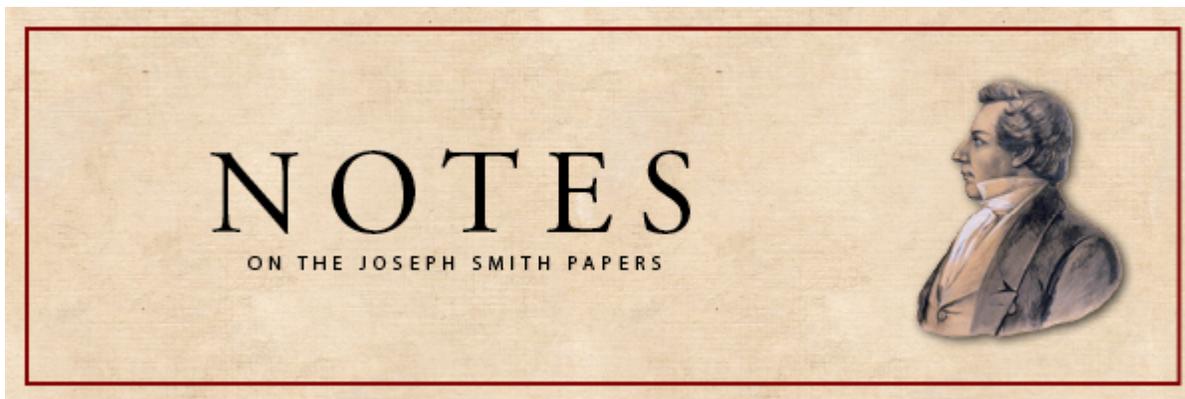


[Read about the project's latest updates.](#)

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Greetings

The previous weeks have been an exciting time for the Joseph Smith Papers as we released [Revelations and Translations, Volume 4: Book of Abraham and Related Manuscripts](#), which you can read about in this newsletter. Also included in this issue are details about our latest web release and an article focusing on a document that Joseph Smith authored about baptism for the dead.

We appreciate your continued support of the Joseph Smith Papers and enjoy sharing the project's news as well as insights into the life of Joseph Smith. We also enjoy the opportunity to address smaller audiences. If you would like to have a staff member speak at an event, we have included a [link to a form](#) that will notify us of your interest.

Sincerely,

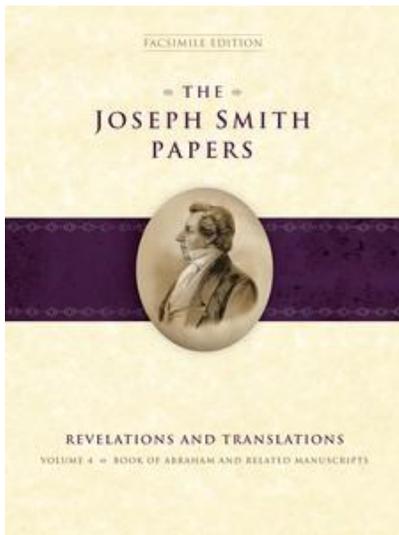
Ronald K. Esplin, Matthew J. Grow, Matthew C. Godfrey, and R. Eric Smith

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- [Joseph Smith Documents through June 1844 Now Online](#)
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Revelations and Translations, Volume 4 Now Available

We are pleased to announce the release of the latest volume of *The Joseph Smith Papers*. [Revelations and Translations, Volume 4: Book of Abraham and Related Manuscripts](#) tracks the development of the Book of Abraham from the time Joseph Smith and others purchased Egyptian papyri in 1835 through the publication of the Book of Abraham text and its accompanying illustrations in the church newspaper *Times and Seasons* in 1842.



[Read more](#) ▶

Joseph Smith Documents through June 1844 Now Online

The latest web content release for the Joseph Smith Papers Project includes more than a hundred documents from [June 1844](#), the final month of Joseph Smith's life. These documents include items relating to Joseph Smith's arrest and imprisonment in Carthage, Illinois, and letters to and from family members, particularly his wife Emma, as well as friends, lawyers, church members, and the governor of Illinois. There are also discourses given to the church and to the Nauvoo Legion.

[Read more](#) ▶

The screenshot shows the website interface for the Joseph Smith Papers. On the left is a document viewer with a scroll bar and zoom controls. The document is a handwritten letter on aged paper. On the right is a metadata panel with the title "Letter to Emma Smith, 27 June 1844" and a "Source Note" section. The source note includes the date and time: "Carthage Jail, June 26 - <27> 1844, - 20. Past 6 8. P. A. M." and the beginning of the letter: "Dear Emma<> The Gov. continues his courtesies, and permits us to see our friends. We hear this morning that the Governor will not go down with his troops to day <(to Nauvoo)> as was anticipated last Evening, but, if he does come down with his troops to day you will be protected, - & I want you to tell Bro [Jonathan] Dunham to instruct the people to stay at home and attend to their own business<> and let there be no groups or gathering together unless by permission of the Gov - they are called together to receive communications from the Gov - which would please our people, but let the Gov. direct. - Bro Dunham of course, will obey the orders of the government officers, and render them the assistance they require. There is no danger of any 'exterminating order'! Should there be a meeting".

“A Book . . . Which Shall Be Worthy of All Acceptation”

By Brett D. Dowdle, Volume Editor

In early September 1842, Joseph Smith was hiding in the home of Edward Hunter to evade arrest and extradition to Missouri on charges that he had conspired to assassinate former Missouri governor Lilburn W. Boggs. In this setting, on 6 or 7 September, Smith's mind returned to the subject of baptism for the dead and a promise he had

made just days earlier to send additional instructions and “the word of the Lord” on the ordinance to the Latter-day Saints by mail.^[1] Taking advantage of his seclusion, Joseph Smith wrote a [nine-page letter](#) to the Saints—which will be featured in the forthcoming *Documents, Volume 11*—that systematized procedures for baptism for the dead and explained its doctrinal purposes and implications.

[Read more](#) ▶

[1] Joseph Smith to “all the saints in Nauvoo,” 1 Sept. 1842, Revelations Collection, CHL.

Request a Speaker

If you are interested in having a Joseph Smith Papers staff member speak at a church fireside, academic gathering, or other event, please [fill out this form](#) and we will contact you soon. Please keep in mind that depending on the date, location, or other circumstances, we may not be able to meet all requests.

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