



Greetings

We are pleased to share with you our latest newsletter. This issue features an introduction to the Church Historian's Press Newsletter and highlights a significant award given to the Joseph Smith Papers Project at the recent Mormon History Association conference.

Also featured is an article by one of our historians that discusses the danger to Latter-day Saints living outside of Nauvoo, Illinois, in the weeks before the death of Joseph Smith, as described in documents in in [Documents, Volume 15: 16 May–28 June 1844](#) (published on June 27).

Sincerely,

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



Introducing the Church Historian's Press Newsletter

In June we announced that the print edition of the Joseph Smith Papers Project has been completed with the publication of our final volume, *Documents, Volume 15*. Now that much of the work of the Joseph Smith Papers Project is completed, you may be wondering what all our historians and editors are going to do. Fortunately, we've been planning for this transition for a long time.

A small team will continue working on the project website, josephsmithpapers.org, until at least the end of 2025. And under the Church Historian's Press imprint, we'll continue publishing high-quality works of Latter-day Saint history for scholars and for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. To keep up with all the developments on these projects, we encourage you to [subscribe to the Church Historian's Press newsletter](#), if you haven't yet.

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Joseph Smith Papers Staff Reacts to Award from 2023 MHA Conference



Historians Brent M. Rogers (far left), Sharalyn D. Howcroft, and Matthew C. Godfrey receive the special citation from Richard Lyman Bushman while MHA awards chair Taunalyne Ford looks on. Photograph courtesy Christine Blythe.

Last month the Mormon History Association awarded the Joseph Smith Papers a special citation. The award recognizes “two decades of dedicated work by hundreds of individuals” that provides “unprecedented access to the early history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.”

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“Stirring up Strife”: Threats against Latter-day Saints outside of Nauvoo in June 1844

By Brett D. Dowdle, Volume Editor

Following the destruction of the *Nauvoo Expositor* on 10 June 1844, opponents of Joseph Smith throughout Hancock County expressed their outrage. *Warsaw Signal* editor Thomas Sharp published a threatening editorial, declaring, “We have only to state, that this is sufficient! War and extermination is inevitable! Citizens **ARISE, ONE and ALL!!!**— Can you *stand* by, and suffer such **INFERNAL DEVILS!** to rob men of their property and rights, without avenging them. We have no time for comment, every man will make his own. Let it be made with **POWDER and BALL!!!**”

In response to Sharp’s call, citizens of the county assembled in Warsaw and Carthage over the next few days to denounce the *Expositor’s* destruction. During these meetings, non-Latter-day Saint county residents declared that the time had “arrived, when the adherents of Smith, as a Body, should be driven from the surrounding settlements, into Nauvoo” and that “a war of extermination should be waged” if the Saints refused to deliver Joseph Smith up to the mob.

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