

The Historical and Geographical Beginnings of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)

R. Jean Addams and Alexander L. Baugh

In the aftermath of the death of Joseph Smith Jr. and the exodus from Nauvoo in 1846, a significant number of Smith's followers remained behind in Illinois or scattered to nearby states. Many of these followers aligned themselves with certain personalities who claimed to be successors to Joseph Smith's prophetic leadership. In Central Illinois three branches of the original Church remained behind but continued to function, staying generally aloof from the controversy swirling around the new claimants to the mantle of Joseph. These original branches—Half Moon Prairie (Woodford County), Eagle Creek (Livingston County), and Bloomington (McLean County)—consolidated in 1852 to form the Crow Creek branch (Woodford County) of the Church of Jesus Christ (of Latter day Saints). From this branch, the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) eventually emerged.¹ Who were their members? How long had they been

R. JEAN ADDAMS (rjaddams@yahoo.com) is an independent historian living in Woodinville, Washington. He received his BS and MBA from the University of Utah. He is a member of the Mormon History Association and the John Whitmer Historical Association. He has researched and written extensively about the history of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) and recently published *Upon the Temple Lot: The Church of Christ's Quest to Build the House of the Lord* (Independence, MO: John Whitmer Books, 2010).

ALEXANDER L. BAUGH (alex_baugh@byu.edu) is a professor of Church History and Doctrine, Brigham Young University. He received his BS from Utah State University, and his MA and PhD degrees from Brigham Young University. He specializes in researching and writing about the Missouri period (1831–1839) of early LDS Church history. He is a member of the Mormon History Association, the Mormon Historic Sites Foundation, and is a member and past president of the John Whitmer Historical Association (2006–2007). He also serves as editor of *Mormon Historical Studies*, co-director of research for the Religious Studies Center at BYU, and as a volume editor for the Joseph Smith Papers.

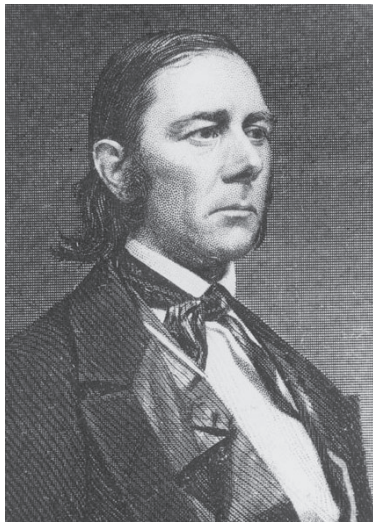
associated with the original Church? What happened to these early branches of the Church and their members?

Charles C. Rich and the Pleasant Grove and “Early” Crow Creek Branches (1830–ca. 1839)

The story of the early Crow Creek branch begins with the conversion of Charles C. Rich in 1832 in Tazewell County, Illinois, located southwest of Woodford County. Significantly, no actual settlement existed by the name of “Crow Creek”; rather the area was known and identified by the stream that followed through the rich farmlands of this area of central Illinois. Crow Creek runs just north of the Woodford County line in Marshall County.

During the summer of 1831, while en route to Jackson County, Missouri, Lyman Wight and John Corrill stopped to preach in the vicinity of Fort George Rogers Clark (later called Peoria) in Tazewell County. Young Charles C. Rich attended the preaching services held at a neighbor’s home and believed what he heard. However, it was not until

April 1, 1832, that Rich was baptized by George M. Hinkle. Hinkle and his companion, David Cathcart, were most likely following up on contacts made the previous year by Wight and Corrill. Soon thereafter, the Pleasant Grove branch of the Church was organized in Tazewell County. On May 16, 1832, Zebedee Coltrin, another missionary traveling through the area en route to Kirtland, Ohio, ordained Rich an elder. Rich and Solomon Wixom, a friend and neighbor, were designated as missionary companions by Coltrin, and the two men began preaching the restored gospel in the area. That fall, Rich took it upon himself to provide leadership to the struggling Pleasant Grove branch in Peoria. He also traveled some twenty miles up the Illinois River to Crow Creek to visit some members who had recently relocated in the region and began preaching in the area. His visits and preaching continued on a regular basis over the next three or four years.²



Charles C. Rich, date unknown. Following his baptism in 1832, Rich presided over the branches of the Church in the Central Illinois.

At about the same time that Charles C. Rich was contacted and converted to Mormonism, David Judy united with the faith. Judy lived only a few miles from the Rich family in the small village of Mackinaw in Tazewell County.³ He was baptized in May 1832.⁴ A devoted disciple of the early Church, Judy would in later years become a “pillar of strength” in the Church of Christ (Temple Lot).⁵

Another of the early converts in the Peoria area was Jedediah Owen, who lived in nearby Putnam County. Baptized in 1832, he was called as the presiding elder of the Crow Creek branch by Charles C. Rich in March 1835.⁶ Like Judy, he was dedicated to the church from the day of his conversion and would also become a leading elder in the Church of Christ (Temple Lot). Other early members of the original Church who lived in Central Illinois and who would later play important roles in the organization and development of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) included Zebulon Adams of Logan County, Dennis Burns of DeWitt County, Charles E. Reynolds of La Salle County, Adna C. Haldeman of McLean County, and Nancy Bradley of Livingston County. All of these individuals joined the original Church in the early 1830s.⁷

Beginning in 1836, when the Latter-day Saints began settling in the region of Caldwell County, Missouri, some members living in the Central Illinois region remained, while others relocated with the main body of the Church. Charles C. Rich, Solomon Wixom, and David Judy (all from Tazewell County, Illinois) are known to have purchased land in Rockford Township, Caldwell County, Missouri, in 1836–1837 and lived in close proximity to one another.⁸ In addition, Jedediah Owen, from Putnam County, Illinois, purchased forty acres in Mirable Township.⁹ Both Judy and Owen were taken prisoner by militia authorities following the surrender at Far West, Missouri, in November 1838. Following their release, rather than gathering to Hancock County with the majority of exiled Saints, both Judy and Owen simply returned to the surroundings of their previous homes in Central Illinois from which they had left a few years previous. Here they recommenced the farming or vocational pursuits they had been engaged in before they departed for Missouri. Judy returned to Tazewell County, and Owen moved to McLean County, Illinois. Unfortunately, little is known about the activity of the Saints living in Tazewell and surrounding counties, including the Crow Creek area during the late 1830s and early 1840s.

Half Moon Prairie Branch (Woodford County, Illinois)

Half Moon Prairie, a geographical area located in the north central part of Woodford County, Illinois, was named by the early settlers because the physical prairie in the vicinity was shaped like a “half moon.” Eventually a village

was established in the area, just shy of the north county line, and given the name Washburn.¹⁰ Approximately one and one-half miles west of the town of Washburn was the farm of Granville Hedrick.¹¹ His brother, John H. Hedrick, lived about five miles to the northeast in neighboring Marshall County.¹² It is noteworthy that Crow Creek runs within three miles of both their farms. Granville Hedrick was baptized in 1843, and about this same time the Half Moon Prairie branch was established in Hedrick's home.¹³ John H. Hedrick and his wife Elizabeth Ann apparently were not baptized until 1856.¹⁴

Bloomington Branch (McLean County, Illinois)

The Bloomington branch of the original Church, situated southeast of Woodford County, approximately forty-five miles from Washburn, was organized around 1831 in McLean County, Illinois.¹⁵ Adna C. Haldeman, a prominent stone mason and monument maker in the Bloomington area, was an early leader in the local branch. It appears that two years after the martyrdom of the Prophet in 1844, Haldeman became affiliated with the faction that followed James J. Strang. In June 1846, Haldeman was ordained an elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Strangite) by Samuel Shaw, a former member of the original Church who had aligned himself with Strang that same year.¹⁶ How long Haldeman remained with the Strangite movement is unknown. However, by 1853 he had begun associating with Granville Hedrick, because a meeting of the Crow Creek branch was held at his home in the "Spring of A. D. 1853."¹⁷ Haldeman's affiliation with Strang certainly raises other questions, such as who else in the Livingston area may have affiliated with Strang's movement. Regardless, Haldeman played a prominent role in the Church of Christ (Temple Lot); and in later years, the church's first newspaper, titled the *Truth Teller* (1864–1865), would be published under his direction in Bloomington.¹⁸

Eagle Creek Branch (Livingston County, Illinois)

The Eagle Creek branch was located in adjoining Livingston County, situated to the east of Woodford County. Eagle Creek is a relatively small stream that runs near the north county line in the northwestern part of Livingston County and the southern portion of La Salle County. The earliest identified member is Nancy Bradley, baptized about 1835. Her husband, James, and their children joined later.¹⁹ Another convert, William Eaton, a neighbor to the Bradley's, was baptized in Livingston County about a year after the death of Joseph Smith.²⁰ Eaton's home and farm were located in Long Point, not far from Eagle Creek.²¹ The small village of Long Point is located about twenty-five miles east of Washburn in Woodford County. Several other individuals

living in the region—John W. and Lydia Frazee, and George W. and Elizabeth Gifford —neighbors of Eaton, joined the Church of Christ in the early 1860s.²²

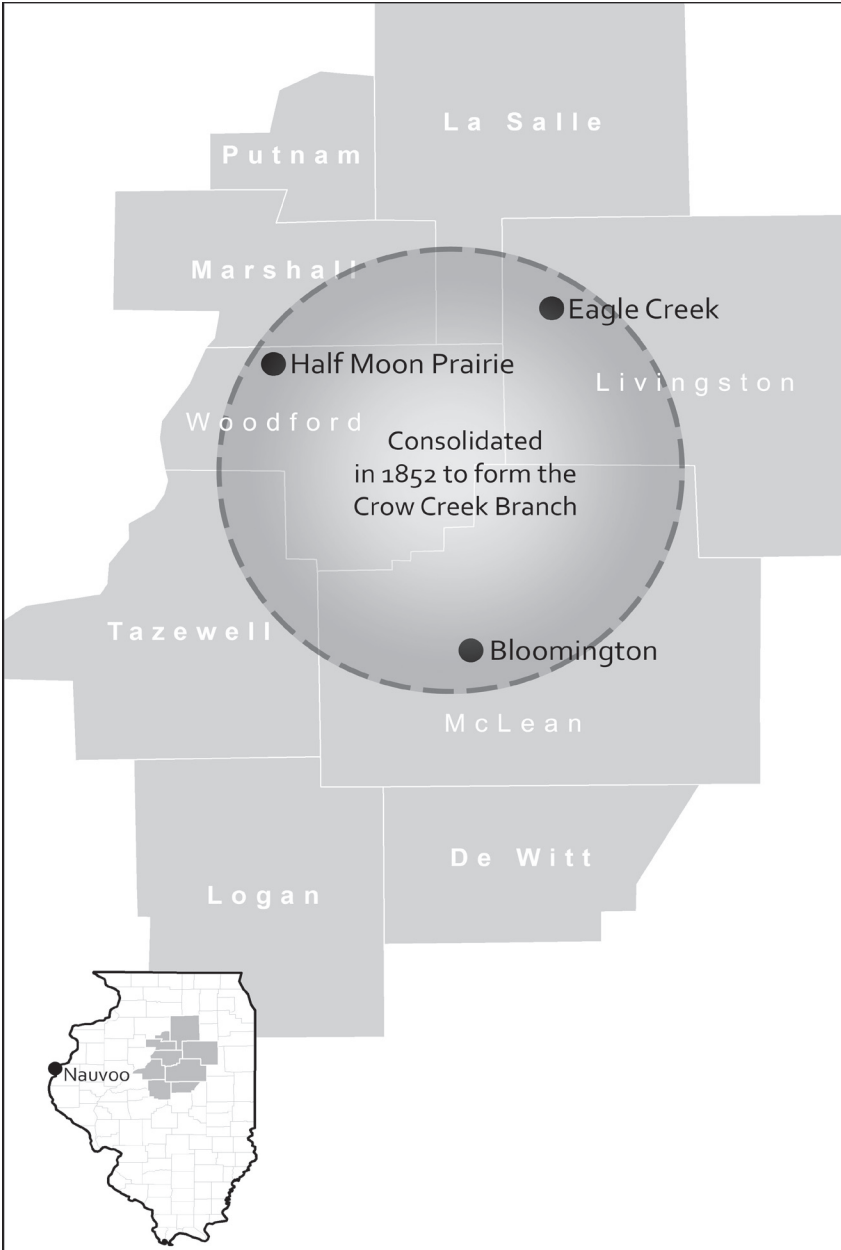
Vermillion Branch (Vermillion County, Indiana)

In addition to these original branches of the Church in Central Illinois, a branch of the original Church was also organized by George M. Hinkle and David Cathcart in Vermillion County, Indiana in 1832.²³ Vermillion County is located directly across the east central border of Illinois in western Indiana. Local leaders in this area included Lewis Zabriskie, Samuel Wixom, Eden Smith, Levi Jones, and John Smith. It appears that each of these men presided over a small group of Saints in their respective neighborhoods.²⁴ Eugene township was the home to a group of early Saints, including the Zabriskie family. Charles C. Rich and Solomon Wixom met with and perhaps lodged with Zabriskie during and after a conference held in Eugene in October 1834.²⁵ Zabriskie and Wixom later went west with those who followed Brigham Young.

In early recitals of the history of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) there are brief comments regarding this branch joining with the other branches of the Church of Christ centered in Woodford County when the Crow Creek branch re-emerged in the year 1852.²⁶ However, no recognized names from the early records of the Vermillion branch appear anywhere in the *Crow Creek Record* except for one entry on September 10, 1859, which listed Levi Jones.²⁷ Furthermore, there are no familiar names on any of the lists of church members who later relocated to Jackson County in the late 1860s. It is approximately 150 miles from Eugene, Vermilion County, Indiana, to Washburn, Woodford County, Illinois.²⁸ The distance would have most likely precluded active participation in the meetings of the members living in the three branches that came together to form the Crow Creek branch in the early 1850s.

The “Consolidated” Crow Creek Branch (Woodford County, Illinois), 1852–1867

The historical record shows that the first meeting of the “consolidated” Crow Creek branch (the combining of the original Eagle Creek, Half Moon Prairie, and Bloomington branches) took place at Granville Hedrick’s home on Half Moon Prairie in the winter of 1852. For the next several years this combined group or early members was known as the Crow Creek branch of the Church of Jesus Christ (of Latter day Saints). Although Hedrick’s home essentially served as the branch’s headquarters, meetings were held at vari-



In 1852, the Half Moon, Bloomington, and Eagle Creek branches consolidated to form the Crow Creek branch of the Church of Jesus Christ (of Latter day Saints), later the Church of Christ. Map courtesy Mark W. Jackson, Harold B. Lee Library, BYU.

ous times and places for many years at members' homes in Logan, Tazewell, McLean, Livingston, Marshall, and Woodford Counties.²⁹

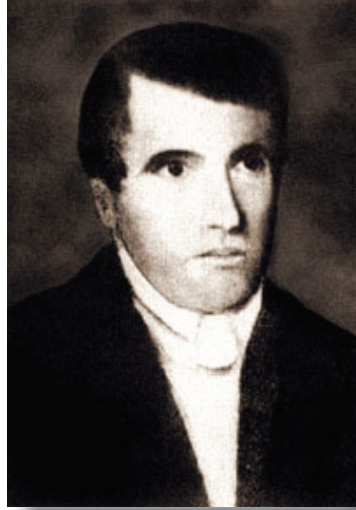
The “New Organization” and *A Declaration of Independence and Separation*

In 1857 an attempt was made to consolidate the membership of the Crow Creek branch with the New Organization, later formalized as the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and today known as the Community of Christ. This was due in part to the two groups' mutual attitude on the subject of polygamy.³⁰ The disaffection by the members associated with the Crow Creek branch regarding the doctrine of plural marriage is evidenced by a pamphlet titled *The Spiritual Wife System Proven False*, published in 1856 by Granville Hedrick.³¹

In October 1857, Granville Hedrick and Jediah Owen traveled to Zarahemla, Wisconsin, to meet with the leaders of the New Organization and to attend their conference. At this meeting Hedrick and Owen were received “as the representatives of the saints in Woodford County, Illinois and vicinity and the right hand of fellowship was given them.”³² Representatives of the New Organization also attended at least two meetings or conferences of the Crow Creek branch during 1857. William W. Blair, by invitation, had earlier attended the April 1857 conference of the Crow Creek branch held in the home of David Judy in Mackinaw, Tazewell County, Illinois.³³ Blair and Edmund C. Briggs also attended a conference in Bloomington, McLean County, Illinois, later in the year and were “entertained by Mr. A. C. Haldeman.”³⁴ The following year, Hedrick attended another meeting of the New Organization at Amboy, Illinois, in 1858. However, these initial efforts to consolidate apparently failed after a deeper examination of each organization's doctrine proved irreconcilable (primarily the New Organization's belief in succession by “lineal descent”), and no further attempts were made by either group to merge during this era.³⁵

While these efforts at exploration and potential consolidation were being undertaken with the New Organization, the Church of Jesus Christ (of Latter day Saints)—the Crow Creek branch—issued on March 5, 1857, *A Declaration of Independence and Separation*. It stated that the church was not only independent of any other church, but also affirmed its position that it should not be associated with “apostate and polluted characters who teach or practice polygamy, called the spiritual wife system or any thing like unto it,” and “that we have no fellowship in union or association with any such person or persons who teach or practice the doctrine of polygamy under any system whatever.”³⁶

Image of former LDS Apostle John E. Page. In 1857, Page began to affiliate with the Crow Creek branch. In May 1863, Page ordained Granville Hedrick, David Judy, Jedediah Owen, and Adna C. Haldeman to the office of apostle. Two months later Page ordained Hedrick “to be a prophet, seer, revelator and translator to the Church of Christ.”



Granville Hedrick’s Ordination to the Apostleship

On December 25, 1859, at Granville Hedrick’s home, Hedrick was “ordained under the hands of Bros. John Sanders & Jedediah Owen to the office of presiding high priest of the Crow Creek branch of the church,” thereby distinguishing him as the leading officer in the Church.³⁷ About this same time, a change was made in the name of the church, adopting the name of the original Church at the time of the organizational meeting in 1830—the Church of Christ—dropping “Jesus” and the appellation “(of Latter day Saints).”

Significantly, in 1857 former LDS Apostle John E. Page began taking an interest in the activities of the Crow Creek branch resulting in his formal unification with the Church of Christ on November 8, 1862. Although he later became disaffected from the organization, his short-term membership effected a dramatic change in the fledging movement.³⁸ At a conference of the Crow Creek branch of the Church of Christ held on May 17, 1863, at the home of William Eaton in Livingston County, Illinois, John E. Page “proceeded to ordain Granville Hedrick, David Judy[,] Jedediah Owen, and Adna C. Haldeman to the offices of Apostles of the [C]hurch . . . and thus forming a Quorum of five Apostles in the Church of Christ.”³⁹ Two months later, on July 19, 1863, Page ordained Hedrick “to be a prophet, seer, revelator and translator to the Church of Christ.”⁴⁰ While Granville Hedrick had been the unofficial leader of the Crow Creek branch for several years, this formal act of ordination to be the “prophet” solidified his role as the presiding authority over this group.

Granville Hedrick's Revelations

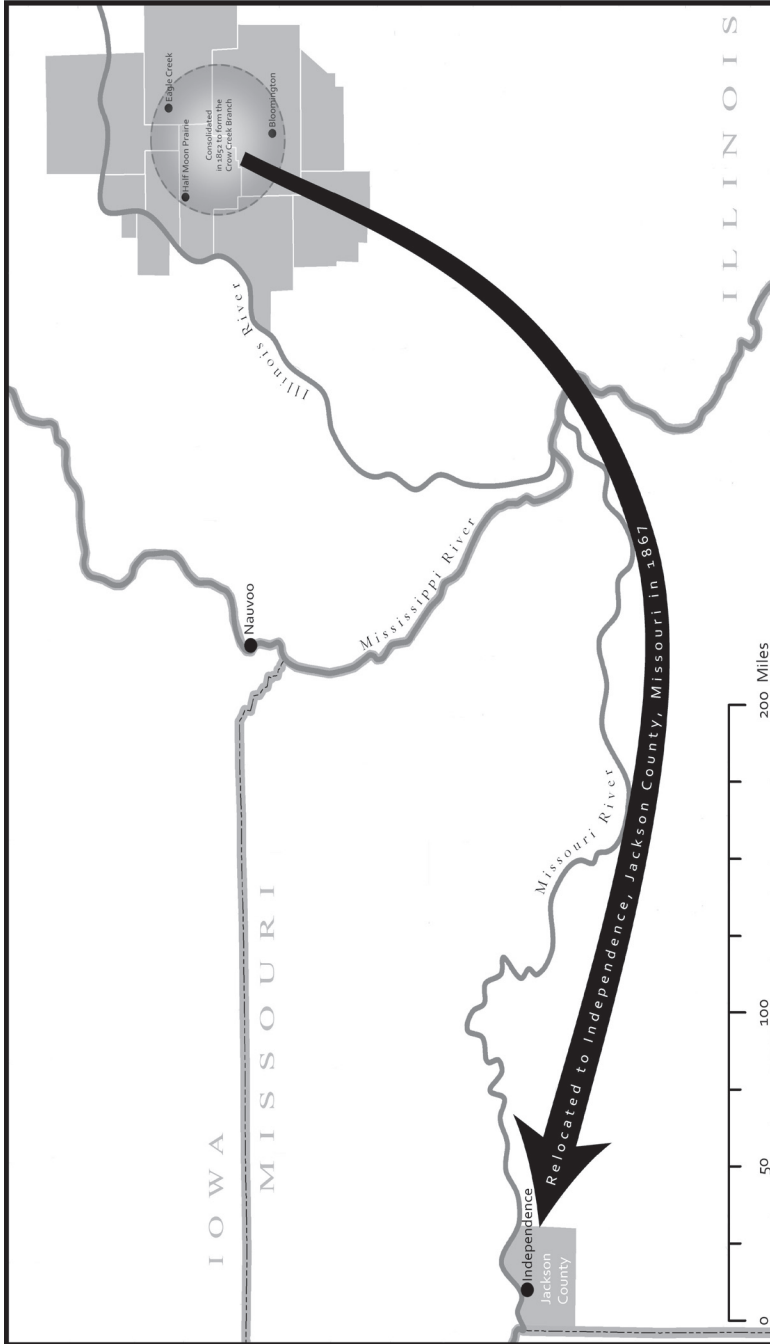
On August 16, 1863, less than one month following his ordination as “prophet,” Granville Hedrick received his first recorded revelation. The tone of the revelation was one of warning, explanation, and promise. In part, the revelation discussed and explained why the early Saints in Missouri were “scattered and driven from off the land which I the Lord consecrated unto my Church and people in the State of Missouri for a beginning of the gathering of my people, from which place they were driven out.”⁴¹ Reference in this revelation to the land in western Missouri being “consecrated” to the Saints set the stage for Hedrick’s second revelation to the Church of Christ the following year.

At a conference of the Church of Christ held on April 24, 1864, Granville Hedrick announced the revelation that set in motion the “long awaited” return to Independence, Jackson County, Missouri. He reported being visited by an angel, who instructed him that he and his followers were to “gather together upon the consecrated land which I have appointed and dedicated by My servant Joseph Smith . . . in Jackson County, state of Missouri.” The church members were specifically told: “And inasmuch as my church and people have been driven and scattered, therefore take counsel of me . . . that you may return in the year A.D. 1867.”⁴² Thus the year 1867 was the time set for these people to return and reclaim the center place of Zion or, more specifically, the temple lot in Independence, Missouri, dedicated by the Prophet Joseph Smith on August 3, 1831.⁴³

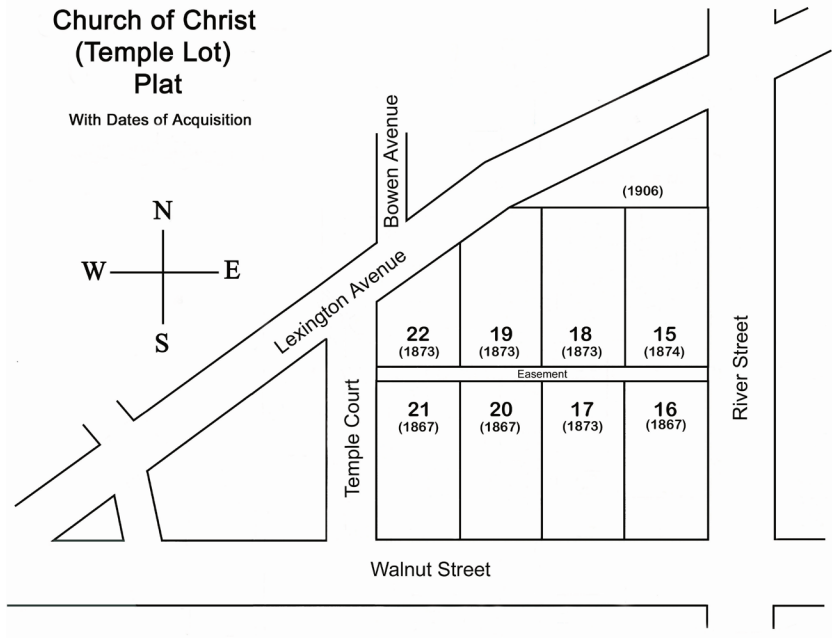
Returning to Zion

In compliance to Hedrick’s “gathering revelation,” but prior to the designated year of 1867, a few members of the Church of Christ sold their homes and farms and moved to Independence, Missouri, between October 1865 and August 1866. John H. Hedrick, Granville’s brother, the first to return and purchase property, acquired a 245-acre farm near Independence on October 11, 1865.⁴⁴ The second to arrive were John T. Clark and Jedediah Owen, who purchased property near Independence on April 4, 1866, and July 23, 1866, respectively.⁴⁵ Finally, approximately eight to ten additional families, consisting of between thirty-five and sixty individuals, left Central Illinois in the dead of winter (probably January 1867) and arrived in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, on February 27, 1867.⁴⁶ Others made the journey in 1868 and in subsequent years.

True to the injunction given by Hedrick in his 1864 revelation, beginning in 1867 and continuing through 1874, members of the Church of Christ succeeded in purchasing eight contiguous lots (approximately 2½ acres) en-



Beginning in 1867, members of the Crow Creek branch of the Church of Christ began relocating in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri. Map courtesy Mark W. Jackson, Harold B. Lee Library, BYU.

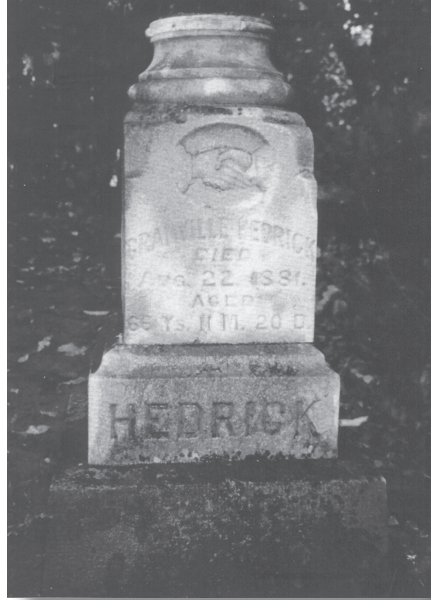


Map showing the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) property acquisitions. Map courtesy Alexander L. Baugh.

compassing the original Independence temple site dedicated by Joseph Smith in 1831.⁴⁷ The acquisition of the temple property also eventually led to the parenthetical inclusion “(Temple Lot)” to the name of the church—Church of Christ (Temple Lot)—although it is important to note that (Temple Lot) is not part of the official or legal name of the church.

Ironically, Granville Hedrick, the prophet-leader who instructed the Church of Christ members to sell their lands and holdings in Illinois and specifically to move to Jackson County, Missouri, did not relocate there in 1867. William E. McLellin, one of the original members of the Twelve under Joseph Smith, and for a short time a member of the Church of Christ, stated that Hedrick arrived in Independence for a church conference on June 1, 1869.⁴⁸ Then, rather than settling in Jackson County as expected, he continued west and purchased a section of land in Johnson County, Kansas, some thirty or forty miles from Independence, where he resided until his death on August 22, 1881.⁴⁹ Likewise, David Judy, also one of the first five apostles, and who later became the president of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) at the death of Granville Hedrick, did not relocate to Missouri. He remained on his property in Mackinaw, Tazewell County, Illinois, until his death on April 14, 1886, at

Grave marker of Granville Hedrick, (b. September 2, 1814, d. August 22, 1881), located in the Hedrick Cemetery in northeast Independence, Missouri, October 2004. Photograph by R. Jean Addams.



the age of eighty-four.⁵⁰ Only Adna C. Haldeman and Jedediah Owen of the “quorum of five apostles” made the original trek to and relocated in Jackson County in 1867–1868.⁵¹

Conclusion

The Church of Christ (Temple Lot) had its origin among three small branches (Half Moon Prairie, Eagle Creek, and Bloomington) of the original Church established in the 1830s and 1840s located in several counties in Central Illinois. Left behind and isolated, these early branches eventually amalgamated into the Crow Creek branch of the Church of Jesus Christ (of Latter day Saints) in 1852, later adopting the name Church of Christ in the early 1860s. Beginning in 1865, under the leadership of Granville Hedrick, members of this group began to return to Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, for the express purpose of redeeming Zion and the repurchasing of the original temple lot. This they accomplished by 1874.

Today, the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) continues to be headquartered on the original temple site in Independence, Missouri. A lovely building, including general and local church offices and a visitors’ reception area, are housed in the church on the northeast corner of the temple property. Regarding the eventual specific construction of a temple on this sacred ground, William Sheldon, an apostle in the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) explained: “The

Church of Christ considers it their sacred duty to be . . . the physical custodian of the property . . . and, as custodians, we will patiently wait for the time when we will be told by divine commandment to build the holy temple.”⁵²

Notes

1. *Crow Creek Record: From Winter of 1852 to April 24, 1864* (Independence: Church of Christ [Temple Lot], n.d.), preface. The title as shown here is as it appears in the Church of Christ’s current edition, but the original document does not have a preface and is titled *The Record and History of the Crow Creek Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ (of Latter day Saints) which was organized on the 6th day of April A.D. 1830* (hereafter cited as the *Crow Creek Record*). From 1852 to April 1864, minutes were taken by unnamed person(s) at meetings held at various places and at different times. Later, the minutes were compiled into a single volume, again by an unnamed person. The authors make this deduction from the verb tenses in the minutes. The compiler, when quoting the original record, generally used the past tense (i.e., “a meeting of the saints was held”). The original compiled document is in the possession of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), which allowed The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to microfilm it on October 4, 1977, in Independence, Missouri. Microfilm copies are available at LDS Church Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Community of Christ Library-Archives, Independence, Missouri. The “Preface” of the *Crow Creek Record* states that the Bloomington branch was organized in the early 1830s. The Half Moon Prairie and Eagle Creek branches were probably organized in the late 1830s or early 1840s.

2. See Leonard J. Arrington, *Charles C Rich: Mormon General and Western Frontiersman* (Provo, UT: Brigham Young University Press, 1974), 16–17, 19, 22, 24, 50, 53. See also Marlene C. Kettley, Arnold K. Garr, and Craig K. Manscill, *Mormon Thoroughfare: A History of the Church in Illinois, 1830–1839* (Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 2006), 33–34, 68.

3. See Tazewell County, Illinois, Property Records, I. L. Morgan and Almeda Morgan to David Judy, November 27, 1832, B3:50–51; and William Brown and James Harvey to David Judy, June 3, 1833, Pekin, Illinois.

4. An obituary states that Judy was baptized by an Elder Drake. See “Miscellaneous: Died,” *Herald* 33, no. 17 (May 1, 1886), 271.

5. After Granville Hedrick’s death in 1881, Judy became President of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot). Interestingly, he never moved to Missouri and died in Tazewell County in 1886.

6. Church of Christ Membership Record, 1, Independence, Missouri, photocopy in possession of author; also Arrington, *Charles C Rich*, 48, 50. Rich recorded that Owen was ordained “an elder to preside over the Crow Creek Branch.” Rich’s date differs from the date provided by Bert C. Flint who wrote that Owen was ordained by Hervey Green in 1832. See Bert C. Flint, *An Outline History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)*, (Independence, MO: Board of Publications, Church of Christ: 1953), 98. Owen also owned land in Tazewell County. See Tazewell County, Illinois, Property Records, Reuben Wixom to Jedediah Owen (Putnam County), April 8, 1834, B4:127–29, Pekin, Illinois.

7. “More Testimony If Called For,” *Truth Teller* (Bloomington, Illinois) 1, no. 2 (August 1864): 31.

8. See Clark V. Johnson, Ronald E. Romig, and Annette W. Curtis, *An Index to Early Caldwell County, Missouri, Land Records* (Independence, MO: Missouri Mormon Frontier

Foundation, 2005), 95, 176, 222.

9. Johnson, Romig, and Curtis, *An Index To Early Caldwell County, Missouri, Land Records*, 129.

10. *Woodford County History*, (Woodford County, IL: Woodford County Sesquicentennial History Committee, 1968), 20.

11. See Woodford County, Illinois, Property Records, John H. and Elizabeth Ann Hedrick to Granville Hedrick, November 29, 1849, E:279; James B. and Minerva Martin, John H. Hedrick and Elizabeth Anne, and America and Mary Jane Hedrick to Granville Hedrick, February 25, 1850, E:280–81; and Jane Hedrick to Granville Hedrick, January 14, 1851, E:278–79, Eureka, Illinois.

12. See Marshall County, Illinois, Property Records, Abner Chapman Jr. to John H. Hedrick, August 14, 1849, G:330; Jane O Hedrick to John Hedrick, December 28, 1849, D:72; and Abner Chapman Jr. to John H. Hedrick, June 26, 1850, H:237, Lacon, Illinois.

13. See Church of Christ Membership Record, 1, Independence, Missouri; and “More Testimony If Called For,” 31. Granville Hedrick was born in Clark City, Indiana, in 1814 and was baptized into the original Church in 1843 by Hervey Green and ordained an elder soon thereafter. His baptism probably took place in Washburn, Illinois, where he owned a large farm originally purchased by his father in 1834, which he later acquired from his widowed mother.

14. “More Testimony if Called For,” 31.

15. *Crow Creek Record*, preface; see also Flint, *An Outline History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)*, 98.

16. Photocopy of hand-written ordination certificate in possession of author. The certificate states: “Done at Eagle creek Jun 19, 1846 Samuel Shaw Presiding High Priest.” Frank J. Young, *Strangite Mormons: A Finding Aid* (Vancouver, WA: Frank J. Young, 1996), 179. In a letter from Samuel Shaw to James J. Strang, dated May 5, 1846, Shaw is listed as the Presiding High Priest at Voree, Wisconsin. In the opening lines of the letter Shaw states that he is “ancious [*sic*] to get a long [*sic*] on my mission.” Samuel Shaw letter in private possession of Vickie Speek

17. *Crow Creek Record*, 1. Interestingly, the hand-written membership record of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) records Haldeman’s ordination as June 1846, the same date (less the day) as appears on his ordination certificate issued and signed by Samuel Shaw. Church of Christ (Temple Lot) Membership Record, Independence, Missouri, 1. Additionally, a hand-written document dated December 25, 1859, states: “This is to certify . . . that Adna C Haldeman has been ordained to the office of an Elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints and is duly authorized to officiate in the same according to the church covenants.” It is signed by “Granville Hedrick, Jedidiah Owen [and] David Judy [at] Crow Creek in Woodford county Illinois.” It is possible that this 1859 document may indicate a “new” ordination. Photocopy in possession of the R. Jean Addams.

18. See *Truth Teller* 1, no. 1 (July 1864).

19. “More Testimony If Called For,” 31; see also Flint, *An Outline History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)*, 98.

20. “More Testimony If Called For,” 31. After Eaton’s death his widow reported to the *Herald* that “he was a good man; was baptized into the old organization in 1845, by Elder Nickerson.” See “Died,” *Herald* 27, no. 21 (November 1, 1880), 340. See also Janet Lisonbee and Annette Curtis, *Obituaries and Life Sketches of the Early Saints Who Died in the Jackson County, Missouri Area* (Independence, MO: Missouri Mormon frontier Foundation, 2007), 16–17. Eaton lived in close proximity to the Bradleys. See also Livingston County, Illinois, Property Records, Adam Miller and Frances H. Miller to James Bradley, November 28, 1851, D:105–6; James Bradley and Nancy Bradley to George W. Gifford,

December 25, 1856, K:209, Pontiac, Illinois.

21. See Livingston County, Illinois, Property Records, Ashael Gridley and Mary Ann E. Gridley to William Eaton, July 5, 1853, D:137; William Eaton to Peter Kezsen, April 21, 1875, 58:570, Pontiac, Illinois. This is just a sampling of the property bought and sold by William Eaton over a period of approximately thirty years.

22. James Bradley and J. W. Frazee of Livingston County “became members of the church about four years since [1860] . . . G. W. Gifford, Oak Dale, Livingston county, was baptized about three years ago [1861].” “More Testimony If Called For,” 31. Oak Dale is another very small community not far from Long Point. These members all lived in close proximity to Eagle Creek. “More Testimony If Called For,” *Truth Teller* 1, no. 2 (August 1864), 31. County land records show that the Giffords and the Frazees lived near Eaton. See Livingston County, Illinois, Property Records, George W. Gifford and Mary E. Gifford to John W. Frazee, February 22, 1860, Z:210; George W. Gifford to John L. Gourley, June 1, 1867, G:89; John W. Frazee and Lydia Frazee to Jacob Allen, October 28, 1864, Z:212, Pontiac, Illinois.

23. Vermillion Church of Christ Established by Daniel Cathcart and George M. Hinkle May 1832, photocopy of the document in the possession of R. Jean Addams, provided by Kevin Bryant. This is a handwritten membership record in a small leather-bound notebook containing seven pages. See also Vermillion Branch Conference Minutes, “Conference of Elders of the Church of Christ, Vermillion county, state of Indiana, Eugene Township,” Church History Library, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah. The document contains eight sets of minutes dated November 1832 through June 1833. See also Flint, *An Outline History of the Church of Christ*, 98.

24. Vermillion Branch Conference Minutes, Church History Library.

25. Arrington, *Charles C Rich*, 46. Minutes of this meeting and any subsequent meetings of the Vermillion branch have not been located at the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Community of Christ Library-Archives, or the Church History Library.

26. Flint, *An Outline History of the Church of Christ*, 98; Arthur M. Smith, *A Brief History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)* (Independence, MO: Board of Publication of the Church of Christ [Temple Lot]; 2005), 11.

27. See *Crow Creek Record*, 6–7; also Vermillion Branch Conference Minutes, Church History Library.

28. Arrington citing Charles C. Rich’s journal states that “it was a four-day trip to Eugene [Indiana], a total of 144 miles.” Arrington, *Charles C. Rich*, 46. This would be the distance from the Rich property in Tazewell County. 46.

29. *Crow Creek Record*, 1–4, 6, 8, 10–15, 23.

30. See Joseph Smith III and Heman C. Smith, *The History of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints*, 4 vols. (Independence, MO: Herald Publishing House, 1951), 3:214–15 (hereafter cited as *History of the RLDS Church*).

31. See Granville Hedrick, *Spiritual Wife System Proven False and the True Order of Church Discipline* (Bloomington, IL: W. E. Foote’s Power Press Printing House, 1856).

32. *History of the RLDS Church*, 3:233. The RLDS Church’s semi-annual conference held near Council Bluffs, Iowa, on September 24, 1871, rescinded Hedrick’s membership but made no mention of Owen. See *History of the RLDS Church*, 3:613, 631.

33. Flint, *An Outline History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)*, 103; *Crow Creek Record*, 4.

34. *History of the RLDS Church*, 3:637.

35. In an 1896 letter from Joseph Smith III to John R. Haldeman of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Smith states that “we have ever been willing to exchange views; and three or four times have some of us met with the brethren of the Church of Christ to talk

the matter over. 1857, 1858 or 9, 1861 and twice at Independence.” Joseph Smith III, Letter to J. R. Haldeman, June 1, 1896, Joseph Smith Letterbook, 7:56, Community of Christ Library-Archives, Independence, Missouri. At the 1861 meeting, Smith stated that “Mr. Hedrick . . . laid down a prerequisite that we were to put away the Book of Covenants; this we could not do; hence, nothing resulted.”

36. Flint, *An Outline History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)*, 104–5. Notwithstanding the *Declaration*, Hedrick and his close associates continued to meet with designated leaders of the New Organization.

37. *Crow Creek Record*, 3–4. Previously, in April 1857, “Granville Hedrick was set apart to preside over this branch as presiding Elder.” *Crow Creek Record*, 3–4.

38. *Crow Creek Record*, 4, 12. At this time John E. Page resided in DeKalb County, Illinois, located north of Marshall County. Page had been baptized into the original Church in August 1833 and was ordained to the Quorum of the Twelve on December 19, 1838, at Far West, Missouri. However, within a year and a half of the death of Joseph Smith, Page, having become disaffected with the leadership of Brigham Young, was disfellowshipped and dropped from the Quorum of the Twelve in February 1846, and formally excommunicated on June 27, 1846. See Joseph Smith Jr., *History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, ed. B. H. Roberts, 2d ed., rev., 7 vols. (Salt Lake City, UT: Deseret Book 1971), 3:240–41 also note; 5:582 (hereafter cited as *History of the Church*); also B. H. Roberts, *A Comprehensive History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Century One*, 6 vols. (Provo, UT: Corporation of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1965), 2:431 n. Page eventually dissociated himself from Hedrick’s followers. See John Quist, “John E. Page: An Apostle of Uncertainty,” *Journal of Mormon History* 12, (1985): 53–68; and William Shepherd, “Shadows on the Sun Dial: John E. Page and the Strangites,” *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 41, no. 1 (Spring 2008): 34–66.

39. *Crow Creek Record*, 14. As noted earlier, William Eaton joined the original Church sometime in 1844–45. See “More Testimony If Called For,” *Truth Teller* 1, no. 2 (August 1864): 31. After Eaton’s first wife passed away, he married Mary Page, the widow of John E. Page, in the early 1870s before moving to Independence, Missouri.

40. *Crow Creek Record*, 15. Page declared himself “mouth” for the quorum of apostles, and in ordaining Hedrick the prophet, was joined by the other apostles, Judy, Haldeman, and Owen. See also R. Jean Addams, “Reclaiming the Temple Lot in the Center Place of Zion,” *Mormon Historical Studies* 7, nos. 1–2 (Spring-Fall 2006): 7–20.

41. See *Truth Teller* 1, no. 1 (July 1864), 5–6; *Crow Creek Record*, 19–19a.

42. See *Truth Teller* 1, no. 1 (July 1864), 4; *Crow Creek Record*, 23–25.

43. See *History of the Church*, 1:196.

44. Jackson County, Missouri, Property Records, James and Charlotte Pollock to John Hedrick, October 11, 1865, 43:615–16, Independence, Missouri.

45. Jackson County, Missouri, Property Records, Simon and Nancy Walgamet to John T. Clark, April 4, 1866, 44:564–65; and Jesse and Eliza Taylor to Jediah Owen, July 23, 1866, 46:405–6, Independence, Missouri.

46. Flint, *An Outline History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)*, 108. For a discussion of the members of the Crow Creek branch who relocated in the Independence area see Addams, “Reclaiming the Temple Lot in the Center Place of Zion,” 7–20.

47. See Addams, “Reclaiming the Temple Lot in the Center Place of Zion,” 12–15. In 1906, the city of Independence sold Richard Hill, trustee in trust for the Church of Christ, a small triangular parcel consisting of about a quarter acre adjacent to the previously purchased property. This acquisition brought the total temple site property owned by the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) to approximately 2¾ acres.

48. William E. McLellin to Our very dear Friends July 12, 1869, Brownsville, Mis-

souri, Community of Christ Library-Archives, Independence, Missouri.

49. See Johnson County, Kansas, Property Records, Francis M. Black and Susie B. Black and David Waldo and William McCoy to Granville Hedrick, August 29, 1874, 29:62, Olathe, Kansas; also Family History provided to R. Jean Addams by Geri Adams (a great-great-granddaughter of Granville Hedrick), Blue Springs, Missouri.

50. "Miscellaneous: Died," *Herald* 33, no. 17 (May 1, 1886), 271.

51. Another early participant in the 1867 "gathering revelation" experience of Hedrick was Richard Hill. Hill is the only known non-Central Illinois adherent of Hedrick to come from Southern Wisconsin. Hill later became the third president of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot).

52. R. Jean Addams interview with William A. Sheldon, April 2006, Independence, Missouri.