candidate. This enraged the opposition, and, under the circumstances, it was easy to elicit the hatred of the opposing religious sects. This was done the more effectually as some of the imprudent Saints claimed that they were not only going to possess Hancock county, but God was, in their opinion, going to assign to them dominion over the whole earth, and the Gentiles must lick the dust. Their leader was regarded as endowed with the Holy Ghost, and his sword was given him that he might extend and defend his dominions. No other sect could draw such crowds to its solemn feasts and baptismal gatherings, and the hatred of other denominations was kindled to a flame. Several papers advocated the necessity of driving the Mormons in a body beyond the Rocky mountains, and the feeling became so great that candidates for the presidency were interrogated as to their views.

SMITH EVEN PERPETRATED THE POLLY of addressing a letter to Henry Clay (written by Phelps), demanding his policy providing he should be elected. The Sage of Ashland replied in vague and general terms, as not to answer seemed unsafe, as the Mormons were supposed to hold the balance of power in the state, and thus a fictitious political consequence attached to their vote. The letter was unsatisfactory, and Joe Smith was at once proclaimed a candidate for the presidency, with Sidney Rigdon on the ticket for vice president. That Joe Smith, who claimed to be appointed with heavenly wisdom, and therefore might have inquired of the Lord by Urim and Thummim—the prophetic stones found at the hill Cumorah—and received answer by a "thus saith the Lord," should seek information like ordinary mortals, through the medium of correspondence, seemed to indicate not only a lack of courtesy, but a want of confidence in the inspiration with which he claimed to be endowed. He replied to Mr. Clay in a caustic and bitter letter—also written by Phelps—which was widely published in the democratic papers, and besides raising a general laugh at its ridiculousness, served to irritate a powerful party against the whole sect.

ANOTHER CAUSE OF HATRED was the circulation of a large number of the worthless bills of the old Kirtland bank, an institution established in Ohio some ten years previous, by Joe Smith, and which, having failed to receive a charter, went to pieces. Some speculator or enemy put quantities of them in circulation around Nauvoo, and their worthless character raised a hue and cry against the honesty of the Saints. Smith warned the people, in a notice in *The Nauvoo Neighbor*, against receiving the bills, as they were worthless, and claimed that they had never been put in circulation by him, but had been stolen from the vault by a mob that broke into the bank.

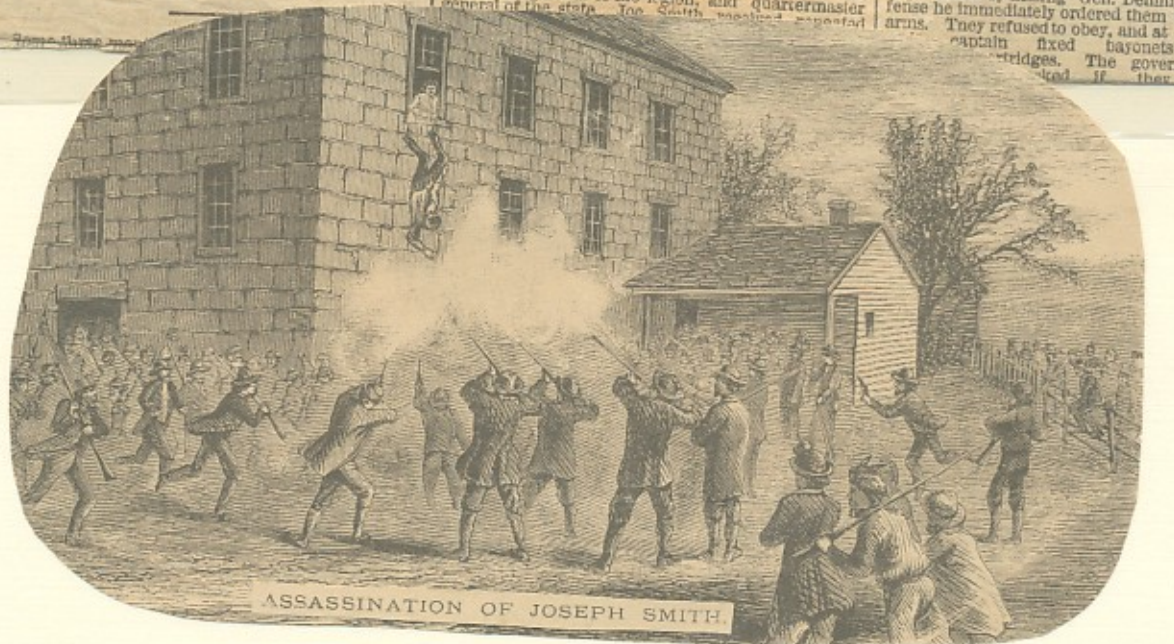
To the above-mentioned causes may also be added the apostasy, from the Saints, of Gen. John C. Bennett. This strange compound of folly and depravity had passed through a checkered business career in the east, and was at one time in Erie, Pa., carrying on the manufacture and sale of "compound tomato pills," which he claimed to be highly efficacious in removing "humors of the blood" and "obstruction of the liver," and the rival of calomel generally. Not finding his pill business sufficiently lucrative, through various revolutions the doctor found himself among the Mormons, in Nauvoo. Having considerable knowledge of mankind, and a good deal more of "the way a thing was to be done," he soon rendered himself very useful to the prophet by bringing to bear on the legislature influences that resulted in the incorporation of the city and the organization of the legion. In return, he was made mayor of the city, major general of the legion, and quartermaster general of the state. Joe Smith, who had expected

speech declared the city under martial declaration was subsequently based

THE CHARGE OF HIGH T on which he was arrested. In this he declared that God had set up on the earth, and the powers of the before it. Nevertheless, the moment arrived at Carthage, the Mormon troop matters were left to take their own error at first issued a proclamation both sides should be fairly heard. A sued another, directed to the mayor Nauvoo, in which he argued the case decided every point against the Saint that they had violated the constitution with the freedom of the press, in seizing lawfully, in usurping the power of a c that the press was a nuisance, etc.

After disbanding his troops, Joe remained until he received the and then returned. Both Joe and Hig of assassination, as their lives ly been threatened, and a governor for a guard, but their request Accordingly they started for Carthage der themselves. When about four met Capt. Dunn, with an order for the possession of the Saints, and faced turned with him to the city, this juncture that Dr. Rich the city. He says: "I in the west, and reached Nauvoo, Jun friends, went to the Nauvoo house, k Smith. As I entered the hall I saw dressed individual seated on a trunk end of the hall, quietly smoking a pointed out to me as Joseph Smith. I feet tall, of heavy build, with broad hair and complexion, light blue eyes, treating forehead, large brain, and sho the first time I had ever seen him, and was a mingled one. He was easy in hearing. Presently he mounted a bes horse, and with his brother rode up Main street to Masonic the state arms were delivered up. Hy even taller than the prophet, slim build and blue eyes, and impressed me as well-disposed man. He was talking w said he knew they were in danger, be the hands of a just God and He would right. He seemed deeply impressed w their position, and declared his belief t of the movement fully intended to des The prophet was quietly talking while being thrown into the wagon. He to that 'his boys would do nothing wro good boys,' and as he turned his horse age he waived his hand to his friends t are good boys; farewell, if I never see It was midnight when the Smiths re and

SURRENDERED TO THE AUTHO A thousand men had responded to troops, and were encamped in the v court-house. Mr. Woods, Smith's cou preceded him to Carthage, endeavor Gov. Ford with the danger of the prison assured and reassured that they would On the morning after their arrival the p at the hotel was so great, so anxious w to see the Smiths, that Gov. Ford and conducted them before the McDonough and introduced them as the Gen's. Carthage Grays took umbrage at this, i disrespectful to themselves, and expre approbation by hissing Gen. Deming, f fense he immediately ordered them to arms. They refused to obey, and at th captain fixed bayonets bridges. The governo asked if the



ASSASSINATION OF JOSEPH SMITH.

Chicago Times.

NOVEMBER 20, 1875

THE DEATH OF SMITH reached Nauvoo on the morning after the assassination, and fell with terrible effect upon the entire community. The prophet of God had been slain by the ungodly. Thier feelings were akin to those of the early apostles when they learned that Jesus had been crucified. While preparations were being made to receive the bodies, Dr. Richmond [B.W.] repaired to the tavern of the prophet to witness the scene with his family. His own words will best describe the heartrending details. He says: "When I entered the mansion I found the wife of Joseph seated in a chair in the centre of a small room, weeping and wailing bitterly, in loud and unrestrained voice, her face covered with her hands. Rev. Mr. Green [Henry?] came in, and as the bitter cries of the weeping women reached his ears, he burst forth in tones of manly grief, and, trembling in every nerve, approached Mrs Smith [Emma] and exclaimed: 'Oh, Sister Emma, God bless you' Then clasping her head in his hands, he uttered a long and fervent prayer for her peace, protection, and resignation. The first words the poor woman uttered were: 'Why, oh God, am I thus afflicted? Why am I a widow and my children orphans? Thou knowest I have always trusted in Thy law.' Mr. Green rejoined to her that this affliction would be to her a crown of life. She answered quickly:

MY HUSBAND WAS MY CROWN: for him and my children I have suffered the loss of all things, and why, Oh God, am I thus deserted, and my bosom torn with this ten-fold anguish!' I passed into the next room, and the aged mother of Joseph and Hyrum came up to me, with a gaze of wild despair, and clasping me with both hands she asked me why they had shot her dear children. Her eyes were dry, and her anguish seemed too deep for tears. She paced the room, turned around, went to the window and then to the door of the room where Joseph's wife was still weeping, and Mr. Green still praying. "In another room the children of Joseph were all huddled together, the eldest, an adopted daughter, I think being about 18. Two boys were lying on the floor, and the other two were kneeling over them, mingling their grief in one wild scream of childish despair. "At the house of Hyrum, a little way off, the scene was not less heart-rending. His wife had gathered her family of four children into the sitting-room, and the youngest, about four years old, sat on her lap. The poor and disabled that fed at the table of her husband had come in and formed a group of about twenty around the room. They were sobbing and weeping, each expressing his grief in his own peculiar way. Mrs. Smith seemed stupefied with horror at the deed. "While these scenes were being enacted in the city the bodies were on the way from Carthage. To preserve peace and prepare the citizens to endure the ordeal with resignation, a general assembly was called at 10 o'clock, A.M., which was addressed by W.W. Phelps, and by Col. Buckmaster, of Alton, aide-de-camp to Gov. Ford

NO ONE THOUGHT OF REVENGE: all seemed overpowered with grief. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon the bodies arrived, in charge of the marshal, Samuel H. Smith, the only surviving brother of the murdered men, and followed by Dr. Richards, [Willard, secretary to Joseph Smith, was in the jail with the Smiths the night of the assassination] and Mr. Hamilton, of Carthage. They were received, near the temple grounds, by Gen. Joseph Smith's staff, the major general and staff, the brigadier general and staff, and other commanders of the [Nauvoo] legion, the city council, and a vast concourse of citizens. The officials formed around the bodies, the masses silently opening to give them way, and as the mournful procession moved on the women broke out in lamentations at the sight of the two rude boxes in the wagon, covered by the Indian blanket. The weeping was communicated to the crowd and spread along the vast waves of humanity extending from the temple to the residence of the prophet. The groans and sobs, and shrieks grew deeper and louder, till the sound resembled the roar of a mighty tempest, or the slow, deep roar of the distant tornado. When the bodies arrived at the mansion of Mrs. Emma Smith the people, numbering eight or ten thousand, mostly Mormons, and in close sympathy with the deceased, pressed about the house, and the loud wails of the mourners outside, and of the family within, were truly terrible. Means to divert the multitude were finally in requisition, to aid in making way for the removal of the bodies

into the house, Judge Phelps, Dr. Richards, and, Messrs Woods and Reed [John Reid-Joseph's lawyer - no convert] - the two latter having been the Smith's counsel, - moved to different places and began addressing them. Mr. Woods, who was from Fort Madison, and a lawyer of high standing, was very severe in his condemnation of the whole affair, and censured Gov. Ford in particular for the careless and guilty part he had acted in not protecting the prisoners. The bodies were carried into the dining-room, and about a dozen resolute men who could stand the scent of blood were selected to lay them out. This occupied an hour or more, and they were then ranged under the west windows of the room, and their families were brought in to take a first look of the dead husbands, children, and fathers. As the door opened the prophet's [Emma] wife entered, with two attendants. She advanced a few steps toward the body of Hyrum, swooned, and fell to the floor. Her friends raised her up and gave her water, but she fainted again, and was carried out insensible.

SIX TIMES SHE ATTEMPTED TO SEE THE BODIES, and six times she was removed in the arms of her two attendants. Hyrum's wife next entered the room with her four children, supported by no one, she having resolved to brave the scene with her poor orphans. She trembled at every step, and nearly fell, but reached her husband's body. Kneeling down by him, clasped her arms around his head, turned his pale face upon her heaving bosom, and then a gushing, plaintive wail burst from her lips: 'O! Hyrum, Hyrum! Have they shot you, my dear Hyrum. Are you dead? O! speak to me my dear husband. I cannot think you are dead, my dear Hyrum!' She drew him closer and closer to her bosom, kissed his pale lips and face, put her hand on his brow and brushed back his hair. Her grief seemed to consume her, and she lost all power of utterance. Her two daughters, and the two youngest children, clung, some around her neck and some to the body, falling prostrate upon the corpse and shrieking, in the wildness of their wordless grief. In about ten minutes Mrs. Emma Smith, wife of the prophet, came again into the room, between two attendants, in a half-swooning state. She came toward the body of Hyrum, and knowing that the sensation of feeling a cold, dead body exerts a calming effect on the human nerves, I took her hand and laid it on Hyrum's brow, and in a moment her strength returned. She murmured something in a low tone that I did not hear, her eyes opened, and she said to her friends, 'Now I can see him; I am strong now.' She walked alone to her husband's bed, knelt down, clasped him around his face, and sank upon his body. Suddenly her grief found vent, and sighs and groans and words and lamentations filled the room. 'Joseph, Joseph,' said she, 'are you dead? Have the assassins shot you?' Her children, four in number, gathered around their weeping mother, and the dead body of a murdered father, and grief that words cannot embody seemed to overwhelm the whole group. She continued to speak in low tones, but none of the words were audible save those which I have recorded.

WHILE THE TWO WIVES WERE BEWAILING their loss, and prostrate on the floor with their eight children, I noticed a lady standing at the head of Joseph Smith's body, her face covered, and her whole frame convulsed with weeping. She was the widow of William Morgan, of Masonic memory, and twenty years before had stood over the body of her husband, found at the mouth of Oak Orchard creek, on Lake Ontario. She was now the wife of a Mr. Harris [George W., The lady was Lucinda Pendleton Morgan Harris.], whom she married in Batavia, and who was a saint in the Mormon church, and a high Mason. She is a short person, with light hair and very bright blue eyes, and a pleasing countenance. I had called on her a few days previous to this occasion, and while conversing with her, put my hand on a gilt-edged volume lying on the stand. It was 'Stearns on Masonry,' and contained the likeness of William Morgan. She said she had taken it out, and thought if the mob did come, and she was obliged to flee, or jump into the Mississippi, she would take it with her."

THE MULTITUDE DISPERSED about dark, and the next day was set apart for the people to come and see the bodies of the two brothers. They commenced assembling at an early hour, and the city, the river, and the surrounding country swarmed with men and women during the whole day. The scene around the bodies of the dead men was too horrible to witness. Hyrum was shot in the brain, and bled none, but by noon his body was so swollen - the neck and face forming one bloated mass - that no one could recognize it. Joseph's blood continued to pour out of his wounds, which had been

filled with cotton ; the muscles relaxed and the gory fluid trickled down on the floor and formed in puddles across the room. Tar, vinegar, and sugar were kept burning on the stove to enable persons to stay in the apartment. In order to see the bodies, thousands passed in at one door and out at another, tracking their feet in the prophet's blood. The fumes of the tar and the stench of death were terrible, and still from morning till night they came and went, and in the house for the livelong day the lament of sorrow was heard. The day was clear; the sun stole down on the western sky and set in a cloudless field of blue, glancing his rays on the thronging mass of nearly 20,000 persons, that now began to move off in every direction. The rooms were then cleared and the bodies put in coffins and concealed in a small closet opening from the dining hall. Two bags of sand had been prepared, and also two rough, outside coffins into which the others were apparently to be put, but instead of that, these outside boxes received the bags of sand and were sealed up. W.W. Phelps had called the populace away to read to them the sixth chapter of Revelations. The prophet, on the day before his death while in jail at Carthage, had sent word to his followers to read that chapter, for it was about to be fulfilled. From this, and many other acts in the man's life, it appears that he regarded himself as the appointed instrument, in God's hand, to represent some new and singular event in the history of men. The multitude, after the reading, returned to the residence of Joseph Smith, and received -

WHAT THEY SUPPOSED TO BE THE BODIES OF THE TWO MEN, but in reality the two bags of sand. The families of the Smiths had resolved on burying the bodies secretly, and concealing the fact from all persons but twelve chosen friends and the families of the murdered men. The coffins containing the bodies remained secreted in the small closet, while the boxes and bags of sand were carried in solemn procession to the city cemetery, followed by a vast concourse who chanted and wept around the graves of the leaders whom they really supposed they were burying. When the Mormons began to rear their gorgeous temple, two tombs of hewn stone were built on the west side of the edifice, one for Joseph Smith and the other for Sidney Rigdon. These vaults were both completed, but the friends dared not trust the bodies there for fear they would be violently removed by enemies. The task of conducting

THE ACTUAL BURIAL was confided to William Marks [friend and president of the High Council and bitterly opposed to polygamy]. "I was at the time," says the doctor, "staying with this man as a guest and close friend, and became possessed of the facts now stated through him. I made an earnest appeal, through him, to be permitted to aid in carrying the bodies, at midnight, to their final resting place, but as I was a total stranger to all but him they refused, on the ground that it would be a breach of the regulations, to which they had agreed to adhere." Two graves had been secretly prepared for their reception, and midnight was the appointed hour to remove the bodies. At 12 o'clock precisely the bodies were brought from the closet into the dining-room. The orders were about to be given, when the labors of all were arrested by a clap of thunder that shook the very heavens and made the earth quake and tremble. The placid face of the Mississippi was covered for a time with ripples, as though a light, sighing night-wind had passed over the stream, breathing out a last requiem to the souls of the departed. The day had been intensely hot; the sun set in glowing splendor down behind the broad prairie; the night was calm and warm; the stars glimmered in the blue dome of heaven, and no signs of a storm appeared. At about 10 o'clock a cloud, black and jagged, rose on the western horizon, rode slowly up the vault of night, alone and unconnected with any other cloud, till it hung directly in mid air over the City of the Saints. Precisely at 12 o'clock, while the men were removing the bodies from the closet, and had the coffins in their hands,

THIS CRUSHING FRIGHTFUL PEAL broke in the zenith, fearful enough to stir the dead in their shrouds. The bodies were deposited on the floor in singular haste. The company became pale with terror, appalled by the strange fear which death,

darkness ,and thunder create.A candle glimmered on the table,and revealed the faces of these sorrow and terror-stricken men to each other.Popular superstition has always connected the movements in nature with the death of singular and great men,and the doctor confesses that this strange feeling came over him strongly at the time.He was standing in the open street,watching for the procession to pass out by a back way.Two lighter peals quickly followed the grand explosion,the cloud retired toward the horizon,and in an hour no signs of it were to be seen. It was half an hour before the friends could rally courage enough to remove the bodies.They were alone with the dead,with enemies all around them,and nature seemed in commotion,hoarsely muttering among the clouds of heaven. During this parley they resolved on a new place of deposit for the bodies.The reasons for this were thus given by Mr.Marks: He had been for ten years very intimately acquainted with the prophet,and regarded him as a most singular and eccentric man.Smith fully believed that he was to found a church that would live forever,and at times showed strange freaks of personal behavior.During the spring Marks and Joseph had been spending the day in a secluded part of the city grounds,and had visited a singular cave which they had discovered and explored.When they emerged,they sat down on some stones near the mouth.Smith dropped his head and seemed lost in reverie for a time.At length both rose and walked in silence for a short distance,when Smith suddenly turned around and threw his cane at the mouth of the cave,at the same time asking Marks if he knew what the cave was intended for.Marks replied that he did not,and Smith rejoined:"I do,and you will also.It is connected with my history."They then walked on,and the incident had passed from memory till the occurrence of the thunder-clap,when Marks said he resolved at once to hide the bodies in that cave.These facts were made known to the company and that cave did become a part of the prophet's history,as the bodies were carried thither through the shades of night and deposited.

IT WAS ON THE NIGHT of June 29 that the sepulture was made,and on July 1,Phelps, Richard,and Taylor issued the following remarkable circular to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints:

The above extract is from an article,published by the Chicago Times,on the life and death of Joseph Smith,the Mormon Prophet,who established the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.It describes the arrival of the bodies,following the assassination and the secret burial in detail.Although William Marks was a creditable person,there is no documentation to confirm his statement,that the bodies were buried in a cave.Fawn Brodie's NO MAN KNOWS MY HISTORY,states "...ten men buried the corpses at midnight in the basement of the Nauvoo House" and then,"Months later,at Emma's request ,the bodies were exhumed and reburied under the summer cottage,where,despite all legend to the contrary,they remain to this day" - [1945].Mark's statement that Joseph Smith fully believed,that he was to found a church,that would live forever,is more than prophetic,today it is a fact that the Mormon Church is the fastest growing church in the United States - 2002!

The CHICAGO TIMES article ends with the following comment: " JOSEPH SMITH'S CAREER was measured by sixteen years,and yet he had organized a powerful church,built cities and temples and carried on war,been a presidential candidate and at his death was an extensive merchant,a hotel keeper,had nearly 1,000 acres of land under cultivation,was major general of the [Nauvoo] legion,mayor of Nauvoo,first president of the church,prophet of the Lord,and preacher to the saints.A FANATIC MIGHT HAVE DONE ALL THESE THINGS,BUT A FOOL NEVER COULD HAVE COMPASSED ONE OF THEM"

Chicago

Times.

SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 7, 1875—TRIPLE SHEET.

THE GOLDEN TABLES

On Which Were Inscribed the Records of the Tribe of Nephi.

Written in "Improved Egyptian" and Translated by Joseph Smith.

How He Came to Find Them and the Mighty Goggles by Which They Were Translated.

And How He Was Pitched Down Hill for Daring to Think He Had Struck a Bonanza.

An Interview with David Whitmer, Who Helped to Make the Translation.

And Who Now Holds the Original Manuscripts of the Book of Mormon.

Gen. Doniphan Relates Some Reminiscences of the Prophet's Career in Missouri.

Showing How He Was One Delivered Out of the Hands of His Enemies

by the Aid of Faithful Friends.

but seem to have been removed by the custodian angel. The method pursued was commonplace but nevertheless effective. Having placed the Urim and Thummim in his hat, Joseph placed the hat over his face, and with prophetic eyes read the invisible symbols syllable and word by word, while Cowdery or Harris acted as recorders. "So illiterate was Joseph at that time," said Mr. Whitmer, "that he didn't even know that Jerusalem was a walled city, and he was utterly unable to pronounce many of the names which the magic power of the Urim and Thummim revealed, and therefore spelled them out in syllables, and the more erudite scribe put them together. The stone was the same used by the Jaredites at Babel. I have frequently placed it to my eyes but could see nothing through it. I have seen Joseph, however, place it to his eyes and instantly read signs 150 miles distant and tell exactly what was transpiring there. When I went to Harmony after him he told me the name of every horse at which I had stopped on the road, read the signs, and described various scenes without having ever received any information from me." The unbelievers frequently attempted to confound the faithful few by asking them if they supposed

"THAT FOOL BOY"

could write anything, or that God would select such a wretch as a medium of communicating His will. The ready answer was that God was not very particular as to the instruments used to accomplish certain desired ends, and that devils as well as angels had their places in His economy. In 1820 the Book of Mormon was first published and on the 6th of April of that year the Church of Christ was organized at Manchester. Before attending farther to the progress of the church it may be well to inquire what this famous Book of Mormon is or tends to be. It is composed of ten books or sections, the books of Nephi, the Book of Mosiah, the Book of Helaman, the books of Alma, Jacob, Jarom, Omni, Moshiah, Alma, Helam, the Book of Ether, the Words of Mormon, and the Book of Moroni, the son of Mormon. According to this record 800 years before Christ a Jewish family left Jerusalem warned by God that

DESTRUCTION AND CAPTIVITY WERE AT HAND, and traveled toward the sea. There the patriarch died and Nephi, his son, succeeded to the patriarchal authority and priesthood. By direction of the Lord he built a boat and eventually landed in Central America. His followers increased rapidly and at length a schism arose and Laman and his followers refused to obey Nephi and were cut off, cursed and condemned, to be a brutish and savage people having dark skins, compelled to dig in the ground for roots and hunt their meat in forests like beasts of prey. It was foretold that in time a remnant should have the curse removed, and become "a fair and delightsome people," who should blossom as the rose. These, known as the Lamanites, were the Indians. Meanwhile the Nephtalites multiplied, spread over North and South America, and built the great cities the ruins of which have astonished the world of to-day. They had numerous kings and prophecies, with long names, and frequently went out to war against the Lamanites, and fought terrible battles. There were schisms amongst the Nephtalites, and many deserted and joined the Lamanites. After many bloody battles the Nephtalites were gradually driven east beyond the Mississippi, and on the shores of Lake Erie they made a stand, and fought till the whole land was covered with dead bodies. About A. D. 400 they made a final stand at the

term is commonly interpreted, but is a firm believer in the book, in the faith of Christ, and the fulfillment of the prophecies in due time. Some of them have ALREADY BEEN FULFILLED; for instance, that which declares that the saints shall be driven from city to city, and also the prediction that the twelve apostles shall lead them to the devil. In 1827 David and his brother John, then living in far west Missouri, were warned that they must make a confession of their apostasy or be killed, as the leaders of the church were conspiring against them. They determined to accept neither horn of the dilemma, and arranged for flight. At an appointed time John emerged from behind the back door of his house, gave the preconcerted signal by raising his hat, and hastily mounting horses in waiting they rode away. John, as clerk of the church, had his records, and Oliver Cowdery bore off the original translation, and eventually transferred it to the keeping of David. Since that memorable day both John and David Whitmer have kept aloof from the so-called Latter-Day Saints, although firm as ever in the faith as taught by the Book of Mormon. John is a man of fine education, and abundantly able to defend his faith from assaults from any quarter.

THE THEORY COMMONLY ACCEPTED BY SCYTHES of the origin of the Book of Mormon, differs materially from the account given by David Whitmer. They claim that it is a skillful perversion of a mass of manuscript written in 1812 by Reverend Solomon Spaulding, an invalid minister, which was called by him "Manuscript Found." At one time he had commenced negotiations for its publication by a Pittsborough firm, in whose employ was Sidney Rigdon, but it never found its way into print, and eventually the manuscript was lost. It is said that those who had read Spaulding's production recognized in the Book of Mormon all its essential features, and their theory is that Sidney Rigdon, the young printer, had stolen the Spaulding manuscript, and he and Joe Smith and Cowdery had concocted it judiciously and worked it up into a grand salvation scheme, covering its origin with an air of mystery. Certain it is that Rigdon was one of the earliest and ablest converts, and has done as much to propagate the faith as any follower of Joseph Smith.

The first hegem of the Mormons was from New York to Kirtland, O., where, in 1831 Joe Smith re- furnished for many to the effect that Missouri was received a revelation to the effect that Missouri was the land of Zion, and thither large numbers of the faithful emigrated. Here also they acquired large tracts of land and furnished for two years, but business sprang up between them and the Gentiles, which in 1833 culminated in open war when the Gentiles rose en masse and drove them northward across the Missouri river into Clay county. The causes for this uprising were numerous, but doubtless the principal one lay in the fact that the Mormons were coming from the free states, were supposed to be abolitionists. David Whitmer asserts that there is not a single instance on record of slave property having been interfered with by the Mormons, or of a slave having been admitted to the church without the consent of his or her owner. When the Mormons fled from Jackson county they left everything behind them, and found themselves destitute and among strangers. Among the citizens of Liberty, the county seat of Clay county, was a young lawyer named

A. W. DONIPHAN,

man that Smith wished to have nothing to do with. However, he managed to ignore McKimney altogether in his financial arrangements, and to accomplish his escape without his knowledge or consent. And, according to McKimney, for whose stability Gen. Doniphan and many leading citizens of Richmond vouch, this is the way the only prophet did it: They had hurried quietly along for two or three days, and reached the Mississippi. At night they went into camp as usual, the guards were placed in their watches, and in due time all slept save those who were on duty. McKimney was a clerk in the morning. Being exhausted by long marches and a night's guard duty, he slept soundly and awoke to see the brilliant rays of the sun streaming down into his face from an elevation above the horizon that could not have been attained in less than two hours. Sprung up and glancing hastily around, he found the sheriff and his brother guards quietly disposing of their breakfast, and chaffing pleasantly on minor topics. The prisoners were

NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.

He asked where they were, and was coolly informed that they had escaped during the night. The truth for the first time flashed upon him, and he prudently concluded to say no more about the matter until he was out of the clutches of his mercenary companions. Meanwhile the escaped prisoners proceeded to the Missouri, crossed into Illinois, whither they were soon followed by large numbers of disarmed fugitives who had practically lost faith in the revelation to Joe Smith, that declared Missouri to be the land of Zion, and began the brilliant era in this state which was marked by the founding and rapid rise of the temple city of Nauvoo, and culminated in the shooting of Joe Smith at Carthage, and the subsequent seeking of the city and expulsion of the saints. These events are of so recent date, and transpired in such immediate proximity that it is not worth while to allude to them further, or trace the pilgrims in their wearisome march from the Mississippi to the fastnesses of the Rocky mountains, where

THE GREAT CITY OF SALT LAKE

arose as if called from the sands of the desert by a stroke of the enchanter's wand, and for many years enjoyed such unbounded prosperity that it would seem to have been the especial pet of Providence. History holds these events, THE TRAILS has published the records as they were made, and THE TRAILS, unlike history, does not repeat itself.

HAD TO PAY SHERIFF MORGAN

and his three confederates to effect the escape of himself and his four companions. THE TRAILS is informed by seasonably good authority, that the exact amount was \$1,100, and his information was derived from Gen. Doniphan. Several months after Joe and his friends had placed the Mississippi between them and their Missouri persecutors, Gen. Doniphan was in Galatin on furlough, en route. There was also in the same town a sharp, energetic, and reliable man named Blyden A. Morrison, to whom had been delegated by the bishops of the church all powers of all property belonging to the Mormons, in which they had left behind them in their flight. In other words he was their financial agent, with almost unlimited power to act. One day Gen. Doniphan met Blyden on the street, and knowing that Blyden well invited him to accompany him to his room at the hotel. The invitation was accepted, and after some familiar conversation on various topics the