



Greetings

We are pleased to share with you our latest newsletter. This issue highlights new web content published in May, including new articles, documents, reference materials, and other items in the Legal Records and Financial Records series.

Sincerely,

Matthew C. Godfrey, R. Eric Smith, and Ronald K. Esplin
General Editors



New Content on the Joseph Smith Papers Website

The Joseph Smith Papers is pleased to announce its latest web publication. This release features two essays to help explain Joseph Smith's involvement in civil litigation and criminal prosecutions; two introductions and accompanying documents for four legal cases about the estate of Joseph Smith; an introduction and documents related to Joseph Smith's [bankruptcy](#); more [Nauvoo City treasurer](#) documents; thirty-four additional versions of documents from 1831 and 1832; new glossary entries for financial and legal terms; and new entries for the calendar of documents.

In the Legal Records series, this release includes "[Joseph Smith and Civil Litigation](#)" and "[Joseph Smith and the Criminal Justice System](#)," which outline Joseph Smith's involvement in approximately 116 civil and criminal cases as a plaintiff, complainant, defendant, witness, or interested third party. New legal content also includes two introductions and accompanying documents from proceedings related to Joseph Smith's estate in Illinois. [Emma Smith Administratrix of the Estate of JS](#) covers Emma Smith's administration of her husband's estate. During her brief tenure as administratrix from July to September 1844, Emma faced conflicts over the separation of Joseph Smith's personal assets from assets belonging to the church of which Joseph Smith was trustee. Also included is an [assumpsit suit](#) filed against the estate by William and Wilson Law in September 1844. [Coolidge Administrator of the Estate of JS](#) details Joseph W. Coolidge's time as administrator for Joseph Smith's estate from September 1844 through May 1848. As administrator, Coolidge attempted to settle the estate by soliciting claims from Smith's creditors and liquidating Smith's assets to satisfy these debts. A [related case](#) stemming from Coolidge's petition to sell real estate as part of his efforts to pay these claims is also included with this release.

In the Financial Records series, this release presents several documents related to Joseph Smith's bankruptcy along with an [introduction](#) outlining and contextualizing the bankruptcy proceedings. In April 1842, Joseph Smith applied for bankruptcy under a new act passed by the United States

Congress. He told his largest creditor at the time, Horace Hotchkiss, that he did this as a last resort due to his difficult financial situation. Unfortunately, court and trial records associated with Smith's bankruptcy proceedings were among the many records destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Because of this loss, researchers and others interested in Smith's bankruptcy must rely on other sources—newspaper notices, a partial application, and correspondence—for information about the proceedings.

In the Administrative Records series, this release includes several more [pay orders](#) sent to the Nauvoo city treasurer requesting payment for services rendered to the city. Future releases will include the remainder of the city treasurer's records and other Nauvoo city records.

The Joseph Smith Papers website seeks to be comprehensive in presenting all extant Joseph Smith documents, including other versions that contribute to understanding an original nonextant text or that were authorized by Smith. This release presents thirty-four other versions of revelations and other documents from 1831 and 1832. All known versions that meet the above criteria are listed in the [calendar of documents](#). Future releases will include images and transcripts of more document versions.

This release also includes fourteen new entries in the [financial glossary](#) describing different financial firms Joseph Smith did business with. Six more entries have also been added to the [legal glossary](#). 260 new entries have been added to the calendar of documents through June 1844. This completes the bulk of the calendar of documents, although more entries may be added with additional research.



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