



10-1-2007

**1844-1845**

BYU Studies

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq>

 Part of the [Mormon Studies Commons](#), and the [Religious Education Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Studies, BYU (2007) "1844-1845," *BYU Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 46 : Iss. 4 , Article 17.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq/vol46/iss4/17>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in *BYU Studies Quarterly* by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact [ellen\\_amatangelo@byu.edu](mailto:ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu).

# 1844–1845

## 1844

James K. Polk used the phrase “Fifty-four forty or fight,” referring to the longitude and latitude of the Oregon country, as a campaign slogan in the presidential election.

### January 1, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Writings**—Joseph Smith wrote a letter to Illinois Governor Thomas Ford relative to the kidnapping of certain Saints who were falsely imprisoned in Missouri. ♦ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, 587–89

### January 5, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Personal Life**—Joseph Smith dreamed the night before that two serpents were swallowing each other by the tail, but he gave no explanation for this dream in his history. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:166

### January 8, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Ecclesiastical Duties**—Joseph Smith interviewed William Law in the street and dropped him from the First Presidency. Later, on June 8, Hyrum Smith testified that Law had confessed to Hyrum that he had committed adultery. ♦ *History of the Church*, 5:458–60

### January 10, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Personal Life**—Joseph Smith received a letter from Francis M. Higbee, who falsely accused him of slandering his character. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:174, 178

**Ecclesiastical Duties**—Joseph Smith ordained his uncle John Smith as a patriarch; he became the fourth presiding patriarch of the Church on January 1, 1849. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:173

**January 16, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Political Events**—Joseph Smith attended a city council meeting and forgave Francis M. Higbee for writing a slanderous letter on January 10. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:178

**January 18, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Writings**—Joseph Smith dictated letters to Reuben McBride and Joseph Coe. McBride had become the Church’s agent to regulate business affairs in Kirtland after Oliver Granger’s untimely death. Coe had written Joseph claiming an interest in the Egyptian mummies. Joseph found Coe’s “pretended claim” astonishing. ♦ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, 590–94

**January 19, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Ecclesiastical Duties**—Joseph Smith gave a lecture on the U.S. Constitution and on the candidates for the presidency of the United States. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:180

**January 21, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Ecclesiastical Duties**—Joseph Smith preached to several thousand people on sealing the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:183–85

**January 23, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Legal Events**—Joseph Smith sold the printing establishment to John Taylor for \$2,832. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:185

**January 29, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Political Events**—Joseph Smith was nominated as a candidate for president of the United States. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:187–88

**February 3, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Visions and Revelations**—In the assembly room above the Red Brick Store, Joseph Smith related a dream about his efforts to save friends on a steamboat and walking on the water with his brother Samuel. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:194–95; Wilford Woodruff Journal, 2:346–48

**Jan. 15, 1844**

The University of Notre Dame received its charter from Indiana.

**Feb. 1844**  
Karl Marx  
described religion  
as the opium of the  
people and the sigh  
of the oppressed.

## February 5, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Visions and Revelations**—Joseph Smith reported to architect William Weeks that he had seen in vision the pattern for the Nauvoo Temple, which had been under construction since April 1841. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:196–97; Arrington, *BYU Studies* 19.3: 337–59; Baugh, *Opening the Heavens*, 316

**Legal Events**—At the Nauvoo Municipal Court, where Joseph Smith presided as chief justice, he spent the whole day listening to different city wards present their tax lists; then he remitted the taxes of the widows and poor who were unable to pay. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:196

## February 7, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Political Events**—Joseph Smith met with his brother Hyrum and the Twelve Apostles “to devise means to promote the interests of the General Government.” ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:197–209

## About February 7, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Ecclesiastical Duties**—Joseph Smith prayed that the Saints would be delivered from the harassment of Thomas Reynolds, governor of Missouri. Within two days, Joseph learned that Reynolds had committed suicide. ♦ *Journal of Discourses*, 24:55

## February 8, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Political Events**—At a political meeting in the assembly room above the Red Brick Store, Joseph Smith gave his reasons for running for the office of president of the United States. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:210–11

## February 10, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Ecclesiastical Duties**—Joseph Smith attended a prayer meeting in the assembly room above the Red Brick Store where he prayed for Sister Jennetta Richards and others who were sick. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:211

## February 12, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Legal Events**—At a city council meeting, Joseph Smith signed the memorial to Congress, a document outlining the afflictions of the Saints in Missouri, and he blessed Orson Pratt to prosper in presenting the memorial before government officials in Washington, D.C. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:212



The Nauvoo Temple, rebuilt 1999–2002.

**February 13, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Writings**—Joseph Smith dictated a letter to Joseph L. Heywood, an LDS merchant in Quincy, Illinois. ♦ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, 595–96

**February 17, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Writings**—Joseph Smith wrote an article called “Pacific Innuendo,” which explained the Church’s desire for peace with all peoples. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:218–20

**February 21, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Ecclesiastical Duties**—Joseph Smith attended a lecture in the assembly room above the Red Brick Store given by an Episcopalian reverend, Mr. De Wolfe, and spoke afterward on the importance of obeying all commandments to receive salvation. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:223

**February 23, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Ecclesiastical Duties**—Joseph Smith met with the Twelve Apostles in the assembly room above the Red Brick Store and gave them specific instructions regarding supplies for the Oregon and California Exploring Expedition. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:224

**Feb. 17, 1844**

Aaron Montgomery Ward, American mail-order merchandiser, was born.

**1844**

Ralph Waldo Emerson published his second series of essays.

**February 25, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Visions and Revelations**—Joseph Smith prophesied at a temple block prayer meeting that within five years the Saints would be out of the power of old enemies. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:225

**February 26, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Legal Events**—The first meeting to organize a conspiracy to destroy the Smiths was held at William Law's home. This meeting was reported later by Dennison Harris and Robert Scott, who lived at the Law home. ♦ LDS Church Archives, Joseph Smith Legal Papers series

**February 29, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Writings**—Joseph Smith directed Brother William W. Phelps to write a reply to an article printed on January 31 in the *Zanesville Gazette* on a speech by Cassius M. Clay (a Kentucky abolitionist) about annexing Texas to the United States. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:227

**March 4, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Ecclesiastical Duties**—Joseph Smith held a council with the First Presidency, the Twelve Apostles, the temple committee, and others, emphasizing the importance of finishing the Nauvoo Temple and having it paid for. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:230–31

**Political Events**—Joseph Smith proposed James Arlington Bennet as his vice-presidential running mate. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:230–31

**March 11, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Ecclesiastical Duties**—Joseph Smith attended an organizational meeting of the Council of Fifty, a group assigned to assist with strategic planning for the Church. ♦ Wilford Woodruff Journal, 2:366

**March 12, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Personal Life**—Joseph Smith told Brother Joseph C. Cole that the upstairs room in the Prophet's Red Brick Store was needed for more important purposes than the school, which could be moved to Henry Miller's house. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:262

**March 22, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Ecclesiastical Duties**—Joseph Smith advised the Seventies to rebuild the Seventies' Hall by demolishing the existing walls and building a more permanent two-story edifice on the foundation. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:271

### March 23, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Personal Life**—Joseph Smith and William Clayton requested donations of supplies for Latter-day Saint lumbermen laboring in Wisconsin. Robert D. Foster’s wife denied to Joseph Smith, Alexander Neibaur, and William Clayton that Joseph had ever tried to seduce her or commit any immoral act or preach the plurality of wives. She later recanted after being threatened by her husband. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:271

### March 30, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Writings**—Joseph Smith prepared a written message for U.S. President John Tyler, requesting permission to enlist 100,000 men to help protect Americans seeking to settle in Oregon and other areas within U.S. territory and to help provide security for the independent republic of Texas. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:281–82

**Legal Events**—Joseph Smith investigated a robbery of the Keystone Store. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:281

### March 31, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Writings**—Joseph Smith signed two petitions to the United States Congress and one to U.S. President John Tyler that he had written the previous day. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:282

### April 4, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Personal Life**—Joseph Smith had an interview with eleven visiting Indians “who wanted counsel.” ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:286

### April 7, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Ecclesiastical Duties**—Joseph Smith delivered the King Follett Discourse about the nature of God and man, memorializing a friend who had died on March 9, 1844. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:302–17; Cannon, *BYU Studies* 18.2: 179–92

### About April 14, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Ecclesiastical Duties**—Joseph Smith again preached on board the recently landed steamer *Maid of Iowa*. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:333

### April 18, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Ecclesiastical Duties**—Joseph Smith and other Church leaders excommunicated William, Jane, and Wilson Law and Robert D. Foster for “unchristianlike conduct.” ♦ *History of the Church*, 5:341

### Mar. 25, 1844

Adolf Engler, German botanist and inventor of the Engler system of plant classification, was born.

**April 25, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

***Ecclesiastical Duties***—Joseph Smith told a reporter from the *St. Louis Gazette* that he had gained his power by the principles of truth and virtue. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:343

**April 26–27, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

***Legal Events***—Joseph Smith issued a warrant against Robert D. Foster for slandering Willard Richards. The next day, Foster accused Joseph “with many crimes and said that Daniteism was in Nauvoo.” Joseph tried to settle, but when Foster refused, Joseph “shook his garments” against Foster. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:344–45

**April 28, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

***Legal Events***—The Reformed Church was organized at Wilson Law’s home, with William Law as president and Wilson Law as a counselor, Robert D. Foster and Francis M. Higbee as apostles, and Keokuk hotelier Charles Ivins as bishop. This church’s purpose was to destroy the Smiths and take control of Nauvoo. ♦ LDS Church Archives, Joseph Smith Legal Papers series

**May 1, 1844**

Carthage, Illinois

***Legal Events***—Francis Higbee sued Joseph Smith in Carthage for being slandered on January 5, 1844, as a thief, fornicator, whore-master, murderer, adulterer, and perjurer, with a “rotten stinking [venerable] disease” that kept Joseph from coming near him; he also claimed that Joseph urged other young people in Nauvoo to stay away from him. ♦ LDS Church Archives, Joseph Smith Legal Papers series

**May 2, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

***Legal Events***—Joseph Smith could not collect his July 2, 1843, debt from Wilson Law, as Law tried to offset claims Joseph had already paid, leaving Joseph “no remedy but the glorious uncertainty of the law.” ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:350.

**About May 3, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

***Writings***—Joseph Smith wrote a rhyming verse in Barbara Matilda Neff’s autograph book. ♦ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, 597–98

**May 5, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

***Political Events***—Joseph Smith addressed a large company of friends at his home on the Saints’ course of dealings with the national government. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:356

**1844**

Alexander Dumas published *The Three Musketeers*.

**1844**

The first international cricket match was played in New York City between the U.S. and Canada.





The Wilford Woodruff home in Nauvoo.

**May 6, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Legal Events**—An arrest warrant was served to Joseph Smith on complaint of Francis M. Higbee, but Joseph petitioned for and obtained a writ of habeas corpus answerable before the Nauvoo Municipal Court. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:356

**May 8, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Legal Events**—Joseph Smith went before the municipal court in the case of *Francis M. Higbee v. Joseph Smith*. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:357–61

**May 9, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Ecclesiastical Duties**—Joseph Smith blessed Elders Wilford Woodruff and George A. Smith before their journeys to the eastern United States. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:362

**May 15, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Personal Life**—Joseph Smith was visited at home by Josiah Quincy, former mayor of Boston, and Charles Francis Adams, son of former U.S. President John Quincy Adams. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:377; Woodworth, *BYU Studies* 39.4: 71–87

**1844**

Hugh Bourne, English founder of the Primitive Methodists, visited the U.S. and organized several congregations.

**May 17, 1844**

Julius Wellhausen, German biblical scholar who hypothesized the Pentateuch originated from four independent texts dating several centuries after the time of Moses, was born.

**May 21, 1844**

Henri Rousseau, French artist, was born.

**May 24, 1844**

Samuel F. B. Morse sent the first electrical telegram, from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore, Maryland, saying, "What hath God wrought."

**May 17, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Political Events**—Joseph Smith was nominated as a U.S. presidential candidate for the National Reform Party at the Illinois state convention. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:386–97

**May 18, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Ecclesiastical Duties**—Joseph Smith and other Church leaders excommunicated Francis M. Higbee, Charles Ivins, and two others for apostasy. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:398

**May 23, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Visions and Revelations**—Joseph Smith prophesied to his brother Hyrum that their enemies would lie about Hyrum the same as they had about Joseph. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:403

**Personal Life**—Joseph Smith spoke with the Sac and Fox Indians who had arrived the previous day. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:402

**May 25, 1844**

Carthage, Illinois

**Legal Events**—A grand jury indicted Joseph Smith for adultery with Maria Lawrence "and other diverse women," based on William Law's testimony. Joseph considered suing him for perjury and slander on behalf of Maria Lawrence. ♦ LDS Church Archives, Joseph Smith Legal Papers series

**May 25, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Legal Events**—Sidney Rigdon resigned as postmaster and recommended Joseph Smith as his successor. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:407

**May 27, 1844**

Carthage, Illinois

**Legal Events**—Joseph Smith, accompanied by friends, went to Carthage, Illinois, to attend the circuit court in answer to perjury and adultery indictments against him. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:412–13

**May 31, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Legal Events**—Joseph Smith administered to Sister Richards, who was sick. Joseph also issued a warrant for Thomas B. Johnson's arrest for threatening the peace of the city. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:423–24

### June 1, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Writings**—Joseph Smith dictated a letter to Joel Hamilton Walker of Boston, Massachusetts. Walker had learned that Joseph had petitioned Congress for authority to raise 100,000 volunteers to protect the southern and western borders of the United States. He wrote to offer his services, but Joseph had not received authority from Congress. ♦ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, 599

### June 4, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Writings**—Joseph Smith sent a letter to Abijah Tewksbury of Boston, Massachusetts, who had been cut off from the Church. Joseph invited him to be rebaptized. ♦ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, 600–601

### June 7, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Legal Events**—The first issue of the *Nauvoo Expositor* appeared, attacking the political powers in Nauvoo and specifically Joseph and Hyrum Smith. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:430; LDS Church Archives, Joseph Smith Legal Papers series

### June 10, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Political Events**—The Nauvoo City Council passed an ordinance declaring the *Nauvoo Expositor* a public nuisance, and Joseph Smith, as mayor, agreed to have that newspaper destroyed. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:432; Barnett, *BYU Studies* 19.2: 244–46

### June 11, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Writings**—Joseph Smith wrote a proclamation that was published in the *Nauvoo Neighbor* regarding the promulgation of false statements injurious to the people of Nauvoo. ♦ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, 602–3

### June 12, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Legal Events**—Joseph Smith was arrested by officers from Carthage and charged with riot for the destruction of the *Nauvoo Expositor*, and he went before Justice Aaron Johnson in Nauvoo on a writ of habeas corpus. He was “honorably discharged from the accusations and of the writ.” ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:453–58

**Writings**—Joseph Smith dictated a letter to Washington Tucker of Eldorado, Arkansas, who had written Joseph expressing interest

### June 6, 1844

George Williams founded the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in London.

in the Church. Joseph promised to send an elder to him as soon as the Twelve could make the necessary arrangements. ♦ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, 606

**June 13, 1844**

Thomas Charles Hope, Scottish chemist who discovered the chemical element Strontium, died.

**June 13, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Legal Events**—Joseph Smith presided over the Nauvoo Municipal Court and discharged all of the other sixteen defendants in the *Nauvoo Expositor* matter. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:460–61; LDS Church Archives, Joseph Smith Legal Papers series

**Personal Life**—Joseph Smith received the report that a mob of about 300 was assembled at Carthage, Illinois, and was ready to attack Nauvoo. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:462

**June 14, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Writings**—Joseph Smith dictated a letter to Illinois Governor Thomas Ford explaining the destruction of the *Nauvoo Expositor* printing press. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:466–67; *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, 604–5

**June 15, 1844**

Charles Goodyear received a patent for vulcanization, a process to strengthen rubber.

**June 15, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Personal Life**—Joseph Smith was at home examining Benjamin West's painting *Death on the Pale Horse*, which had been in his reading room for three days. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:471

**June 16, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Ecclesiastical Duties**—Joseph Smith gave a sermon in the grove east of the Nauvoo Temple about the Godhead. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:473–79

**Writings**—Joseph Smith dictated letters to Illinois Governor Thomas Ford and Isaac Morley. Joseph informed Ford of a published account of an organized effort to exterminate the Saints from Illinois by force of arms. Joseph asked the governor for “immediate council and protection.” Morley was an officer in the Nauvoo Legion. Joseph advised him to “cause all the troops of said Legion in your vicinity, to be in readiness to act at a moments warning” to defend the Saints against the mob. ♦ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, 607–9

**June 17, 1844**

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Legal Events**—Joseph Smith was arrested again (see June 12) along with sixteen others for the destruction of the *Nauvoo Expositor* and

taken before Daniel H. Wells, justice of the peace, who discharged the prisoners. The *Warsaw Signal* called for the extermination of the Latter-day Saints from Illinois. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:487–91; LDS Church Archives, Joseph Smith Legal Papers series

**Writings**—Joseph Smith dictated a letter to John Smith, his uncle, at Macedonia, Illinois, informing him “that we feel determined in this place not to be dismayed if hell boils over all at once. We feel to hope for the best, and determined to prepare for the worst.” Joseph counseled his uncle to retreat to Nauvoo if the mob fell upon them “with a superior force.” ♦ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, 610–11

### June 18, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Political Events**—Joseph Smith stood in full military uniform on the frame of a building and gave his final address to the Nauvoo Legion. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:496–503

### June 19, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Political Events**—Joseph Smith met the Nauvoo Legion at the front of his home and gave orders to have a picket guard posted on all the roads leading out of the city, to have all the powder and lead in the city secured, and to have all the arms put into use. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:504–5

### June 20, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Political Events**—Joseph Smith prepared for the defense of Nauvoo against the growing mob, wrote letters telling those on missions to come home immediately, and advised his brother Hyrum to take his family on the next steamboat to Cincinnati, Ohio. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:507–20

### June 21, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Writings**—Joseph Smith exchanged letters regarding the growing crisis in Nauvoo with Illinois Governor Thomas Ford and prepared affidavits for him. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:520–27

### June 22, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Political Events**—Joseph Smith was visited by John C. Calhoun Jr. and his brother Patrick, sons of John C. Calhoun, a senator from South Carolina whom Joseph had met in Washington, D.C., in February 1840 and who was now a candidate for United States president. ♦ Cannon, *BYU Studies* 33.4: 772–80

### 1844

Alexander Fichet  
invented the  
first safe.

**Writings**—Joseph Smith sent a letter to Illinois Governor Thomas Ford explaining the difficulties in Nauvoo and asking Ford to visit. Governor Ford addressed his reply to the mayor (Joseph Smith) and the Nauvoo City Council and concluded that the destruction of the *Nauvoo Expositor* was a violation of the laws protecting freedom of the press in the United States. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:532–41; *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, 612–14

### June 23, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Legal Events**—With the promise of full protection pledged by Illinois Governor Thomas Ford, Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum decided to turn themselves in at Carthage, Illinois, for a hearing. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:548–52

### June 24, 1844

Four miles west of Carthage, Illinois

**Travels**—Joseph Smith rode from Nauvoo to Carthage, Illinois, turning back, however, to deliver up to Captain James A. Dunn the state arms of the Nauvoo Legion before his final arrival in Carthage. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:553–55

### June 24, 1844

Outside Carthage, Illinois

**Writings**—Joseph Smith dictated a letter to Illinois Governor Thomas Ford explaining that his arrival in Carthage would be delayed as he was assisting Captain James A. Dunn with the retrieval of state arms from the Nauvoo Legion. ♦ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, 619

### June 25, 1844

Carthage, Illinois

**Legal Events**—After Joseph and Hyrum Smith surrendered to the authorities in the morning, Illinois Governor Thomas Ford paraded the brothers through the ranks of the troops assembled by his orders from the surrounding counties. The Smiths and the other defendants were arraigned before Justice of the Peace Robert F. Smith, also Captain of the Carthage Greys. The case was postponed until October because Francis Higbee, a key witness, failed to appear. All the defendants posted bail, even in excessive amounts. Joseph and Hyrum were served writs charging them with treason, a nonbailable offense. Despite having no hearing on that new charge, the defendants were taken to Carthage Jail that evening under protective custody. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:561–74; LDS Church Archives, Joseph Smith Legal Papers series

**Writings**—Joseph Smith dictated a letter to his wife Emma from Carthage Jail, informing her of the new treason charge and of

#### 1844

The anonymously written *Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation* was published, which was a forerunner for Charles Darwin's book *The Origin of Species*.



Statue of Joseph and Hyrum Smith at Carthage Jail.

his interactions with Governor Ford. ♦ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, 620–23

### June 26, 1844

Carthage, Illinois

**Writings**—Joseph Smith dictated a letter from Carthage Jail to Illinois Governor Thomas Ford, requesting an interview. He also dictated a letter to Judge Jesse B. Thomas, associate justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, stating that he and Hyrum were being held illegally and requesting Thomas to go to Nauvoo, obtain a writ of habeas corpus, and bring their case before an impartial judge. ♦ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, 624–28

**Legal Events**—In court, Joseph Smith moved for a change of venue on the charge of treason brought against him. The motion was denied, and the case was continued until noon the next day, allowing time to bring witnesses to Carthage. Joseph and Hyrum were then taken back to jail, where they had an extensive interview with Illinois Governor Thomas Ford, who promised protection to him and the other prisoners. The hearing was changed to June 29, apparently without consulting the defendants. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:575–601; LDS Church Archives, Joseph Smith Legal Papers series

### June 27, 1844

Carthage, Illinois

**Writings**—Joseph Smith dictated a letter from Carthage Jail to his wife Emma. In his own hand he penned a postscript that included

### 1844

Wood pulp paper was invented by Friedrich Gottlob Keller.



the following: “I am very much resigned to my lot knowing I am Justified and have done the best that could be done give my love to the children and all my Friends.” Joseph then dictated a letter to lawyer Orville H. Browning, requesting his professional services. ♦ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, 629–35

**Personal Life**—While in protective custody at Carthage Jail, Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum Smith were shot and killed by an armed mob just after 5 p.m. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:602–26; D&C 135; Shipps, *BYU Studies* 14.3: 389–92; Jessee, *Journal of Mormon History* 8:3–19

### June 28, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Personal Life**—Joseph and Hyrum Smith’s bodies were brought on two wagons through Nauvoo to the Mansion House (the Prophet’s home), where thousands of Saints were gathered to lament their death. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:627–28; Van Wagoner and Walker, *BYU Studies* 23.1: 3–18

### June 29, 1844

Nauvoo, Illinois

**Personal Life**—The bodies of Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were buried. ♦ *History of the Church*, 6:627–28

### Aug. 8, 1844

Brigham Young was chosen to lead the Church.



Death masks of Joseph and Hyrum Smith.



## October 1844

Carthage, Illinois

**Legal Events**—*State of Illinois v. Levi Williams, Jacob C. Davis, Thomas C. Sharp, Mark Aldrich and Thomas Grover*. This suit was filed for the murder of Joseph and Hyrum Smith. ♦ LDS Church Archives, Joseph Smith Legal Papers series

## June 1845

Carthage, Illinois

**Legal Events**—*State of Illinois v. Levi Williams, Jacob C. Davis, Thomas C. Sharp, Mark Aldrich and Thomas Grover*. All defendants were acquitted for the murders of Joseph and Hyrum Smith. ♦ LDS Church Archives, Joseph Smith Legal Papers series

## Oct. 22, 1844

Samuel S. Snow, a Millerite, predicted that Christ's Second Coming would occur on this date, which led to the "Great Disappointment" on Oct. 23, 1844.

## Photography

All images used by permission

Alexander L. Baugh: pp. 30, 95

Val Brinkerhoff: pp. 2, 172

Kenneth R. Mays: pp. 6, 9, 14, 19, 20, 44, 59, 86, 107, 115, 120, 123, 125, 139, 153, 161, 165

Roger Terry: p. 7

John W. Welch: pp. 8, 11, 15, 17, 26, 32, 83, 84, 88, 97, 132, 171