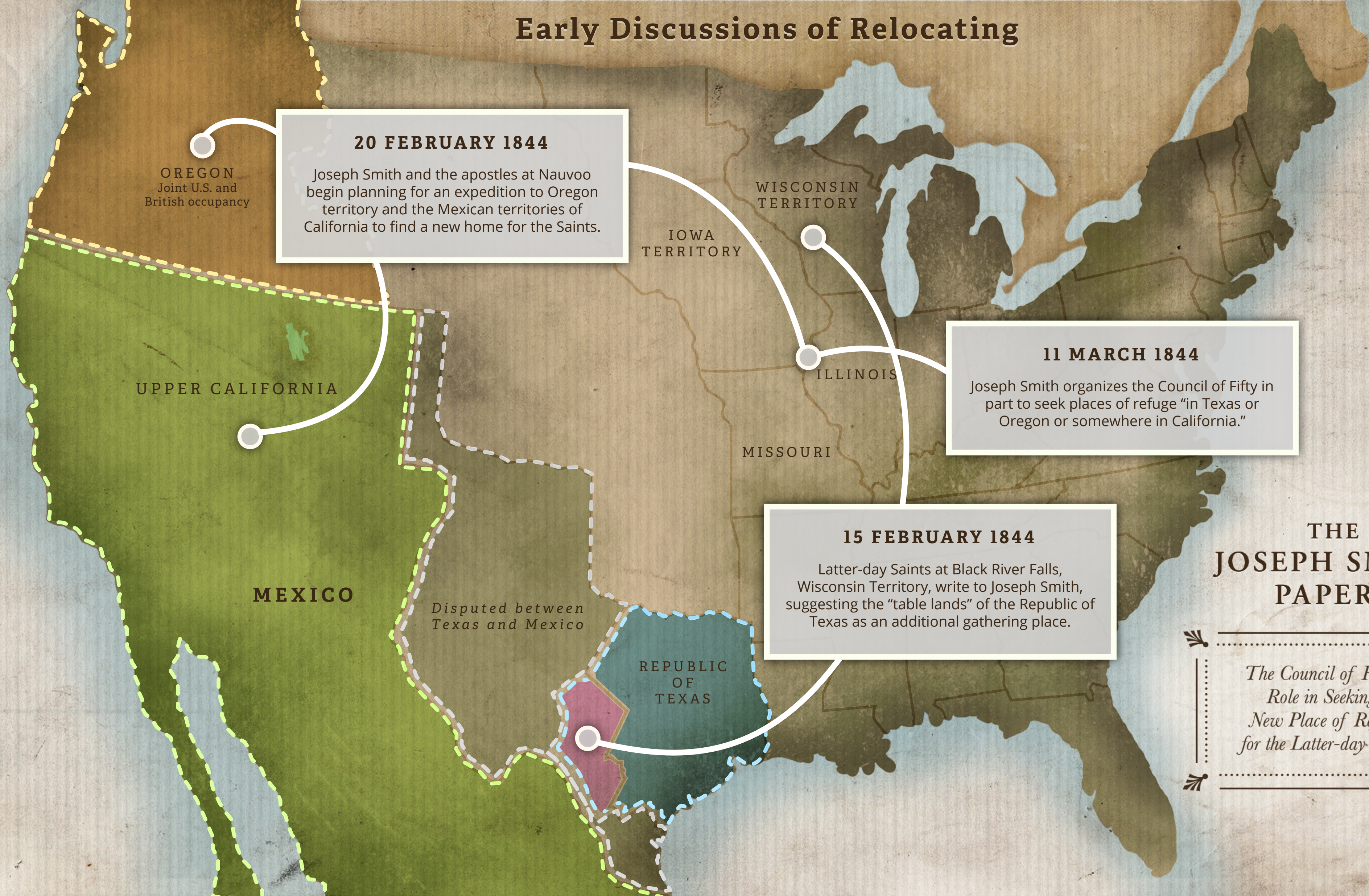


# Early Discussions of Relocating



**20 FEBRUARY 1844**

Joseph Smith and the apostles at Nauvoo begin planning for an expedition to Oregon territory and the Mexican territories of California to find a new home for the Saints.

OREGON  
Joint U.S. and  
British occupancy

WISCONSIN  
TERRITORY

IOWA  
TERRITORY

ILLINOIS

MISSOURI

UPPER CALIFORNIA

MEXICO

*Disputed between  
Texas and Mexico*

REPUBLIC  
OF  
TEXAS

**11 MARCH 1844**

Joseph Smith organizes the Council of Fifty in part to seek places of refuge "in Texas or Oregon or somewhere in California."

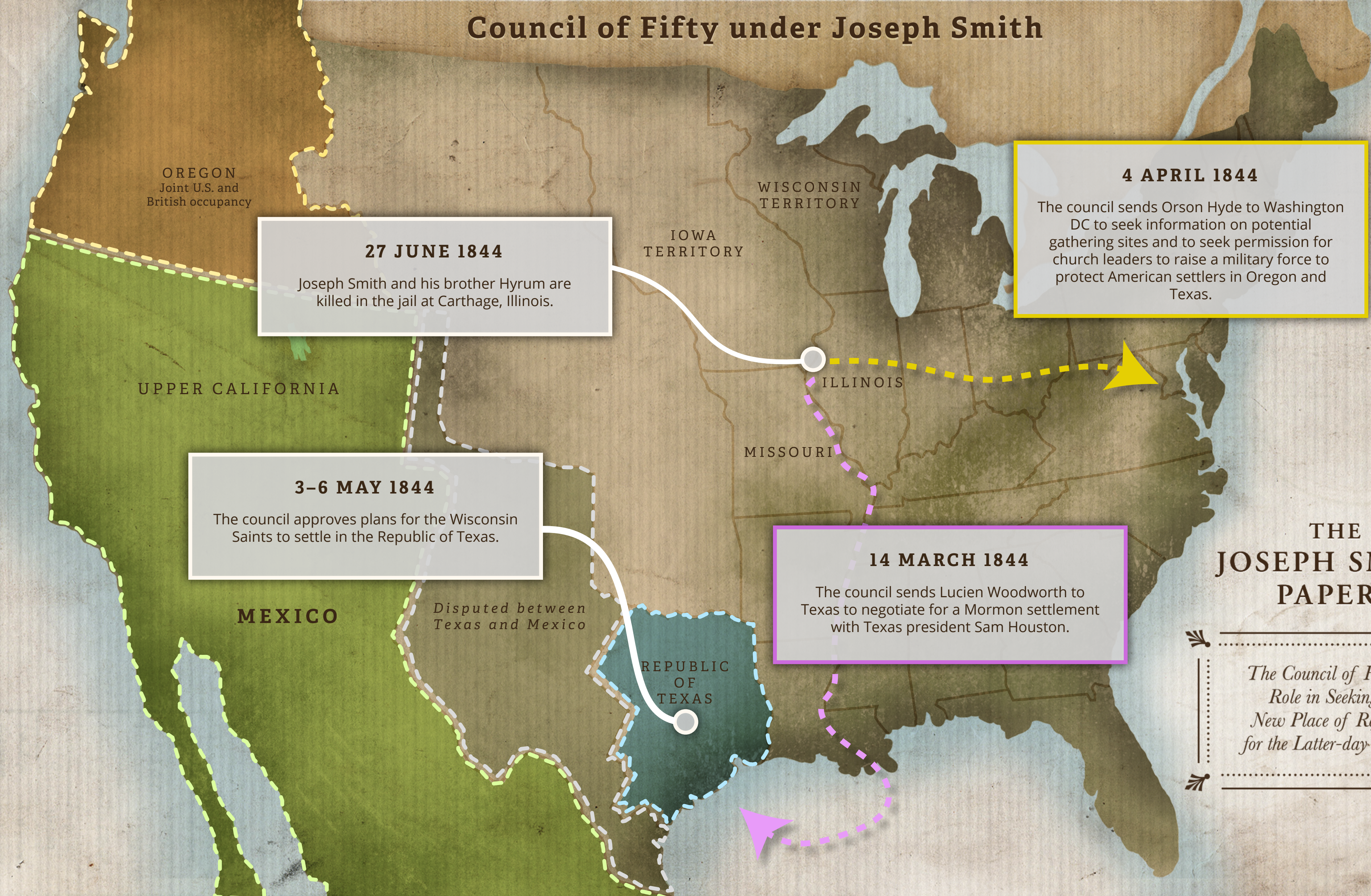
**15 FEBRUARY 1844**

Latter-day Saints at Black River Falls, Wisconsin Territory, write to Joseph Smith, suggesting the "table lands" of the Republic of Texas as an additional gathering place.

## THE JOSEPH SMITH PAPERS

*The Council of Fifty's  
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# Council of Fifty under Joseph Smith



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**4 APRIL 1844**

The council sends Orson Hyde to Washington DC to seek information on potential gathering sites and to seek permission for church leaders to raise a military force to protect American settlers in Oregon and Texas.

**27 JUNE 1844**

Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum are killed in the jail at Carthage, Illinois.

**3-6 MAY 1844**

The council approves plans for the Wisconsin Saints to settle in the Republic of Texas.

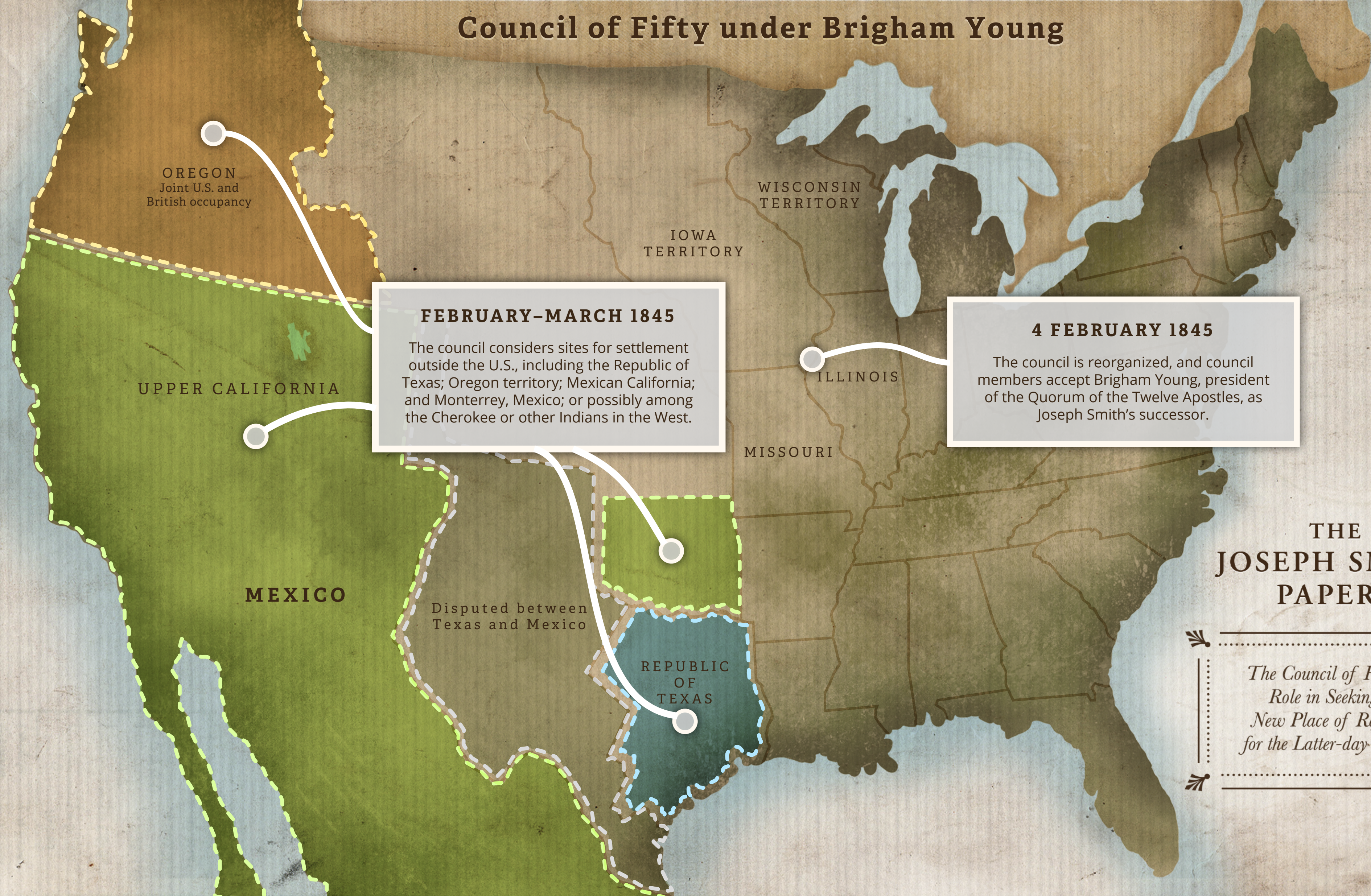
**14 MARCH 1844**

The council sends Lucien Woodworth to Texas to negotiate for a Mormon settlement with Texas president Sam Houston.

## THE JOSEPH SMITH PAPERS

*The Council of Fifty's  
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# Council of Fifty under Brigham Young



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TERRITORY

IOWA  
TERRITORY

ILLINOIS

MISSOURI

**FEBRUARY-MARCH 1845**  
The council considers sites for settlement outside the U.S., including the Republic of Texas; Oregon territory; Mexican California; and Monterrey, Mexico; or possibly among the Cherokee or other Indians in the West.

**4 FEBRUARY 1845**  
The council is reorganized, and council members accept Brigham Young, president of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, as Joseph Smith's successor.

## THE JOSEPH SMITH PAPERS

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# Focus on Upper California

"The Upper California Oh thats the land  
for me  
It lays between the mountains & great  
pacific sea,  
The Saints can be supported there &  
enjoy sweet liberty  
With flocks and herds abounding Oh  
thats the land for me

"We'll go and lift our Standard, we'll go  
there and be free  
We'll go to California and have our  
Jubilee  
A land that blooms with endless spring  
In Upper California Oh thats the land  
for me."

— John Taylor, 18 March 1845

**23 APRIL 1845**  
Missionaries travel to Indian tribes west of  
the Missouri River seeking temporary places  
of refuge for the Saints.

**11 MARCH 1845**  
News of the annexation of Texas by the  
United States reaches Nauvoo, after which  
Mormons no longer consider Texas a viable  
gathering place.

**18 MARCH 1845**  
The Council of Fifty focuses its attention on  
Upper California, particularly near the mouth  
of the Colorado River (in the Gulf of  
California).

## THE JOSEPH SMITH PAPERS

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# Focus on Great Salt Lake Area

## EARLY AUGUST 1845

Church leaders receive positive reports of the Great Salt Lake area from Mormons living among fur trappers on the Vermillion River in present-day South Dakota.

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WISCONSIN  
TERRITORY

IOWA  
TERRITORY

ILLINOIS

MISSOURI

UPPER CALIFORNIA

## 9 SEPTEMBER 1845

The council reconvenes. Brigham Young announces his intention to settle "somewhere near the Great Salt Lake," and the council begins preparations for a mass exodus from Nauvoo.

## 27-31 AUGUST 1845

Church leaders meet to discuss the latest intelligence on western North America brought by Parley P. Pratt, who had been living in New York City.

TEXAS

MEXICO

## THE JOSEPH SMITH PAPERS

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# The Mormon Exodus

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British occupancy

## 27 FEBRUARY 1846

William Clayton crosses the Mississippi River with the records of the Council of Fifty in his possession.

UPPER CALIFORNIA

## 4 FEBRUARY 1846

The first group of Saints crosses the Mississippi River into Iowa Territory.

MISSOURI

## 11-19 JANUARY 1846

The council meets to finalize preparations to move west.

"The Saying of the Prophets would never be verified unless the House of the Lord should be reared in the Tops of the Mountains & the Proud Banner of liberty wave over the valley's that are within the Mountains & I know where the spot is & I no [know] how to make the Flag."

— Brigham Young, 13 January 1846

MEXICO

TEXAS

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