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In addition to the histories themselves, introductory essays, annotation, and most reference materials have been indexed. For detailed map indexes, including map coordinates for specific locations, see H1:576–578 and H2:313–315. 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 correct spelling is unknown. Entries for women are generally listed under their final married names, with appropriate cross-references under maiden names or earlier married names. Unidentified individuals, such as “Mr. Butterfield,” are included in the index. Joseph Smith (JS) and Emma Smith (ES) are referred to by their initials.

When found in an entry, “id.” indicates an entry in the Biographical Directory, “def.” refers to a definition in the Glossary, and “handwriting of” identifies ranges of pages on which an individual inscribed text in the histories. Other documents recorded in the histories, such as letters or revelations, are identified in the Record keeping and Revelation entries.
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