1805-1829

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December 23, 1805  Sharon, Vermont

Personal Life—Joseph Smith Jr. was born to Lucy Mack Smith and Joseph Smith Sr.  *History of the Church*, 1:2

1813  West Lebanon, New Hampshire

Personal Life—Joseph Smith’s leg was operated on by Dr. Nathan Smith of Dartmouth Medical School. In convalescence Joseph traveled with his uncle Jesse Smith to Salem, Massachusetts. *Lucy Smith, History of Joseph Smith*, ch. 16; Wirthlin, *BYU Studies* 21.2: 131–54

Monument at Joseph Smith’s birthplace in Sharon, Vermont.
Joseph Smith Chronology

Late 1816

**Palmyra, New York**

**Personal Life**—Joseph Smith moved with his mother and siblings to Palmyra, New York, from Norwich, Vermont. Joseph Smith Sr. had gone to Palmyra earlier in the year to investigate the move. • *Lucy Smith, History of Joseph Smith*, ch. 16; *Porter, Origins of the Church*, 10

February 6, 1819

**Palmyra, New York**

**Legal Events**—Joseph Smith Jr. appeared as a credible witness in the case of *Joseph Smith Sr. v. Jeremiah Hurlbut*. The jury awarded the Smiths $40.78. • LDS Church Archives, Joseph Smith Legal Papers series

Spring 1820

Farmington, New York (it was not until April 16, 1822, that Manchester Township was divided off from Farmington)

**Visions and Revelations**—God the Father and Jesus Christ appeared to the fourteen-year-old Joseph Smith in answer to his prayer about which church he should join. • *History of the Church*, 1:3–8; *JS–H* 1:5–26; *Opening the Heavens*, 1–75

September 21–22, 1823

**Palmyra, New York**

**Visions and Revelations**—The angel Moroni visited Joseph Smith three times in the night in the Smith family log home, telling Joseph Smith about the gold plates (the Book of Mormon) and the Lord’s divine mission for him. Some of his instruction about the coming of Elijah is recorded in D&C 2. • *JS–H* 1:27–47; D&C 2; Rich, *BYU Studies* 10.3: 257

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1818

Illinois became the twenty-first state in the U.S.

Feb. 22, 1819

Spain ceded Florida to the U.S.

1822

Hieroglyphs were deciphered by Thomas Young and Jean-François Champollion using the Rosetta Stone.

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The Sacred Grove.
Replica of the Smith family log home in Palmyra, New York.

**September 22, 1823**
Palmyra and Manchester, New York

*Visions and Revelations*—The angel Moroni visited Joseph Smith again during the day and “related unto [him] all that he had related to [him] the previous night,” after which Joseph Smith went to the hill and first saw the plates. • *History of the Church*, 1:14–16; JS–H 1:48–54

**About November 19, 1823**
Palmyra, New York

*Personal Life*—Joseph Smith’s brother Alvin died at age 25. He had been ill with “bilious colic” and was given a dose of calomel, which may have killed him. • *History of the Church*, 1:2, 16–17; Lucy Smith, *History of Joseph Smith*, ch. 20

**May 7, 1824**
Ludwig van Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 premiered in Vienna.

**September 22, 1824**
Manchester, New York

*Visions and Revelations*—Joseph Smith met with Moroni at Hill Cumorah one year after Moroni’s initial visits. • JS–H 1:54; Baugh, *Opening the Heavens*, 308

**September 22, 1825**
Manchester, New York

*Visions and Revelations*—Joseph Smith met with Moroni at Hill Cumorah two years after Moroni’s initial visits. • JS–H 1:54; Baugh, *Opening the Heavens*, 308
November or December 1825 Manchester, New York

Personal Life—Joseph Smith’s family moved into the frame home that Joseph’s brother Alvin had begun before his death in 1823. The home was completed sometime after October 25, 1825. *Porter, Origins of the Church, 27*

November 17, 1825 Harmony, Pennsylvania, and near South Bainbridge, New York

Personal Life—Joseph Smith’s employment for Josiah Stowell at the mining excavations in Harmony, Pennsylvania, ended. Joseph then continued to work for Stowell at his farm near South Bainbridge, New York. *History of the Church, 1:17; Porter, BYU Studies, 10.3: 367*

December 20, 1825 Manchester, New York

Legal Events—The Smiths’ home and 99.5-acre farm were sold to Lemuel Durfee, who kept the Smiths as tenants. *LDS Church Archives, Joseph Smith Legal Papers series*

March 20, 1826 South Bainbridge, New York

Legal Events—Joseph Smith was tried and acquitted by Justice of the Peace Albert Neely Jr. of a charge of being a disorderly person, meaning not acceptably employed and “pretending to discover

The Hill Cumorah.


Feb. 13, 1826 The American Temperance Society was founded, and by 1831 it had over two thousand chapters.

July 4, 1826 Former U.S. Presidents Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died.
where lost goods may be found.” • Madsen, BYU Studies 30.2: 106; LDS Church Archives, Joseph Smith Legal Papers series

September 22, 1826 Manchester, New York

**Visions and Revelations**—Joseph Smith met with Moroni at Hill Cumorah three years after Moroni’s initial visits. • JS–H 1:54; Baugh, *Opening the Heavens*, 308

January 18, 1827 South Bainbridge, New York

**Personal Life**—Joseph Smith was married to Emma Hale by Esquire Zacharia Tarble, Justice of the Peace. • History of the Church, 1:17; Jessee, BYU Studies 17.1: 32

September 22, 1827 Manchester, New York

**Visions and Revelations**—Joseph Smith received the gold plates from the angel Moroni on the hill where they were buried. • History of the Church, 1:18; JS–H 1:59

December 1827 to February 1828 Harmony, Pennsylvania

**Writings**—Joseph Smith copied characters from the book of Lehi on the plates and translated them using the Urim and Thummim. • History of the Church, 1:19

About February 15, 1828 Harmony, Pennsylvania

**Writings**—Joseph Smith gave Martin Harris a transcript of characters from the book of Lehi on the gold plates and their translation, which Harris took to show scholars in Albany and New York City. • JS–H 1:63–65; History of the Church 1:20; Welch, *Opening the Heavens*, 86; Kimball, BYU Studies 10.3: 325

April 12, 1828 Harmony, Pennsylvania

**Writings**—Martin Harris returned to Joseph Smith’s home in Harmony, where he began to help with the translation of the 116 Book of Mormon pages from the book of Lehi that were later lost. • History of the Church 1:20; Welch, *Opening the Heavens*, 86

June 14, 1828 Harmony, Pennsylvania

**Writings**—Joseph Smith completed the translation of the book of Lehi, and Martin Harris took the 116 manuscript pages to Palmyra, New York, to show selected members of his family as bound by covenant. • History of the Church, 1:20–21; Welch, *Opening the Heavens*, 88
June 15, 1828  Harmony, Pennsylvania

**Personal Life**—Joseph and Emma Smith’s first child, a boy later named Alvin, was born but died within hours.  

About July 1, 1828  Manchester, New York

**Writings**—Joseph Smith arrived at his father’s farm and learned from Martin Harris that the 116 manuscript pages of the book of Lehi had been lost.  

About July 8, 1828  Harmony, Pennsylvania

**Visions and Revelations**—Joseph Smith received through the Urim and Thummim Doctrine and Covenants 3, a revelation calling him to repentance after entrusting Martin Harris with 116 pages of translation from the book of Lehi, which were lost.  
- *History of the Church*, 1:21–23; D&C 3

About July 9, 1828  Harmony, Pennsylvania

**Visions and Revelations**—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 10, a revelation about the designs of wicked men who

Sept. 9, 1828  
Leo Tolstoy, Russian writer, was born.

Smith family frame home in Manchester, New York.
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Feb. 26, 1829
Levi Strauss, clothing designer, was born.

Mar. 4, 1829
Andrew Jackson succeeded John Quincy Adams as U.S. President.

Apr. 10, 1829
William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, was born.

had made alterations to the 116 lost manuscript pages. • History of the Church, 1:23–28; D&C 10

About February 1, 1829
Harmony, Pennsylvania

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 4, a revelation for his father, Joseph Smith Sr., containing qualifications for missionary service. • History of the Church, 1:28; D&C 4

March 2, 1829
Harmony, Pennsylvania

Visions and Revelations—At the urging of Martin Harris, who sought assurance that Joseph Smith had the gold plates, Joseph received the revelation found in Doctrine and Covenants 5. Three witnesses to the Book of Mormon are promised. • History of the Church, 1:28–31; D&C 5

April 5, 1829
Harmony, Pennsylvania

Personal Life—Joseph Smith met Oliver Cowdery for the first time. • History of the Church, 1:32; Welch, Opening the Heavens, 163

April 6, 1829
Harmony, Pennsylvania

Legal Events—Joseph Smith incurred a debt in purchasing a small home and land from his father-in-law, Isaac Hale. • LDS Church Archives, Joseph Smith Legal Papers series

About April 7, 1829
Harmony, Pennsylvania

Writings—Joseph Smith began dictating the translation of the Book of Mormon to Oliver Cowdery. At about this time, Joseph also received Doctrine and Covenants 6, a revelation to Oliver concerning translation. • History of the Church, 1:33–35; D&C 6

About April 9, 1829
Harmony, Pennsylvania

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery received through the Urim and Thummim Doctrine and Covenants 7, a revelation answering their inquiry as to whether John the Beloved had tarried in the flesh or had died. • History of the Church, 1:35–36; D&C 7

About April 10, 1829
Harmony, Pennsylvania

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 8, a revelation for Oliver Cowdery granting to him the gift of translation. • History of the Church, 1:36–37; D&C 8

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April 14, 1829  
**Writings**—Joseph Smith commenced the second week of dictating the translation of the Book of Mormon to Oliver Cowdery. *History of the Church*, 1:35–36

About April 16, 1829  
**Visions and Revelations**—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 9, a revelation directing Oliver Cowdery to be content to write rather than attempt to translate. *History of the Church*, 1:37–38; D&C 9

April 21 to about May 10, 1829  
**Writings**—Joseph Smith continued dictating the translation of the Book of Mormon to Oliver Cowdery. *History of the Church*, 1:35–36, 39

About May 10, 1829  
**Writings**—Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery ran out of supplies during the translation of the Book of Mormon and went to Colesville, New York, to obtain provisions from Joseph Knight Sr.  
*Jessee, BYU Studies 17.1: 36; Welch, Opening the Heavens, 93*

About May 13, 1829  
**Visions and Revelations**—After Joseph Smith’s brother Hyrum arrived in Harmony, Joseph received Doctrine and Covenants 11, a revelation admonishing Hyrum to be patient and to “obtain” the Lord’s word before declaring it. *History of the Church*, 1:39–46; D&C 11

About May 14, 1829  
**Writings**—Joseph Smith translated the account of the appearance of the resurrected Savior in 3 Nephi 11 in the Book of Mormon.  
*Welch, Opening the Heavens, 93*

May 15, 1829  
**Visions and Revelations**—Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery received the Aaronic Priesthood from John the Baptist. Joseph proceeded to baptize Oliver, after which Oliver baptized Joseph. Joseph was then instructed to ordain Oliver to the Aaronic Priesthood, after which Oliver ordained Joseph. *History of the Church*, 1:39–44; D&C 13; Cannon, *Opening the Heavens*, 216–18

May 17, 1829  
John Jay, first U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice, died.
About May 24, 1829

Visions and Revelations—After Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery received the Aaronic Priesthood, the Melchizedek Priesthood was also conferred upon them by the ancient Apostles Peter, James, and John along the banks of the Susquehanna River between Colesville, New York, and Harmony, Pennsylvania. It should be noted that some historians place the Melchizedek Priesthood restoration at a later date. • History of the Church, 1:39–46; Cannon, Opening the Heavens, 218–25

May 25, 1829

Ecclesiastical Duties—Joseph Smith baptized his brother Samuel H. Smith just ten days after Joseph and Oliver Cowdery had received the Aaronic Priesthood and were baptized. • History of the Church, 1:44

About May 28, 1829

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 12, a revelation to Joseph Knight Sr. about laborers wishing to assist in the vineyard. • History of the Church, 1:47–48; D&C 12

Susquehanna River near Harmony, Pennsylvania.
May or June 1829  Lyons, New York

**Legal Events**—Martin Harris’s wife, Lucy, filed a complaint against Joseph Smith, attempting to prove that he never had gold plates.

* Lucy Smith, *History of Joseph Smith*, ch. 28

About June 1, 1829  Harmony, Pennsylvania

**Personal Life**—David Whitmer arrived, met Joseph Smith for the first time, and satisfied himself of the Prophet’s divine inspiration.

* Welch, *Opening the Heavens*, 94

About June 1, 1829  Fayette, New York

**Writings**—Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery moved into the home of Peter Whitmer Sr., where Joseph resumed translation of the Book of Mormon.

* History of the Church, 1:49–51

About June 2, 1829  Fayette, New York

**Visions and Revelations**—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 14, 15, and 16, revelations for David, John, and Peter Whitmer Jr., respectively, concerning their calls to missionary labor.

* History of the Church, 1:49–51; D&C 14, 15, 16

The accordion was patented by Cyrill Demian in Vienna.

Replica of the Peter Whitmer home in Fayette, New York.
May 16, 1829
Geronimo, Apache leader, was born.

May 26, 1829
British mineralogist James Smithson died, leaving money to the U.S. that was used later to fund the Smithsonian Institution.

About June 10, 1829  
Fayette, New York

*Visions and Revelations*—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 17, a revelation to Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, and Martin Harris that prepared them to become witnesses of the gold plates and other sacred objects. *History of the Church*, 1:52–53; D&C 17

June 11, 1829  
Utica, New York


About June 20, 1829  
Fayette, New York

*Visions and Revelations*—Joseph Smith was present as the Three Witnesses were shown the plates by the angel Moroni. About this same time, Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 18, a revelation to himself, Oliver Cowdery, and David Whitmer. The mission and calling of the Twelve Apostles were revealed, and Oliver and David were directed to “search out” the Twelve. *History of the Church*, 1:56, 62–64; D&C 18

About June 24, 1829  
Palmyra, New York

*Visions and Revelations*—Joseph Smith showed the Eight Witnesses the gold plates near the Joseph Smith Sr. log home. *History of the Church*, 1:57; Testimony of the Eight Witnesses, Book of Mormon

June 26, 1829  
Palmyra, New York

*Writings*—Egbert B. Grandin published the title page of the Book of Mormon as a “curiosity” in the *Wayne Sentinel*. *History of the Church*, 1:71; *Wayne Sentinel* (Palmyra, New York), June 26, 1829

About July 1, 1829  
Fayette, New York

*Writings*—On or before this date, Joseph Smith completed the translation of the Book of Mormon. *Welch, Opening the Heavens*, 148

August 25, 1829  
Fayette, New York

*Legal Events*—Martin Harris mortgaged his farm in order to assure payment to Egbert B. Grandin of $3,000 to print 5,000 copies of the Book of Mormon. *Welch, Opening the Heavens*, 98
October 22, 1829
Harmony, Pennsylvania

Writings—Joseph Smith wrote a letter to Oliver Cowdery about his safe arrival in Harmony on October 4 and progress made toward the publication of the Book of Mormon. • Personal Writings of Joseph Smith, 251–52

November 6, 1829
Manchester, New York

Writings—In a letter to Joseph Smith at Harmony, Pennsylvania, Oliver Cowdery wrote, “The printing goes rather slow yet as the type founder has been sick but we expect that the type will be in and Mr. Granden still think he will finish printing by the first of February.” • Welch, Opening the Heavens, 98

Nov. 28, 1829
Anton Rubinstein, Russian pianist and composer, was born.