Sources of Mormon History in Illinois, 1839–48: An Annotated Catalog of the Microfilm Collection at Southern Illinois University

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Acquiring the Microfilms

Tucked away in a corner of the Lovejoy Memorial Library at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, Illinois, is a little-known collection about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The story behind this collection is as interesting as the collection itself.

In 1959, Stanley B. Kimball was hired by the university to teach East European History. A Mormon history buff, Kimball immediately took his family to visit historic Nauvoo and Carthage. As he contemplated the events that transpired during the LDS sojourn in Illinois, he imagined a repository holding hundreds of original documents pertaining to that era and place. He convinced the director of graduate studies that Southern Illinois University would be the perfect facility for this collection and that he, as a teacher at the school, should be the one to collect and compile the records.

Armed with a grant from the Graduate Studies Office, Kimball began to write letters to historical societies, libraries, and individuals asking what sources they had. He then asked if he would be allowed to get microfilmed copies of the records. The project began to snowball as letters poured in, not only giving the permission but also suggesting more documents in other locations. Only one repository refused his request, the Historical Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

One of the stipulations attached to the letters of request and granted to each owner of the document was that none of the microfilms would be copied and given to any other library or person. The films, however, are available by interlibrary loan and are still available to any researcher.
When the project was completed, Kimball had acquired many reels of microfilm. He then received another grant for indexing and cataloging the entire collection. Following that, Kimball asked for more money. He hired his best students and sent them to St. Louis, Missouri, where they combed through all the greater St. Louis newspapers for the years between 1839 and 1848. Hundreds of stories about Mormondom in Illinois, both favorable and defamatory, were copied and microfilmed.

Not only were the heads of the History Department extremely generous to fund a project in one field for a professor in a totally unrelated field (unheard of in university policies) but also Kimball discovered a very accommodating director of the library. This director allowed library funds to establish a room for housing the collection and paid for employees to catalog it as well.

The complete effort of writing letters and collecting, indexing, organizing, and cataloging the microfilm collection took many years, after which an impressive catalog was published in 1964. Several additions, about eight thousand pages, were added; and corrections were made to the catalog before the revised, enlarged, and final edition was printed in 1966. These pages contained “twenty-three new groups of letters and documents, newspapers and periodicals, and theses and dissertations.” Kimball indicates that he “personally searched in ten states, corresponded with dozens of persons who had specific knowledge of the
subject, and circularized more than 1,000 historical societies and libraries throughout the United States” in his dedicated pursuit. Since that time, he has never had anyone suggest a record he overlooked or a new story that has come to light. Kimball has happened upon a few documents himself. Undoubtedly, there are more records that have surfaced in the past thirty-two years since he completed this project. He welcomes new information from any source.

The 1966 collection is found on 105 reels of microfilm and in twenty-eight manila folders, comprising about eighty-four thousand pages of material. According to the preface to the second edition, the reels contain primary source material, “contemporary newspapers and periodicals as well as letters, diaries, and journals.” Little effort was made to acquire copies of published documents. The preface further states, “The purpose of building the collection was to do what had never been done before, i.e., to bring together microfilm copies of as many primary sources regarding the early history of the Mormons in Illinois as possible, and enable qualified students to understand and present better this important phase of Mormons and Illinois history.”

The Catalog

Stanley Kimball authored the annotated catalog on his microfilm collection. He began by telling a short history of the LDS Church and then advised interested researchers to study standard LDS Church literature, such as the seven-volume History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or histories on Nauvoo, Illinois, for background material on the records in the library.

The catalog is divided into four sections: Letters and Documents, Newspapers and Periodicals, Theses and Dissertations, and Indexes. It is arranged alphabetically by collection, not by subject. Every item is cataloged in the same order in which it appears on the roll of microfilm. Each side of paper is counted as a page, regardless of how large or small the amount of material on that page. Most of the collection is made up of positive microfilm copies of documents. If there is a different form, it is noted in the index.

Each letter listed consists of the “full name of the author (in some cases the recipient), the addressee, provenance, date, subject, and length. Documents and other sources are treated similarly.” Some collections are cataloged more completely than others, depending upon the importance placed by the author on the subject. Throughout the catalog, two abbreviations are used: MFR for microfilm roll and F for manila folder.

With this information in mind, the reader is invited to sit back and begin a fascinating journey through a condensed compilation of Stan Kimball’s 1966 catalog on sources of Mormon history in Illinois, 1839–48. (The complete register numbers 104 pages. They have been condensed in this paper.) For more detailed information on the holdings in this collection, researchers would do well to search through the original catalog.
PART I—LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS

“This part of the collection consists of microfilm and other photographic copies of over 6500 pages of about 1000 letters and documents from forty-two institutes and private collections throughout the United States. The order of the information about the letters and documents is the name of the institution having the original, the collection from which it comes, the author, addressee, provenance, date, subject, and length.”

1. Chicago Historical Society, MFR 1, 2, and F 12

Mason Brayman Papers: 34 documents and letters, 1845. 43 pp. Mason Brayman was a Springfield lawyer who was appointed attorney for the state by Governor Thomas Ford to write the terms for the peaceful removal of the Mormons from Nauvoo and also to negotiate with them to accomplish this purpose.

Among this collection are affidavits from 1845 by Lyman Stevens, Samuel S. Thornton, David A. Curtis, Marcelus McKeown, George E. Thing, and Ozias Strong stating their lives had been threatened by armed men. There are 1845 complaints of arson from Lance Durfee, Thomas Durfee, George W. Durfee, Alonzo E. Shaw, Hannah York, and John H. Tuttle. Twenty-three individuals were summoned to appear as grand jurors at Circuit Court in Carthage. There is a notice about the carrying of deadly weapons. Several letters and notices concern the trial of J. B. Backenstos. Another letter, by Orson Hyde, contains information about the killing of Edmund Durfee. There are also minutes of an anti-Mormon meeting in Carthage on 18 November, signed by John W. Marsh, J. H. Sherman, O. C. Skinner, Elam S. Freeman, and Thomas L. Barnes.

John J. Hardin Papers: 41 documents and letters, 1844–45. 149 pp. John J. Hardin was a lawyer, appointed by Governor Thomas Ford in September 1844 as Brigadier General of a detachment of Illinois Volunteers to keep order in Hancock County after the assassination of Joseph Smith. He was asked to protect the Mormons from further mob violence.

Among his papers are several letters regarding the trial of J. B. Backenstos; a roster of a “Company of New Citizens formed by David B. Smith for the Protection of Nauvoo”; an unsigned, anti-Mormon typescript telling the connection between Hardin and the Mormons; and a report of a meeting in Carthage respecting the county officers friendly to Mormons. There are letters from Brigham Young explaining the Mormon preparations to leave Nauvoo and requesting Hardin to be present at an anti-Mormon meeting to be held in Carthage. Likewise, there are letters from Hardin and others to the First Presidency regarding the Mormon preparations to leave Nauvoo, plus letters from Hardin to anti-Mormon citizens of Hancock and surrounding counties telling of the Mormon pledge to leave Illinois.

Mormon Collection: 160 documents and letters (95 on Nauvoo period), 1832–97. 487 pp. (268 pp. on the Nauvoo period). Items include a letter from
Joseph Smith to Emma, Chester County, Pennsylvania, in 1840 while en route to Washington, D.C.; Joseph Smith’s patriarchal blessing on Robert Foster; a statement of expenses in the arrest and trial of Joseph Smith in 1841; and Joseph Smith’s appointment of Franklin Bartlett as his attorney in 1843. There are letters from F. M. Higbee to Thomas Gregg about plans for the Nauvoo Expositor; from James Gregg to Thomas Gregg giving an account of the murder of Joseph Smith; from Samuel Otho Williams to John Prickett regarding the destruction of the printing press, the capture and murder of Joseph and Hyrum; and a statement by Levi Williams and T. C. Sharp stating their innocence in the murders. There is a letter from Thomas Brockman chronicling his attack on Nauvoo and a letter from a friend congratulating him on his efforts.

There are muster rolls of the 59th Illinois Militia, 1844; the constitution of the Warsaw Cadets; much correspondence and documents about the Mormon War; and the treaty for the evacuation of Nauvoo. Other letters concern James Strang, counterfeiting charges against Brigham Young, and a letter from Brigham Young to Governor James Fenner on 25 April 1845 asking for asylum for the Mormons in Rhode Island.

Miscellaneous Mormon Manuscripts: 47 documents and letters (36 on the Nauvoo period), 1836–53. 659 pp. (335 pp. on the Nauvoo period). “Chronology from Hancock Papers and Other Sources” of events in Hancock County, 1837–45. The compiler, date, place, and purpose of this chronology are unknown.

Included in this section is a journal account by John Munn, dated 1849 from St. Louis, of passing by Nauvoo in a boat. There is also a letter-book copy of a letter from John Kirk in 1853 describing temple ordinances and Mormon “Spiritual Marriages” as described to him by a “gentleman at Burlington, Iowa.”

Thirty-Three Mormon Broadsides: 1839–48. 33 pp. Some examples from this section are about a public meeting in Quincy for relief of the Latter-day Saints who had “lately been driven from Missouri,” 1839, and the bank roll of the Nauvoo Legion.

Quincy Herald—Extra: “Joe and Hiran [sic] Are Dead,” 1844, and a statement by Brigham Young about the evacuation of Nauvoo, 1845.

Hancock Eagle—Extra: “Proclamation to the Citizens of Hancock Co.” John C. Bidamon, Special Constable, calling for assistance in issuing warrants, Nauvoo, 1846; “Minutes of a Conference held for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at Cincinnati, Ohio,” by William Smith, 1848; “To the Public,” the citizens of Adams, Hancock, Warren, and Brown counties complain that Mormons in Nauvoo defy the law, 1845; “To the Public,” Captain James W. Singleton, commander of the forces at Camp Prairie, details his role in the removal of Mormons from Nauvoo, 1846.


Although this ledger is not about the Nauvoo period, it was included in the collection because of its content and interest.

**Docket Book of Civil and Criminal Cases Tried in Nauvoo, Illinois: 1841–45.** 260 pp. The Docket Book covers the years June 1841 to March 1845 and consists of cases brought before Ebenezer Robinson and Aaron Johnson, Nauvoo Justice of Peace. Most are suits for debts.

**G. G. Worthing Letter:** 1847. 4 pp. This letter refers to property of the departed Mormons being for sale and mentions the Medical Faculty at Nauvoo.

**John J. Hardin Letters:** 5 letters, 1842–44. 9 pp. The letters comment on political conditions in Nauvoo; the Mormon vote as a factor in redistricting the state, 1842; claims that Mormons were in favor of tariff, bank, distribution of proceeds of the sales of public domain, so the writer was in favor of Mr. Clay, 1844; Joseph Smith may tell the Mormons to vote for Clay, 1844; one writer mentions the misfortune of belonging to Mormon Congressional District, 1844.


**Thomas Carlin Document:** 1 p. Governor Carlin’s commission to Robert D. Foster, surgeon-in-chief of the Nauvoo Legion, 1841.

2. **University of Chicago Library, MFR 3**

**Nauvoo Account Book:** 1839. 243 pp. Although the cover is missing, information on the inside of the account book says it is a store credit-debt ledger for 1839. The entries cover traditional purchases such as cloth goods, food, hardware, whiskey, etc., often using barter as the system of exchange. Only circumstantial evidence points to the account book coming from Nauvoo with accounts of Hyrum Smith, Isaac Galland, Hiram Kimball, Alpheus Cutler, and Daniel H. Wells and other Nauvoo Mormons.

3. **William L. Clements Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan, MFR 4**

**Henry Halkett Notes:** 1844. 9 pp. Apparently, Henry Halkett accompanied Josiah Quincy to Nauvoo in May 1844. Halkett’s notes called “Joe Smith the Prophet” and discuss conversations with Joseph Smith and his mother, Lucy Mack Smith, plus a visit to the Nauvoo Temple.

4. **Clemson College, F 1**

**Joseph Smith Letter:** 1843. 2 pp. (photostatic copy). This letter was written to John C. Calhoun, Nauvoo, 4 November 1843, asking Calhoun’s “rule of action relative to us, as a people, should fortune favor your ascension to the Chief Magistracy.” Calhoun’s reply is printed in the *Documentary History of the Church*, 6:155–56.

5. **Columbia University Library, MFR 5** (see also Part VI, F 22)

**Almeron Wheat Notes:** 1845. 6 pp. (with typescript copy). Almeron Wheat was a Quincy lawyer who attended the 1845 Carthage trial of men accused of murdering Joseph and Hyrum Smith. Those indicted were Col. Levi Williams, Thomas C. Sharp, Mark Aldrich, Jacob C. Davis, William Grover, John Allen, William Voras, John Wills, and William Gallager.
6. Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts, F 2
   Two letters: 1843–44. 3 pp. (photostatic copies). Joseph Smith letter discussed persecution, 1843; the other letter was written about the autograph and murder of Joseph Smith.

7. Huntington Library, MFR 6, F 21 (see also Part VI)
   Mrs. C. Hart Letter: 1847. 2 pp. Written to her daughter, Mary E. Hart, Camp of Israel, 1847, describing her trip west through Ohio and Illinois.
   John E. Bennion Letters: 3 letters, 1843–44. 7 pp. (microfilm of photostatic copies). Written to relatives in England from Nauvoo. He described life in Nauvoo and tried to persuade those in England to join him.
   Richards Family Correspondence: 10 letters, 1836–47. 32 pp. Jennetta Richards, wife of Willard Richards, to Wealthy Richards, 1843, wrote of her conversion to the LDS Church and her life in Nauvoo. Two letters are written by Phinehas Richards to his wife, Wealthy, in Holliston, Massachusetts, describing the affairs in Missouri. Four letters are written by Franklin D. Richards to his parents, Phinehas and Wealthy, from Quincy, Illinois, 1839 and 1840. A letter from another son, George S. Richards, was written to Phinehas and Wealthy from Kirtland, 1838. Wealthy Richards wrote in January 1846 about the Mormons leaving for the West.
   List of Mormon Items in the Huntington Library: 6 pp. Typewritten index to diaries, memoirs, autobiographies, etc. in the library. Most of the 283 items are not concerned with the Mormons while they lived in Nauvoo but deal with their history after leaving Illinois.

8. Illinois State Archives, MFR 7
   There are 11 printed reports and hundreds of miscellaneous accounts and claims, 1844–49. 561 pp.
   Mormon War Records: 11 printed reports. 55 pp. The Fourteenth General Assembly Reports of 1844–45 include a Senate message of the Governor of Illinois about the problems in Hancock County, 1844; Senate Committee on the Judiciary report to repeal the Nauvoo Charter, 1844; House report on the Mormon War, 1845. There are also records from the Fifteenth and Sixteenth General Assemblies.
   Mormon War Records: 1844–47. 506 pp. These are miscellaneous reports, accounts, and claims against the state for supplies furnished during the war.

9. Illinois State Historical Library, MFR 8 and F 16
   This folder contains 72 pages of photostatic copies of 25 letters and documents, 1840–46.
   Joseph Smith Papers: 6 letters and documents, 1841–42. 16 pp. Includes letters about an assignment to dispose of Church property in Kirtland, Ohio; about purchase of land in Nauvoo and the difficulty of the Church in making payments; and a letter giving Ebenezer Robinson permission to use stereotype
plates and copyright for printing fifteen hundred copies of the Book of Mormon.

Brigham Young Note: 1843. 1 p. Written to Joseph Smith about a loan to Isaiah Maywaring.


Thomas Ford Letters: 2 letters, 1845. 4 pp. Both are written to J. B. Backenstos, warning him of his anti-Mormon enemies and discussing the removal of the Mormons from Nauvoo.

Sarah Gregg Letter: 1844. 3 pp. Letter to her husband, Thomas Gregg, Carthage, about men preparing for battle against that “bandit horde.”


James A. McDougall Letters: 5 letters, 1843–45. 13 pp. Written about several cases and trials in Illinois; no direct mention of Mormons.

James Sloan Letters: 2 letters, 1843–43. 6 pp. Letters to his cousin from Nauvoo about Mormon beliefs and genealogy; includes a warning against teachings of John C. Bennett.

Brigham Young Letter: 1843. 2 pp. Written to Daniel Webster from Nauvoo asking legal advice regarding repeal of Nauvoo Charter.

Udney H. Jacob Letter: 1840. 4 pp. Jacob claims in this letter to President Martin Van Buren that he had the power and authority to secure Van Buren’s reelection.

Notes on Address to the Jury: 1845. 12 pp. Taken from O. C. Skinner’s address to the jury in behalf of the accused murderers of Joseph Smith.

10. University of Illinois Library, F 3

Stephens Eames Letters: 1840–76. 20 pp. (photostatic copies, 4 pp. on the Mormons). Eames was a farmer from New England who had settled in Walnut Grove, Knox County, Illinois. One letter in 1840 states that over half of the people in that settlement were Mormons, “but they are generally good neighbors.”

11. Indiana University Libraries, F 4 (see also Part VI)

H. H. Bliss Letter: 1844. 4 pp. (photostatic copy). Concerns the events leading up to the murder of Joseph and Hyrum Smith.

12. Iowa Masonic Library, Cedar Rapids, MFR 9 and F 17

Joseph Smith’s Day-Book: 1842–44. 117 pp. This is the last day-book used by Joseph Smith in his Nauvoo Store before his death.

Miscellaneous Documents: 1839. 3 pp. (photostatic copies). 3 documents with a quotation of Joseph Smith and notes for money.

13. Kansas State Historical Society, MFR 10

George Rockwell Letters, Extracts: 1843–46. 17 pp. (typescript). Rockwell, an anti-Mormon in Warsaw, was accused of being with the mob who killed Joseph Smith. Eight letters written to his father talk about troubles with the Mormons.


15. Library of Congress, MFR 11

Inventory to Mormon Diaries: 25 pp. (typescript). The inventory gives the titles of 468 manuscripts; the compiler is unknown.


Albert Brown Papers: A letter from Mary Ivers about the Missouri persecution and a letter from Albert Brown about the assassination of Joseph Smith.

16. Minnesota Historical Society, F 6


Benjamin Gilman Letter: 1857. 4 pp. Tells of trip up the Mississippi from St. Louis to St. Paul and of the beauty of the Nauvoo site.

Goddard Family Letters: 5 letters, 1839–47. 20 pp. Letters from members of the Goddard family about their relative, Stephen H. Goddard, and his ties to the LDS Church. “I expect Stephen adheres yet to Mormonism. Isabella, I am informed, died strong in the faith of Jo Smithism. She, I am told, charged Stephen just before she died to bring up the children in the church. How anyone can be so blind is astonishing to me.”

17. Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, MFR 13

Chauncy Durkee Letter: 1840. 4 pp. Letter to Gov. Lilburn W. Boggs from Durkee, a deputy sheriff of Lewis County, Missouri.


18. University of Missouri Library, F 7

Alfred L. Rockhold Letter: 1845. 4 pp. (photostatic copy). Letter tells of Mormon movement to the West. “The Mormons is as thick as hops about here
they have been drove from Narvoo [sic].”

19. National Archives, MFR 14, 15 and F 13 (see also Part VI, MFR 87 and F 25)

   Census of Hancock County, MFR 14: 1840. 136 pp.

   Documents from U.S. House of Representatives, MFR 15: 4 documents, 1840–45. 44 pp. Contains petitions for a mail route from Macom to Nauvoo, for a dam on the Mississippi, and for relief of Mormons driven from Missouri.

   Manifest of the Ship Britannia, F 13: 1840. 8 pp. (photographic negatives). This was the first company of Mormon converts from England, under John Moon.

20. Nauvoo Historical Society, F 8

   Rev. G. C. Beaman Letter: 1846. 4 pp. (photostatic copy). Letter comments on how the Mormons are honest, moral people who have been deceived.

21. Newberry Library, MFR 16

   George Weston Letters: 3 letters, 1843–44. 11 pp. Letters from non-Mormons tell of the destruction of the Nauvoo Expositor and give details on the assassination of Joseph Smith.

22. New York Public Library, MFR 17

   Charles Woodward Scrapbook: 1830–80. 440 pp. Scrapbook, filled mainly with news clippings, has some mention of Nauvoo. It also contains a letter from Joseph Smith to John E. Page requesting building materials for the Nauvoo Temple; Letter from Orson Hyde to John E. Page, Wilmington, Delaware, about Hyde’s work in Washington, D.C., on behalf of the Mormons; a letter from Sidney Rigdon, Friendship, Alleghany, New York to Charles L. Woodward, answering a request to relate his personal beliefs about the Church; and other letters.

23. University of Notre Dame Archives, F 9


   Stephen Mack Letters: 4 letters, 1845–46. 10 pp. Letters to his sisters discuss their mother’s desire to go west with the Mormons.

25. Stanford University Library, MFR 18, F 20

   Thomas L. Kane Papers: (See also Yale University Library Collection.) 66 documents and letters (37 on the Nauvoo period), 1844–86. Approximately 500 pp. (395 on the Nauvoo period).

26. University of South Carolina, F 11

   John C. Calhoun Jr., Letter: 1844. 6 pp. Letter to his brother tells about his visit to Joseph Smith in June 1844. He also comments on Nauvoo, saying “its site is said to be the most beautiful in the Western World.”

27. Utah Historical Society, MFR 19

   35 miscellaneous documents, 1839–47. 61 pp. (microfilm of photostatic
copies). These papers include land-purchase bonds, promissory notes, money receipts, inventory of Church property as of 17 March 1847, and a letter from the Nauvoo Legion officers to Joseph Smith.

28. State Historical Society of Wisconsin, MFR 20 (see also Part VI, MFR 88)
   The original is owned by Wingfield Watson, Burlington, Wisconsin, and is the only official record in existence of the Strangite Church. It has only isolated references to Nauvoo.


29. Yale University Library, MFR 21
   James J. Monroe Diary: 1841–45. 52 pp. A school teacher in Nauvoo, he lists six pages of his students’ attendance and also discussed his personal life and interest in phrenology.

   William Law Day-Book: 1841–42. 299 pp. This item shows accounts with almost all the prominent citizens of Nauvoo.

   Leonard Pickel Letters: 8 letters 1841–44. 30 pp. (with typescript copies). A description from this file reads, “In homespun style he documents the lives of the humble converts who made possible the resounding reputations of the Smith’s, Rigdons, and Youngs. The letters exhibit the ideas and emotions which worked upon the converts, the concrete difficulties they met with in tearing themselves up by the roots in their home neighborhoods and setting down new roots at Nauvoo. They also afford an abundance of detail concerning the economics and social history of the whole folk movement.”

   Oliver H. Olney Papers: 46 letters and documents, 1842–43. 457 pp. (type-written foreword and calendar of the documents by Dale L. Morgan). Contents include his claim to receive revelation and his plan to establish his own church, criticism of Nauvoo authorities, early plans of Joseph Smith to move to the West, the John C. Bennett scandal, and the early days of polygamy.

   Wesley William Letter: Describes trouble between Nauvoo Mormons and non-Mormons and states that after the general exodus from Nauvoo, about a thousand Mormons stayed behind to “keep up excitement and alarm.”

   Thomas L. Kane Papers: 47 letters and documents (2 on the Nauvoo period), 1846–83. 142 pp. (6 on the Nauvoo period). (See also Stanford University Library Collection.) The two papers about the Nauvoo period concern his report on the “Half Breed Tract” and his “Account of the Inhuman Behaviour of the Anti-Mormons in Illinois in 1846.”

30. Private Collections, MFR 22, 85 and F 14, 15
Ford Family Correspondence, F 14: 9 letters, 1837–55. 23 pp. (manuscript copies). Letters talk about journey from Kirtland, Ohio, to Missouri; the expulsion from Missouri; life in Commerce; as well as personal material.

Thomas L. Barnes Letters, MFR 85: 2 letters, 1897. 46 pp. (typescript copy of first letter). Barnes was a doctor in Carthage at the time of the assassination of Joseph Smith. He attended to John Taylor at that time. He also affiliated with the anti-Mormon group.


Material on the James Emmett Group, F 15: Fifteen pages of typescript taken from the Journal History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints cover Emmett’s group as they traveled from Nauvoo to Iowa.

31. Miscellaneous Materials, F 18
Interesting material that could not be placed elsewhere.

PART II—NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS
Southern Illinois University has, on microfilm, 26 almost complete newspapers and periodicals for the years 1839–48 and extensive selections from 180 other newspapers for the years 1826–57.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints founded more than fifty newspapers and periodicals during its first decade. Seven of these were published during the Nauvoo period. Nearly complete runs of these seven are at the University: The Gospel Reflector, Philadelphia; The Millennial Star, England; The Nauvoo Neighbor, Nauvoo; the New York Messenger, New York; The Prophet, New York; The Times and Seasons, Nauvoo; and The Wasp, Nauvoo. (See also Part VI, MFR 86, 93–97.)

1. The Frontier Guardian, Kanesville (Now Council Bluffs), Iowa, MFR 23
For over a year, this was the only LDS Church publication in the United States. Orson Hyde was the publisher and editor (microfilm copy from Yale University Library).

2. The Gospel Herald, Vorhee, Wisconsin
(See Vorhee Herald.)

Semi-official Mormon Church organ, published semimonthly by William Winchester from 1 January 1841 through 15 June 1841. (microfilm copy from New York Public Library)

4. Hancock Eagle, Nauvoo, Illinois, MFR12, 26 (see also Part VI MFR 97)
Weekly non-Mormon paper, published by William E. Matlack in Nauvoo, 1846–? It was succeeded 2 December 1846 by the Nauvoo New Citizen. Issues from 3 April through 28 August 1846 are in the library (microfilm copy from New York Public Library).
5. **Hancock Patriot**, Nauvoo, Illinois, MFR 26

   First known as the Sangamon Journal, begun 10 November 1831 and published in Springfield. It then became Sangamo Journal on 19 January 1832, then Illinois Journal on 9 September 1847, finally the Illinois State Journal on 13 August 1855 (microfilm from Illinois State Historical Library).

7. **Latter-day Saints Messenger and Advocate**, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, MFR 30
   Official organ for the The Church of Christ, led by Sidney Rigdon. The semimonthly paper was published 15 October 1844 through September 1846 by Rigdon. This is not to be confused with the paper of the same name published in Kirtland, Ohio, 1833–36 (microfilm copy from Yale University Library).

8. **Millennial Star**, England, MFR 31
   Official LDS Church organ, printed chiefly for British converts. Parley P. Pratt was first editor. Articles of interest to the Nauvoo period relate to English migration (microfilm copy from J. Harold Jacobson, Bountiful, Utah).

   Only volume of this anti-Mormon paper, published 7 June 1844, led to the arrest and assassination of Joseph Smith. Editor was William Law (microfilm copy from New York Public Library).

10. **Nauvoo Neighbor**, Nauvoo, Illinois, MFR 33, 34
    Official Mormon newspaper that succeeded the Nauvoo Wasp and was followed by the Hancock Eagle. Published by John Taylor and Joseph Smith semi-weekly from 3 May 1843 through 29 Oct 1845 (complete microfilm copy from LDS Church Historian’s Office).

11. **Nauvoo New Citizen**, Nauvoo, Illinois, MFR 35 (see also Part VI, MFR 97)

12. **New York Messenger**, New York City
    (See The Prophet.)

13. **The Olive Branch**, Kirtland, Ohio, MFR 37
    Official organ of the “Brewsterite” Church, which was organized by Hazen Aldrich and James C. Brewster after Joseph Smith’s death. Published monthly, 1848–52, by A. Cowles (microfilm copy of Vol. I, Nos. 1–12, August 1848 through June 1849, by Universal Microfilm Corp., Salt Lake City, Utah).

14. **The Prophet**, New York City and Boston, Massachusetts, MFR 36, 38
    William Smith and Parley P. Pratt, editors of this semiofficial organ of the Church. Published weekly from 18 May 1844 through 15 December 1845. (microfilm copy of complete set from New York Public Library, and some individual copies from Harvard University Library)

15. **The Prophetic Almanac**, New York City, MFR 39
An almanac with articles and statements by Joseph Smith, Parley P. Pratt, and Orson Pratt, who was the editor. Published irregularly during 1845–65 (microfilm copy of No. 1, 1845, from Yale University Library).

Published weekly from 1841 through 1847 and then was succeeded by the Illinois Journal (microfilm copy for 5 January 1841 through 2 September 1847 from Illinois State Historical Society).

17. The Times and Seasons, Nauvoo, Illinois, MFR 40
Official Church organ with editors Ebenezer Robinson, Joseph Smith, John Taylor, and Wilford Woodruff. Published monthly from November 1839 through November 1840 and then semimonthly until 15 February 1846 (complete microfilm copy from Universal Microfilming Corp., Salt Lake City, Utah).

18. The Vorhee Herald, Vorhee, Wisconsin, MFR 24, 41

Anti-Mormon paper, edited by T. C. Sharp. Published weekly 1840–1853 (microfilm copies of most issues from New York Public Library).

20. The Wasp, Nauvoo, Illinois MFR 33, 45
Semiofficial Mormon newspaper, edited by John Taylor and William Smith. Started 16 April 1842, succeeded by the Nauvoo Neighbor on 3 May 1843 (complete microfilm copy from LDS Historian’s Office, Salt Lake City, Utah).


22. The Western World, Warsaw, Illinois, MFR 47

23. Zion’s Reveille, Vorhee, Wisconsin
(See Vorhee Herald.)
Southern Illinois University has 193 selected microfilmed pages from the following newspapers, each containing stories of the Mormons in Illinois:

24. Daily Evening Gazette, St. Louis, Missouri
Published 1838–46; Southern Illinois University has 62 pp., 1839–44.

25. Daily Commerce Bulletin, St. Louis, Missouri
Published 1835–41; Southern Illinois University has 14 pp., 1840.

26. Western Atlas and Saturday Evening Gazette, St. Louis, Missouri
Published 1839–42; Southern Illinois University has 4 pp., 1841.

27. Missouri Reporter, St. Louis, Missouri
Published 1841–46; Southern Illinois University has 3 pp. 1846.
28. St. Louis Weekly Reveille, St. Louis, Missouri
   Published 1844–50; Southern Illinois University has 20 pp., 1844–47 (complete microfilm copy of this paper from the State Historical Society of Missouri is found on MFR 49).

29. Missouri Republican, St. Louis, Missouri
   Published weekly from 1822–1919; Southern Illinois University has 6 pp., 1847–48.
   Southern Illinois University has 497 selected microfilmed pages about the Mormons in Illinois courtesy of St. Louis Public Library (see MFR 50) from the following three newspapers:

30. St. Louis New Era, St. Louis, Missouri
   Published weekly, 1840–48; Southern Illinois University has 199 pp., 1841–45.

31. St. Louis Weekly American, St. Louis, Missouri
   Published 1845–47; Southern Illinois University has 120 pp., 1845–46.

32. People’s Organ, St. Louis, Missouri
   Published 1839–50; Southern Illinois University has 178 pp., 1842–45.

33. St. Louis Daily Union, St. Louis, Missouri, MFR 51–56
   Published 1846–67 (microfilm copy from 17 August 1846 through 6 April 1849, courtesy of Library of Congress).

34. St. Louis Democrat, St. Louis, Missouri, MFR 57, 58
   Published 1842–75 (microfilm copy from 2 May 1843 through 2 September 1844, courtesy of Kansas State Historical Society).

35. The Snider Collection of Excerpts from Fifty-seven Illinois and Iowa Newspapers, MFR 59–63
   This microfilmed collection, from Illinois State Historical Society, consists of five thousand 5 by 8 typed cards about the Mormons in Illinois. Many of the excerpts included have no relevant material. An index is found in MFR 64:

36. The Brigham Young University Collection of Excerpts from Nineteen Illinois and Iowa Newspapers, MFR 64

This typescript manuscript collection consists of 439 pages of excerpts and a 13-page index:


PART III—THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

A collection of microfilm copies of twenty-four unprinted manuscripts, one photocopy of a thesis, and one printed dissertation. The original register also includes the contents of each paper, the purpose of the study, and Kimball’s opinion respecting the manuscript.

1. Brigham Young University, MFR 65

Raymond T. Baily. “Emma Smith, Wife of the Prophet Joseph Smith.” M.S. thesis, Faculty of the Division of Religion, 1952, 190 pp. “This thesis is not very well written nor is the research as adequate as one would expect from such a
work produced in Utah.”

2. Brigham Young University, MFR 66

Don F. Colvin. “A Historical Survey of the Mormon Temple at Nauvoo, Illinois.” M.S. thesis, Department of History and Philosophy of Religion, 1962, 234 pp. “The purpose of this study is ‘to bring to light available data pertaining to the historical background of the site, construction, purposes, uses, and disposition of the Mormon Temple at Nauvoo.’ This thesis is well researched and written, and has an excellent bibliography.”

3. Brigham Young University, MFR 67

Calvin J. Teuscher. “A Study of the Causes of Conflict Between the Mormons and Non-Mormons in Missouri and Illinois.” M.S. thesis, Department of History, 1940, 117 pp. “The purpose of the study is to throw, if possible, new light upon opponents in Missouri and in Illinois during the years 1830–44. The author considered this the first time ‘that an attempt has been made to study all the causes’ for trouble between Mormons and non-Mormons. It is fairly well written and has a fair bibliography.

4. University of Chicago, F 19

Russell Brown Swensen. “The Influence of the New Testament Upon Latter-Day Saint Eschatology for 1830–46.” M.A. thesis, Department of the New testament, 1931, 174 pp. photocopy. “The purpose of the author was ‘to trace the development of [the Mormons’] eschatological conceptions and determine the influence exerted upon these by the New Testament.’ An attempt was further made ‘to reveal some of the factors in the environment of early Mormons that might have influenced its millennial conceptions and the resultant activity these inspired.’ Of the five chapters only chapter four treats the Nauvoo period. This chapter is well written and objective. The bibliography is noteworthy in that the author eschewed most of the deliberately anti-Mormon works.”

5. University of Colorado, MFR 68

Jo Ann Barnett Shipps. “The Mormons in Politics, 1839–44.” M.A. thesis, Department of History, 1962, 108 pp. “According to the author this study ‘is an attempt to discover how and why the Mormons developed political control over church members and how such a development affected the politics of Illinois from 1839 to 1844.’ Not very well done, only a short bibliographic note.”

6. Columbia University, MFR 69

Luella K. Jordan. “Joseph Smith.” M.A. thesis, Department of English and Comparative Literature, 1939, 3 acts, 162 pp. “This drama begins with his birth in 1805 in Vermont and ends with his assassination 1844 in Illinois. The drama is documented (if one may use this term in reference to such a creation). Seven pages of notes are provided showing the source for the dialogue and action of each act and scene. There is, furthermore, a good eight-page bibliography.”

7. Columbia University, MFR 69

Nauvoo Journal

ply presents some more of less interesting information regarding Mormon publications, seven of which were printed during the Nauvoo period.”

8. University of Florida, MFR 70

Warren Abner Jennings. “Zion is Fled: The Expulsion of the Mormons from Jackson Co., Mo.” Ph.D. dissertation, Department of History, 1962, 354 pp. “This work does not treat the Nauvoo period, but it does attempt to explain why the Mormons were driven from Missouri into Nauvoo.”

9. University of Illinois, MFR 71


10. University of Illinois, MFR 72

Theodore Earl Dickerson. “Conflicts Between the Mormons and Non-Mormons, Nauvoo, Illinois, 1839–46.” M.A. thesis, Department of History, 1951, 70 pp. “The author provides no formally stated thesis or purpose. His bibliography, which is composed primarily of anti-Mormon works, however, raises questions regarding the objectivity of the work.”

11. University of Indiana, MFSR 73

George R. Gaylor. “A Social, Economic, and Political Study of the Mormons in Western Illinois, 1839–46, A Re-evaluation.” Ph.D. dissertation, Department of History, 1955, 292 pp. “It is the author’s definite belief ‘that the American frontier, normally so tolerant in many respects, did not turn on the Mormons in several states without some provocation. Nor, on the other hand, was the Mormon population of the bad character that many critics have made it out to be.’ Gaylor’s work is ‘devoted to analyzing this problem of the nature of the Mormons, and to attempting to search out basic truths concerning it, so long misrepresented or entirely ignored.’ This dissertation is well researched and written, and has an excellent bibliography.”

12. State University of Iowa, MFR 74

James C. Bilderback. “Masonry and Mormonism, Nauvoo, Illinois: 1841–47.” M.A. thesis, Department of Education, 1937, 95 pp. “According to the author the purpose of this study ‘is to present an unprejudiced account of the activities of the Mormons in Masonry and to establish the definite and permanent effect these institutions had on the education, social, moral, and cultural life of the Mormons in Nauvoo.’ The author is a mason, but not a Mormon, was a resident of Nauvoo at the time of the writing, and had for years associated with members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The work reveals little if any prejudice. The Bibliography, however, is short and makes little use of ‘Utah Mormon’ works.”

13. State University of Iowa, MFR 74

author's stated thesis is that the ‘Latter-Day Saint Church has the most challenging history of the theatre of any modern day church.’ Only chapter two pertains to the Nauvoo period. Hansen, obviously a Mormon, writes well and is convincing. His bibliography is disappointingly short and consists mainly of secondary sources.

14. State University of Iowa, MFR 75

Shirley Neal McKean. “Nauvoo of the Mormon Era.” M.A. thesis, Department of History, 1933, 145 pp. “Miss McKean's work is well written, objective, and has a good bibliography.”

15. State University of Iowa, MFR 74


16. State University of Iowa, MFR 74

Cecil A. Snider. “Development of Attitudes in Sectarian Conflict: A Study of Mormonism in Illinois in Contemporary Newspaper sources.” M.A. thesis, Department of Sociology, 1933, 325 pp. “The author's purpose was to ‘track down, read, and abstract every newspaper, pamphlet, and handbill’ published in Illinois, and parts of Missouri and Iowa during 1838–47. It is, therefore, a work mainly of compilation. It is the appendix which is the most valuable part of this thesis. It consists of 322 pages of extracts from thirty-five newspapers published in Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. See also ‘The Snider Collection; under Newspapers and Periodicals in Part II. Snider writes with the detachment of a sympathetic non-Mormon.”

17. State University of Iowa, MFR 74

Helen Fulton Snider. “Mormonism in Illinois. An Analysis of the Non-Mormon Press Materials, 1838–48.” M.A. thesis, Department of History, 1933, 180 pp. “This work is intended as a companion thesis matching that of her husband (see works by C. A. Snider). The author wanted ‘to better understand this group, their trials and tribulations as well as the many complaints and difficulties encountered in their contacts with those outside the sect.' It is based on a study of thirty Illinois and Iowa newspapers.”

18. State University of Iowa, MFR 74

Virginia Marzolf Whitlock. “Music in the Mormon Church During the Sojourn in Nauvoo.” M.A. thesis, Department of Music, 1940, 59 pp. “This study was based on a fair bibliography and utilized some primary sources. Unfortunately only chapter five pertains to Nauvoo and it is only a fourteen-page resume of musical activities.”

19. Northwestern University, MFR 76

of the part which the Latter-Day Saints, or Mormons (as they are popularly called) played in the history of Illinois. When the reader has followed the activities related he will see that the Mormon’s account of ‘persecution’ does not give the whole story.’ This sentence well characterizes the tone of this particularly biased and poorly written work. The bibliography is rather short, incomplete, and one-sided.”

20. **Southern Illinois University**, MFR 77


21. **Temple University**, MFR 79

Francis Lester Bouquet. “A Compilation of the Original Documents Concerning the Nauvoo, Illinois Mormon Settlement, with Pertinent Observations.” Dr. of Sacred Theology dissertation, 1938, 1,850 pp. “According to the author, ‘This work seeks to pioneer the way toward the preservation of the factual material (pertaining to Nauvoo) so far as can be located.’ Bouquet also hopes to prepare ‘a tool for the student who investigates the Nauvoo period.’ Data were gleaned from Mormon, non-Mormon, and anti-Mormon sources, and it is based primarily upon the study of printed and easily available church journals and histories. The work is by no means exhaustive, imaginative, or well written.”

22. **University of Utah**, MFR 80

Reta Latimer Halford. “Nauvoo—The City Beautiful.” M.S. thesis, 1945, 482 pp. “The writer, apparently a Mormon, states that her thesis was ‘To add a small bit to the romance of Mormonism—its founders and its stalwart advocates.’ . . . Her work in her own eyes was ‘a modest attempt to reconstruct the social, economic, artistic, and political life of the numerous Saints who in a brief period of seven years built from the wilds of Illinois a planned Utopia.’ . . . The work is fairly well written and the bibliography, very extensive for a thesis, is well selected and balanced.”

23. **University of Wisconsin**, MFR 81


24. **University of Wisconsin**, (shelved as book)

PART IV—INDEXES

1. Brigham Young University Index to the Snider Collection of Newspaper Excerpts, MFR 64

“This 116-page typescript index is not as useful to the Southern Illinois University microfilm copy of the Snider collection as it might seem. Southern’s copy of the Snider collection was microfilmed as a unit. The Brigham Young University index was prepared for their typescript copy of the Snider collection which is bound in eight volumes and the items in the index are identified by volume and page. It is therefore difficult, for example, to find quickly where p. 47, Vol. 6 is on Southern Illinois University’s one large microfilm roll of the Snider collection.”

2. Index to the Brigham Young University Collection of Excerpts from Iowa and Illinois Newspapers, MFR 64

A 13-page typescript index to the 439 pages of the excerpts catalogued earlier under “Newspapers and Periodicals.”

3. Brigham Young University Index to The Times and Seasons, MFR 82

A fifty-nine page typescript index to the Times and Seasons, which is catalogued earlier under “Newspapers and Periodicals.”


A 910-page typescript index to these journals, which are catalogued earlier under “Newspapers and Periodicals.”

PART V—APPENDIXES

1. Listing of Excerpts from St. Louis Newspapers in the Mercantile Library

Includes 193 selected pages from six newspaper files, each containing a story on the Mormons. These stories are found in MFR 48, as described earlier; a few are printed here.

Daily Evening Gazette, 1839: Mormons called “obnoxious”; escaped Mormons should be found and returned to Missouri; Mormons in Shelby County ask governor for aid; an account of the Mormon celebration of Independence Day; description of Mormon religion, life, and public buildings in Nauvoo; the name of Commerce has been changed to Nauvoo.

Daily Evening Gazette, 1843: Cells under temple may be used as sleeping rooms for “Anties”; four wagons sent to State Arsenal for ammunition to be used against the Mormons; Joseph Smith arrested at Ottawa, Illinois, and is now in prison; Smith makes an unprovoked attack on a man named Bennett; Joseph Smith is drilling 4,000 or 5,000 men in military operations.

Daily Evening Gazette, 1844: Meeting at Carthage passes resolutions that are denunciatory of the Mormons; a description of Nauvoo and the temple; an interview with Joseph Smith and a description of him; discussion of ancient records (Egyptian mummies) in relation to the Mormon religion; theatrical
company composed of Mormons performed at Nauvoo; Chauncy Higbee is accused of being a modern Don Juan; Joseph Smith nominated as a presidential candidate by Mormons in New York; Joseph Smith’s death is called “cold-blooded murder” and is against the principles of a Republican government.

*Daily Commerce Bulletin*, 1844: Mr. Young of Illinois asks aid of Congress to redress Mormon grievances and compensate them for their losses; Governor Ford issues another proclamation to Warsaw on mob violence; Governor Ford says it would be “impolitic” to arrest the murderers for this might lead to another attack on the Mormons.

*Western Atlas*, 1841: The cornerstone of the temple is to be laid; the Mormons are described as industrious, sober, and enterprising.

*Missouri Reporter*, 1846: The *Hancock Eagle* gives evidences that prove the Mormons intend to leave the country immediately.

*Weekly St. Louis Union*, 1846: A man pretending to be a constable issued a proclamation for a pass to go to Nauvoo to drive off the few remaining families; a sketch of the Mormon War; the war is ended and those who took part must give up arms and leave Nauvoo in five days; the boat *New Haven* was bringing in a number of families from Nauvoo; a letter written to the newspaper tells of the vandalism of the mob.

*The St. Louis Republican*, 1847: The Mormon temple has been sold to the committee of the Catholic Church; the sale of the temple to the Catholics has failed because of some defect in the title; the movements of the Mormons who left Illinois, in Salt Lake City and the Mormon Battalion in California.

*The St. Louis Republican*, 1848: Anti-Mormon sentiment again arises in Nauvoo, but this time it has political overtones; the Mormon vote becomes an issue in Keokuk, Iowa politics.

2. Listing of Excerpts from St. Louis Newspapers in the St. Louis Public Library

Includes 497 selected pages from six newspaper files, each containing a story on the Mormons. These stories are found in MFR 50, as described earlier; a few are printed here.

*St. Louis New Era*, 1841: Mormons of England leave for Nauvoo; *The Quincy Argus* contradicts the statement that Governor Carlin is a Mormon; Mormons accused of poisoning horses at Montrose; Mr. Kilbourne of Montrose denies Joseph Smith inspection of Montrose militia.

*St. Louis New Era*, 1842: Eighty-five Mormons arrived in St. Louis from New Orleans; Joseph Smith reported killed in Nauvoo; Joseph Smith is not dead according to reports; Joseph Smith prepares to defend his position with force.

*St. Louis New Era*, 1843: “Joe Smith, the Mormon Prophet,” says Mormons more sinned against than sinning; “The Mormons”—people of Hancock County meet to consider relations with Mormons; “The Mormons and the Anti-Mormons”—Strong resolutions adopted at meeting of delegates; crisis seems approaching; Mormon steamboat arrives with passengers and their “plunder”;
Mormons going to New Orleans, apparently disgusted with Joseph Smith; Nauvoo to manufacture raw silk.

*St. Louis New Era*, 1844: Latest account from Nauvoo of the death of Joseph Smith; murder of Joseph Smith generally condemned; Hancock county says Mormons must leave; Governor Ford says he has no influence on them since death of Joseph Smith; *Warsaw Signal* filled with defense of murder of Joseph and Hyrum Smith; *Nauvoo Neighbor* upholds Mormon religion; Rigdon “unchurched” by the Twelve Apostles; some Mormons scattering off; Governor Ford calls out militia to protect “his saints at Nauvoo”; Governor Ford is about to render himself a laughing stock for the public; Governor Ford’s efforts seem a farce; very sarcastic, estimate of cost of Mormon war; two apostles arrive in St. Louis on way to east, where Rigdon and seceding doctrines are becoming too strong.

*St. Louis New Era*, 1845: Mormons demonstrate against repeal of their charter; Mormon war discussed in legislature; bill to repeal Mormon charters passes House; rumored that Orson Hyde will succeed Joe Smith; more English Mormons on way to Nauvoo; Mormons sending petitions for relief to governor of Connecticut; Mormon temple finished.

*St. Louis American*, 1845: The murderers of the Smiths acquitted; Bill Smith not ashamed to teach spiritual wife system; Mormons preparing for a siege, probably will be peace; Mormons propose to leave in spring; Babbitt in Cincinnati to sell Mormon possessions to Catholic Church; two Nauvoo Saints arrested in Iowa for passing counterfeit money.

*St. Louis American*, 1846: *Boston Star*’s remarks on length of Mormon train; 2,000 Mormons crossed Mississippi on way to California; divisions of Saints; Mormons have resolved never to cast a vote again in Illinois; wagons in great demand in Nauvoo; imposing ceremony of consecration of Nauvoo Temple; report of brutal outrage on Mormon farmers; Strang advises remaining Saints to remove to Vorhee; some Nauvoo families in Pennsylvania; another large group of Mormons arrive at Council Bluffs; “Gov. Ford in Hancock”—gives speech making excuses for course he followed in Mormon controversy.

*People’s Organ*, 1842: Mormonism making in Salem, Massachusetts; concerns Bennett’s extraordinary disclosures relating to Joseph Smith; notice of lecture on the folly, absurdity and imposition of the Mormon doctrines; letter telling of comic play entitled, “Mormonism.”

*People’s Organ*, 1843: Lt. Gen. Joseph Smith says he is only one permitted to be inspired; General Bennett cast out of Holy Joe’s synagogue, gives lecture; “Book of Mormon” written by Solomon Spalding; rumor that Hyrum Smith has revelation confirming Spiritual Wife Doctrine, says “revelation” will put an end to Joe’s great empire.

*People’s Organ*, 1844: Gen. Joseph Smith is out as candidate for president; Mormons arrive; on way to Nauvoo, Joe Smith turns his wife out; followers of “Holy Joe in St. Louis; sixty Mormons on way to Nauvoo; his Holiness in a snarl;
“Mormonism and Democracy” letter expresses shock at “exterminating spirit” of anti-Mormons; astrologer published fate of Joe Smith; group of Saints express their belief that Sidney Rigdon is true prophet; Mormonism one of the most signal delusions in the country; Mormons under Rigdon abjure the spiritual wife doctrine.

*People’s Organ*, 1845: Laying of capstone of temple announced; Mormons “deluded, but shamefully abused people”; affidavits say anti-Mormons not so gentlemanly; Mormons may be bad, but not as bad as old citizens pretend; Nauvoo warehouse robbed; Wm Smith continues lectures in St. Louis on the corruptions of the Mormon Twelve; Mormons decline all communication with Gentiles; half of Nauvoo Mormons immigrating to Ohio and Pennsylvania; 500 Virginians in one county are Mormons.

*People’s Organ*, 1846: Mormons about to start for Oregon; young Mormon men leaving for California; Hancock citizens fear many Mormons will not leave; rapid preparations of Mormons to leave Nauvoo as outrages against them continue; nearly 2,000 Mormons left Nauvoo in week.

*St. Louis Daily Union*, 1846: More trouble at Nauvoo; mob gatherings wanting to march on and destroy Nauvoo; farmer from St. Louis has his horse mutilated because he lives near Nauvoo, farmer was not a Mormon; Mormons selling their property in preparation for their journey; description of aftermath of battle between Nauvoo’s citizens and “Anties”; reports death of two Andersons and Mr. Norris defenders of Nauvoo; arrival of Mr. Robbins and family in St. Louis and of Mrs. Charisle Smith—describes condition of Mormons as being wretched and that the philanthropist John Ward has gone to their rescue; short editorial condemning the mob action in Nauvoo; temple in Nauvoo still not sold; condition of Mormons described as pitiful.

*St. Louis Daily Union*, 1847: Extract from *New York Sun* condemning the action of the “Anties” in Hancock County; news from Tampico says Mormon Battalion entered Chihuahua; appeal for aid to Mormon women and children on prairies; Mormons leaving encampment at Bluffs; Babbitt being deposed; Mormon doctrine of spiritual wifism is not yet extinct; William Smith has had revelation; Strang orders his followers to Beaver Island.

*St. Louis Daily Union*, 1848: Mormons mentioned in Colonel Fremont’s defense; letter to Mayor of Boston details present condition of emigrating Mormons; agent of Mormons procuring books for education of Mormon children; Mormons have no legal right to vote in Iowa; it is clear that the Whigs have bribed Mormons.

*Weekly Reveille*, 1844: Mormons decide to govern the church collectively by the Twelve Elders; Sidney Rigdon, Smith’s successor, has been “unchurched” by the Elders; Mormons indirectly accused of stealing from townspeople; Lyman Wight and his band of Mormons attack trade goods store and some are killed; bill for repeal of the Nauvoo charter passed the Senate.

*Weekly Reveille*, 1845: The City Council of Nauvoo to raise a police force to
combat thieving; a wall is to be built around the Mormon temple; editor of *Warsaw Signal* calls the Mormon temple a “gull trap” and ridicules the blessings being dispensed; the *Nauvoo Neighbor* says that the Temple “blazes forth Joseph Smith’s greatness”; the Mormon “question” is compared to the abolition question; the origin of the term “Jack-Mormon.”

*Weekly Reveille*, 1846: Mormon group forming in opposition to “Twelve Elders”; a large portion of Mormons unable to move but old citizens of Hancock are preparing to compel them; meetings held in Carthage, declare that remaining Mormons should be put out by use of force; the burial place of Smith is kept a secret; Jo Smith compared to Mohammed; poem about Nauvoo.

*Weekly Reveille*, 1847: Mormons are intermarrying with Indians; one Mormon is accused of stealing oxen and is killed by owner; one thousand Mormons are enlisting and are to go to Fort Leavenworth; an English Mormon criticizes the American Mormons and America; the mayor of St. Louis solicits aid for the suffering Mormons; the *Warsaw Signal* wants to pay honor to the memory of the “Anties” who died in the last disturbance; the *Warsaw Signal* proposed that the names of the Mormon towns be changed but the *Nauvoo New Citizen* said to leave them remain; the widow of Joseph Smith has returned to Nauvoo and has reopened the Mansion House.

**PART VI—NEW MATERIALS FOR SECOND EDITION**

Twenty-three new groups of letters and documents, newspapers and periodicals, theses and dissertations, and other items were added to the original compilation. These are contained on eighteen rolls of microfilm and in six manila folders.

**VI a—Letters and Documents**

This new section of letters and documents has over 2,000 pages and 405 items.

1. **The Bancroft Library, MFR 90**

   **Franklin Dewey Richards, Narrative**: 28 pp. Richards was an early Mormon convert who lived in Nauvoo and who helped build the temple. These are only the first pages of a larger manuscript.

   **Mrs. F. D. Richards, Reminiscences**: 21 pp. Mrs. [Jane Snyder] Richards lived with her husband in Nauvoo. These 21 pages cover the period she lived in Nauvoo and are part of a larger manuscript.

   **Daniel Hammer Wells, Narrative**: 8 pp. Wells was a justice of the peace in Nauvoo who later became a prominent Mormon. These pages cover the Nauvoo period and express his opinion that the destruction of the *Morman Expositor* press was “irregular.”

   **L. C. Bidamon Quit Claim Deed**: 1849. 4 pp. Deed, signed by Emma Smith and Bidamon, conveys part of trust property for her children.

This is Vol. 8 of a set of Hancock County papers.


2. **University of California at Los Angeles, MFR 89**

   **Lorenzo Dow Young Diary**: 1845–48. 44 pp. (typescript). Brief mention only of Nauvoo, mostly covers the trek west to Salt Lake Valley.

3. **Columbia University Library, F 22**


4. **The Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, MFR 91, 92.**

   **Nauvoo Tax Assessors List**: 1840–50. 456 pp. MFR 91. Includes both personal and property tax.

   **Old Mormon Cemetery Records**: 9 pp. (typescript) MFR 92. Catalog of data from and photographs of tombstones.

   **Mormon Civil Marriages**: 1842–43: 37 pp. (typescript and manuscript) MFR 92. Includes a three-page index.

5. **The Huntington Library, MFR 6**

   **Oliver Granger Letters**: 1841. 7 pp. Two letters from Joseph and Hyrum Smith, to Oliver Granger about church affairs in Kirtland, Ohio, and a reference to a debt owed by Joseph Smith to Mr. Boynton and Mr. Hyde of New York.

6. **Illinois State University Library, Normal (Milner Library), F 23.**


   Other papers include a personal letter to him, passenger ticket from Liverpool to New York, Rowley's ordination as an elder, his patriarchal blessing, his pedigree chart and genealogical information, plus newspaper clippings.

7. **Indiana University Library, F 4.**

   **Miscellaneous Newspaper Quotations**: 6 pp. (photocopy of typescript) Stories from old newspapers: the *Banner of Peace*, Lebanon, Tennessee, 1842, and from the *New York Sun*, 1845.

8. **University of Kansas Library, F 24.**


9. **National Archives, MFR 87 and F 25. 45 documents, 1840–42. 157 pp.**

   **Records of the Solicitor of the Treasury, Record Group 206, (Part I)**. 26 documents, 1841–52. 87 pp. A variety of documents pertaining to attempts made by the U.S. Government to get payment on a promissory note for $4,866.38 made by Peter Hawes, H. W. Miller, George Miller, Joseph Smith, and Hyrum Smith.

   **Records of the Solicitor of the Treasury, Record Group 206, (Part II)**. 16 documents, 1845–48. 16 pp. Documents pertain to the indictment and pro-
ceedings against Brigham Young and eleven others on the charge of counterfeiting.

**Records of the U.S. Senate, Record Group 46.** 4 memorials, 1840–44. 54 pp. Redress petitions of April 5, 1844 and February 12, 1840; a memorial asking that Nauvoo be allowed a territorial form of government, April 5, 1844; a memorial of Joseph Smith asking for authorization to raise a body of armed volunteers, May 6, 1844.

10. **Historical Society of Pennsylvania, F 26.**

**Sidney Rigdon Letters:** 1844. 3 pp. (photocopies). 2 letters.

11. **Washington State University Library, F 27.**

**Ezra Strong Letters, 1, 5, and 6.** Strong, an apostate Mormon, wrote letters from Council Bluffs, Iowa to his children presenting his doctrinal views on several subjects. These three letters briefly mention Nauvoo.

12. **State Historical Society of Wisconsin, MFR 88.**


13. **Private Collections**


Contents include “A Syllabus on Mormonism in Illinois from the Angle of the Press,” by Cecil A. Snider; “Changes from the Millennial Star,” by Stanley Ivins; letter from Joseph Smith, Nauvoo, April 9, 194- to John E. Page about Page’s trip to Hannibal, Missouri and Alton, Illinois; letter from Joseph Smith, Carthage Jail, June 27, 1844 to his wife, Emma, last page of a letter from Joseph Smith to Emma Smith, n.d., n.p., personal, filled with expressions of love for his family; letter from Joseph Smith, Carthage Jail, June 27, 1844 to Lawyer Browning, asking for professional services during the upcoming trial for treason.

**The Bidamon Papers, Part I and II:** 1830–1944. 397 pp. 249 letters and documents.

**Part I:** The Lewis Crum Bidamon and Emma Smith Bidamon and Family Papers: 1830–91. 327 pp. 208 letters and documents. (original documents were owned by members of the Bidamon family, San Francisco, California) “Papers connected with L. C. Bidamon are very scarce. . . . This large collection of Bidamon papers has never before been calendared or annotated, hence the large space given to it in this catalogue.”

**L. C. Bidamon Papers.** 179 Receipts, notes, and miscellaneous papers: 1830–89. 269 pp.

Business papers pertaining to Bidamon’s work for the Warsaw and Rockford Railroad, 1853–57, business with Solon Start, Hancock County, 1848–49, and papers about selling Drummonds Patent Candle Makers in the town of Nauvoo; personal letters; legal papers; tax receipts.

Eight letters are from Bidamon’s daughter Almira Swiggart, born as a result
of his liaison with Nancy Smith. She discusses her love for him; she believes he
is her father, in spite of what his enemies say; she won’t visit him for fear his fam-
ily will not accept her; tells of her marriage, husband’s death, remarriage, finan-
cial matters.

Letter to Joel C. Armstrong and John Walker, December 29, 1842 dis-
cussing marital difficulties between him and their sister Mary Ann [Douglas], his
wife, whom he divorced.

Emma Smith Bidamon Papers. 22 letters and miscellaneous papers: 1844–73. 50 pp.

Letters from adopted daughter Julia Murdock Smith Dixon; letter from
Plano, Illinois addressed to “Dear Grandma;” letter to L. C. Bidamon and her
son David, Nauvoo, about Nauvoo Mansion business and family information; as
well as other letters.

Several summons papers pertaining to land and money affairs; tax receipts.

Joseph Smith, III Papers. 7 items: 1853–70. 8 pp. Letters, tax receipts, and
documents.

Part II: The Charles E. Bidamon and miscellaneous papers: 1893–1944. 70
pp. Charles Bidamon was the son of Lewis C. Bidamon by a liaison with Nancy
Abercrombie. Charles was raised by Emma Smith Bidamon.

Letters include some pertaining to sale of the Nauvoo House; letters from
Wilford C. Wood, indicating a desire to purchase artifacts for the Mormon
Church in Salt Lake City; and a letter from Audentia Anderson, Evanston
Illinois, thanking him for papers and information about her grandmother, Emma
Smith.

The George Whitaker Journal: 1820–46. 16 pp. (photocopy) F 28. Whitaker was born in England, where he joined the LDS Church, emigrated to
Nauvoo in 1845, worked on the Nauvoo temple, went west with Brigham Young
in 1846, died in Salt Lake City in 1907. Only the first 16 pages (typescript) of
his journal are housed here.

VI b—Newspapers and Periodicals
1. The Dale L. Morgan Collection of Excerpts from American Newspapers,
MFR 93, 94. Collection consists of over 2,800 pages of typed excerpts from 177
different newspapers in 14 states for the period 1826–57 (microfilm copy from
Utah State Historical Society).

Ohio: Ashtabula Journal, 1830; Western Patriot, Bolovia, 1821; Haruser
Telegraph, 1832; Fulton Telegraph, Canton, 1841; Chardon Spectator and Legua
Gazette, 1833–35; Chillicothe Intellegencer, 1843; Cincinnati Advertizer and Ohio
Phoenix, 1830; Cincinnati American, 1830; Cincinnati Chronicle, 1842; Cincinnati
Daily Commercial, 1850; Daily Cincinnati Republican and Commercial Register,
1833; Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette, 1830; Sunday News, 1844; Weekly
Cincinnati Republican, 1840; Weekly Dullon Message, 1842; Cleveland Herald,
1832.

Vermont: Vermont Intelligencer, 1833; Bellows Falls Gazette, 1838; Vermont Gazette, 1830–32; Brattleboro Messenger, 1830–34; Burlington Sentinel, 1832; Vermont Statesman, 1834; Horn of the Green Mountains, 1830–31; State Journal, 1832; Vermont Patriot and State Gazette, 1831; Vermont Watchman and State Gazette, 1830; Farmer's Herald, 1831–32; American Whig, 1831; Vermont Chronicle, 1831.


Wisconsin: Democratic Standard, 1852; Milwaukee Daily Journal, 1831; Morning News, 1853; Milwaukee Weekly News, 1853; Oshkosh Courier, 1855; River Falls Journal, 1857; Lafayette County Herald, 1855.

Maryland: Niles Register, Baltimore, 1811–13, 1815–49.


Illinois: Alton Commercial Gazette, 1839; Alton Telegraph, 1843; Peoples Miscellany and Illinois Herald, 1842; Beardstown Chronicle, 1833; Fulton Banner, 1846; Charlestown Courier, 1841; Illinois Globe, 1847; Dixon Telegraph, 1855; Chicago Tribune, 1851; Galenian, 1833–34; St. Louis Times, 1829; Illinois Gazette and Jacksonville News, 1837; Illinoisan, 1841; Peru Illinois Gazette, 1841; Illinois Free Trader, 1841; Keokuk Dispatch, 1853; Jacksonville Constitutionalist, 1853; Ottowa Free Trader, 1844; Fort Madison Statesman, 1848; Peoria Register, 1840–43; Illinois Advertiser, 1837; Illinois Republican, 1842–43; Southern Illinoisan, 1855; Sangano Journal 1842–43; Upper Mississippian, 1841; Freeman, 1842; Illinois Advocate, 1833, 1835; Illinois Intelligencer, 1832–32; Vandalia Whig, 1833–34; Illinois State Register, 1840; Watson Message, 1843–44; Watson World, 1840–41; Watson Signal, 1841–52.

Indiana and Iowa: Franklin Repository, 1826–40; Indiana Democrat, 1833–34; Legislative Sentinel, 1844; Boon County Pioneer, 1852; Jeffersonian and Walking Men's Advocate, 1839; Rockville Intelligencer, 1835.

Iowa: Iowa Territorial Gazette and Advertiser, 1845–46; Iowa State Gazette, 1852; Hawk-eye and Iowa Patriot, 1841; Iowa News, 1839–40; Miner's Express, 1843; Iowa Sentinel, 1843; Fort Madison Patriot, 1838; Fort Dodge Sentinel, 1857; Iowa Statesman, 1847; Iowa City Standard, 1841–42.

Michigan: Constitutional Democrat, 1844; Democratic Free Press, 1844; Clinton Express, 1856; Western Banner, 1830; Michigan Sentinel, 1834.

Missouri: Boonville Herald, 1833; Missouri Intelligencer and Boon's Lick Advertiser, 1833; Boon's Lick Democrat, 1834; Missouri Democrat, 1845; Boon's Lick Time, 1846; Missourian, 1837; Western Monitor, 1829–30; Missouri Intelligencer, 1821–1826; Fulton Telegraph, 1845; Independence Chronicle, 1840; Independence Journal, 1844; Upper Missouri Advertiser, 1832; Missouri Herald, 1820; Jefferson Inquirer, 1845–49; Liberty Weekly Tribune, 1853; Upper Missouri Inquirer, 1834; Western Pioneer, 1844; Plate Argus, 1845; The Gazette, 1846–48; Daily Missouri Republican, 1839–41, 1849–50; Daily Morning Missourian, 1846;
Evening Gazette, 1838; Missouri Argus, 1836–1840; Louisiana Gazette, 1812; Missouri Gazette, 1809, 1812, 1815, 1816; Missouri Republican, 1832–28, 1830–34; Missouri Reporter, 1845–46; Missouri Republican, 1832–28, 1830–34; Native American Bulletin, 1842; Old School Democrat and St. Louis Weekly Herald, 1843; People’s Organ, 1845; St. Louis Beacon, 1829–32; St. Louis Times, 1829; St. Louis Democrat, 1844; St. Louis Inquirer, 1820–24; St. Louis New Era, 1842, 1849; St. Louis Union, 1846–49; Weekly Missourian, 1845; Western Atlas, 1840; Western Atlas and Saturday Evening Gazette, 1841.


New York: Ontario Phoenix, 1831; Ontario Depository, 1831, 1827; Catskill Recorder, 1834; Otsego Examiner, 1855; Livingston Register, 1825; Ulster Democrat, 1850; Genesee Republican and Herald of Reform, 1831; Mayville Sentinel, 1843; West Chester Village Record, 1839; The Churchman, 1832; Evening Tattler, 1839; The Herald, 1835; Morning Courier and New York Inquirer, 1830–33; New York Daily Times, 1856; New York Observer, 1833; New York Times, 1877; Semi-Weekly Courier and Inquirer, 1844; Sunday Morning News, 1835; The Truth, 1841; Universalist Union, 1844; Palmyra Herald and Canal Advertiser, 1822–23; Palmyra Register, 1818–20; Wayne Sentinel, 1823–34; Western Farmer, 1821–22; Rhinebeck Advocate, 1844; Monroe Democrat, 1840; Rochester Daily Advertiser, 1829–30; Rochester Republican, 1830, 1832–35, 1837–39; Roman Citizen, 1840; Rondout Freeman, 1846; Sandy-Hill Herald, 1831; Gazette, 1831; Chondaga Standard, 1846; Northern Budget, 1810; Evangelical Magazine and Gospel Advocate, 1834; American Eagle, 1833; Christian Register, 1831; Universalist Union, 1844; Unionist, 1833.

2. The Deseret News, Salt Lake City, MFR 95, 96

This was the first Mormon church organ in Utah, and may be considered the successor to the Times and Seasons of Nauvoo. Southern Illinois University has the first date of publication, June 15, 1850 through June 27, 1860.

Of value to this collection is the printing of Joseph Smith’s History, which the Times and Seasons had previously printed in installments. “The Deseret News recommenced this history with the ‘minutes of a Council, held at Kirtland, Aug. 11, 1834,’ and carried the story through the assassination of Joseph Smith to Jan. 20, 1848.”

There is also a lengthy series of biographical sketches of Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Orson Hyde, Parley P. Pratt, Orson Pratt, Willard Richards, Wilford Woodruff, and others of importance from the Nauvoo period.

3. The Chicago Historical Society Collection of Mormon Newspapers, MFR 97

Contains parts of ten newspapers, Mormon and otherwise, during the period of 1840–47.

Hancock Eagle (see previous listing in Part II); Morning Courier, Quincy, Illinois (contains only the issue of September 22, 1845); Nauvoo New Citizen (see previous listing in Part II) (contains issues of February 24 and March 10,
1847); Quincy Herald (contains issues of October 16, 1846 and September 28, November 9, 1849); Quincy Whig (contains issues of March 14, 1840, October 1 and December 31, 1845, and September 16, 23, November 14–11, December 2, 1846); Nauvoo Neighbor (not as complete as the listing in Part II); The Prophet (not as complete as the listing in Part II); Warsaw Message (not as complete as the listing in Part II); The Wasp (not as complete as the listing in Part II).

4. The Snider Collection of Excerpts from Missouri Newspapers

Consists of 1,329 pages of typed excerpts from the following Missouri newspapers, 1831–49. There is little duplication with the other Missouri newspapers shown in Part II. (Microfilm copy from Harvard University Library)

Commercial Bulletin and Missouri Literary Register, 1836; Jefferson Republican, 1833–39; Missouri Argus, 1836–39; Missouri Intelligence and Boon’s Lick Advertiser, 1831–34; Missouri Republican, St. Louis, 1846–47; Daily Missouri Republican, 1831–39; Missouri Whig and General Advertiser, 1839–41; Missouri Whig, 1842–42; Daily People’s Organ, 1842–45; People’s Daily Organ, 1846; St. Louis Daily American, 1845–46; St. Louis Daily New Era, 1846; St. Louis Free Press, 1833; St. Louis Times, 1831; The Southern Advocate, 1838; St. Louis Weekly American, 1846; The Western Migrant, 1839; The Western Examiner, 1834–35.

VI c—Theses and Dissertations

1. Northwestern University, MFR 98

Feramoz Young Fox, “The Mormon Land System.” Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Economics, 1932, 171 pp. “The writer undertook a study of the ‘methods followed by the Mormon people in its settlement of lands.’ The author, apparently a Mormon, is pro-Mormon. The study is based on a good selection of primary sources and is rather well written.”

2. University of Wisconsin, MFR 99

Robert Bruce Flanders. “Nauvoo: Kingdom on the Mississippi.” Ph.D. dissertation, Department of History, 1964, 469 pp. “This is a study of Nauvoo for the period 1839–46 . . . well written and objective. Sometimes the tone is, however, a bit disappointing. Its chief weakness, however, is its bibliography. The author seems to have ignored all of the major MSS collections even those in Illinois. He utilized far too few non-temporary newspapers which are readily available on microfilm and much of the printed matter he uses is notoriously out of date and biased.”

This dissertation was published by Flanders in 1965 by University of Illinois Press.

VI d—Miscellaneous Items

1. New York Public Library, MFR 17


2. The C. F. Davis Collection, MFR 100–103
Contains about 10,000 pages of miscellany compiled during the 1880s by Mr. C. F. Davis of Keokuk, Iowa. Davis was the president of the Keokuk Savings Bank and Trust Company and had a hobby of collecting various kinds of material about Keokuk’s early history. There is a thirty-three page index at the beginning of volume 1. References to the Mormons are scarce. (collection came through Mr. Buell Smith, Keokuk, Iowa)

PART VII—MATERIALS ON ORDER, UNAVAILABLE, OR OMITTED

Materials on Order
Other materials are on order, including The Church of Christ, Temple Lot (Hedrikite) papers, and other dissertations.

Materials not Available
Archives from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Independence, Missouri.

The Illinois Historical Survey Collection, Urbana, Illinois has fifty letters of Miner R. Deming, eleven of which refer to Mormons in Illinois.

The Illinois State Historical Society, Springfield, Illinois has many valuable papers relating to land transactions in and around Nauvoo, but because of terms of donors, the society was unable to give copies to the Southern Illinois collection.

Private collection of Mr. D. W. Garber of Perrysville, Ohio, which includes a record of the Freedom Branch, Illinois of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1845; and a certificate showing Jacob Myers as a member of the High Priest Quorum of Nauvoo, April 8, 1845.

Materials Omitted
Hancock County Courthouse Records. The register for the Southern Illinois collection lists many records pertaining to the Mormon period.

PART VII—NAME INDEX