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In addition to the documents themselves, introductory essays, annotation, and most reference material have been indexed. Most maps are not indexed; map coordinates for specific locations are given in the Geographical Directory. Spelling, punctuation, and capitalization of quotations have been standardized. Personal names are listed by their correct spellings, not by variant spellings that may be found in the documents, unless the correct spelling is unknown. Entries for married women are generally listed under their final married names, with appropriate cross-references under maiden names or earlier married names. Unidentified individuals, such as "Sis. Chapman," are included in this index. In subentry text, Joseph Smith (JS) and Emma Smith (ES) are referred to by their initials. Recurring locations in the volume are referenced in subentries without state identification; these include Nauvoo, Quincy, and Hancock Co. (III.) and Kirtland (Ohio).

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