
Reclaiming the Temple Lot in the Center Place of Zion

R. Jean Addams

The Mormon historical community is generally familiar with the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), or Hedrickites as members of that church have been called historically. This paper explores the efforts of the Hedrick brothers—Granville and John—to reclaim the temple lot in the “center place” of Zion as identified by revelation through Joseph Smith Jr. in late July 1831 (see D&C 57:1-4).¹ The term reclaiming is used here to differentiate the 1860s reoccupation of this sacred space by the Hedrickites from that of Bishop Edward Partridge’s original purchase on behalf of the early Church in 1831.² Shortly after Joseph Smith arrived in Jackson County, Missouri, in July 1831, he received a revelation designating the town of Independence as “the center place; and a spot for the temple is lying westward, upon a lot which is not far from the courthouse” (D&C 57:3).³ A later revelation through Smith in June 1833 expanded his initial vision from a single temple to an expansive town to be built around twenty-four temple structures.⁴ Tragically, the Mormons who settled in Jackson between 1831-1833 were driven en masse from the county in the fall of 1833. As a result of this forced exodus, the land claims of the Church and its members were lost.⁵

To the vast majority of the restoration churches who claim as their original basis the revelations of Joseph Smith as the Prophet of the Restoration, the “temple lot” in the “center place” of Zion remains a fundamental tenet. The temple lot and its proposed temples continue to be seen as crucial elements in preparing for the return of the Saints to Independence, Missouri, and the eventual return of Christ.

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Beginnings

In the aftermath of the death of the Joseph Smith and the exodus from Nauvoo in 1846, a significant number of Smith's followers remained behind or scattered to nearby states. Many of these followers aligned themselves with certain personalities who claimed to be successors to Joseph Smith. However, in central Illinois four branches of the Church existed and had remained generally aloof from the controversy swirling around these new claimants and their followers. These original branches, located in the vicinity of Woodford County, Illinois, consisted of the Eagle Creek, Half Moon Prairie, Crow Creek, and Bloomington branches.⁶ Being removed from the area surrounding Nauvoo in Hancock County, Illinois, these Saints generally escaped the bitter persecution and hatred manifested toward the Saints nearer the Mormon center 135 miles to the west.

Early Meetings

Granville Hedrick, John Hedrick, David Judy, Jedediah Owen, Zebulon Adams, William Eaton, Adna Haldeman, and several others representing the various branches in Woodford County began meeting together around 1852.⁷ The branches joined together of their own volition into what they termed the Crow Creek Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ (of Latter Day Saints).⁸ The name of the church was variously modified over the next few years. However, in December 1860, at a meeting of the Crow Creek Branch, "Much was said concerning the name of Christ's as to the name the Church should be called."⁹ Thereafter, the original name of the church, as used at the organization of the original Church on April 6, 1830, at Fayette, New York, namely, the Church of Christ, became prevalent in their minutes, documents, and correspondence.

Years later, the inclusion in parenthesis of the term Temple Lot was added to the name of the church to distinguish this "Church of Christ" (Church of Christ on the temple lot), from other denominations using the name Church of Christ and in particular, the Church of Christ formally called the Disciples of Christ founded by Alexander Campbell. Thus the name generally used today is the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) although there has been no official changing of the name by the church's governing body. Many congregations choose not to include the parenthetical enclosure (Temple Lot).¹⁰

The first meeting of this consolidated branch took place in the home of Granville Hedrick in the winter of 1852.¹¹ Minutes of these meetings and conferences are sparse, but the Crow Creek Record contains minutes recorded between 1852 and 1864.¹² It appears from that record that the meetings or

conferences were rotated at intervals (sometimes several months) between the various homes of certain members. Most meetings however, were held at the homes of either Granville Hedrick or his brother John Hedrick, who farmed immediately north of the border of Woodford County in Marshall County, Illinois.¹³

Attempts to Consolidate with the New Organization

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 in 1860) in part due to the two groups’ mutual feelings on the subject of polygamy. This disaffection to plural marriage is evidenced by a pamphlet published by Granville Hedrick in 1856 which denounced the doctrine and principle.¹⁴

Granville Hedrick and Jedediah Owen traveled to Zarahemla, Wisconsin, in October 1857 to meet with the leaders of the New Organization and to attend their conference. Later, Hedrick also attended a meeting of the New Organization at Amboy, Illinois. It appears from the record that a representative or representatives of the New Organization also attended at least two meetings or conferences of the Crow Creek branch during 1857 and 1858.¹⁵ W. W. Blair, by invitation, attended the April 1857 conference of the Crow Creek Branch held in the home of David Judy in Mackinaw, Illinois. According to Blair, this meeting was presided over by Granville Hedrick “who was the head and front of their little association.”¹⁶ Following a deeper examination of each other’s doctrine, these initial efforts to consolidate apparently failed, and no further attempts were made by either group to merge during this era. Throughout the 1890s and early 1900s, however, new efforts were made to consolidate. Both movements signed mutual articles of working harmony in 1918.¹⁷

John E. Page Unites with the Church

Former LDS apostle John E. Page began taking an interest in the activities of the Crow Creek Branch in 1857.¹⁸ Page’s formal unification with the Crow Creek Branch on November 8, 1862, effected a dramatic change in the fledging movement.¹⁹ He had been baptized in August 1833 and ordained an elder in the original Church in September 1833. His ordination to the office of apostle came in December 1838 at Far West, Missouri.²⁰ However, within a year and a half of the death of Joseph Smith, Page became disaffected with the leadership of Brigham Young and was later excommunicated.²¹

At a conference of the “Church of Christ (of Latter Day Saints),” namely, the Church of Christ, held on May 17, 1863, John E. Page ordained Granville Hedrick and three others apostles, “thus forming a quorum of five Apostles in the Church of Christ” which, obviously, included himself.²² Two months later on July 19, Hedrick was ordained by Page “to the office of the First Presidency of the Church, to preside over the high priesthood and to be a prophet, seer, revelator and translator to the Church of Christ.”²³ While Granville Hedrick had been the unofficial leader of the Crow Creek Branch for many years, this formal act of ordination by Page indicated that Hedrick was now the presiding authority of this group of saints. This act was unanimously agreed to by all members of the branch present at the ordination.²⁴

Granville Hedrick’s Revelation

In 1864, Granville Hedrick received a revelation that was subsequently published in the church’s newspaper *The Truth Teller*.²⁵ He claimed he had been visited by an angel on April 24, 1864, who instructed him and his followers to “gather together upon the consecrated land which I have appointed and dedicated by My servant Joseph Smith . . . in Jackson County, state of Missouri.” Additionally, they were told that “inasmuch as my church and people have been driven and scattered, therefore take counsel of me, your Lord and director, who says unto you: prepare yourselves and be ready against the appointed time which I have set and prepared for you, that you may return in the year A.D. 1867, which time the Lord, by your prayers and faithfulness in all things, will open and prepare a way before you that you may begin to gather at that time.”²⁶ Thus the time was set for a gathering of these people in 1867 to return and reclaim the “center place” of Zion or, more specifically, the “temple lot.” Given this instruction, they set out to fulfill the revelation given to Joseph Smith in July 1831.

The Return to the Center Place

In compliance with Hedrick’s revelation, a vanguard of three families sold their farms and homes and moved to Independence, Missouri, in 1865 and 1866.²⁷ The first to return and purchase property was John Hedrick, who acquired a 245-acre farm near Independence on October 11, 1865.²⁸ It is not known whether he was accompanied by family or other members of the Crow Creek Branch. However, John Clark and Jedediah Owen also made purchases of farms on April 4, 1866, and July 23, 1866, respectively.²⁹ These land acqui-

sitions were likely made prior to selling their land holdings in Illinois and the relocation of their families. These families exercised great faith in their cause, leaving behind family, friends, and property, many of whom had been living on their farms since their exodus from Missouri in 1839. Approximately twelve additional families, consisting of between thirty-five and sixty individuals who chose to move to Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, or “Zion,” left Illinois in the middle of winter (probably January 1867), arriving in Independence, Missouri, on February 27, 1867.³⁰

Unfortunately, no complete and accurate list of the individuals or families who returned to Jackson County, Missouri, in the late 1860s is known to exist. There are three separate lists of 1867 pioneers. However, these lists were all recorded many years after the fact and do not agree with one another. Furthermore, two of these “later” lists omit the names of the wives and children of these families and the third gives only a partial list.³¹

Ironically, Granville Hedrick’s name is missing from two of the three known lists—the very person who induced the body of believers to sell their lands and holdings in Illinois and move to Missouri. Regarding Hedrick these lists simply note, “he came later.”³² Available sources suggest that he did, in fact, “come later,” not moving to Independence until late 1868 or early 1869. Records show that on May 29, 1868, Granville was still in Illinois when he executed a power of attorney in behalf of his brother John Hedrick.³³ Granville collected the balance of the monies due John Hedrick from the sale of his property in January 1866. In a letter written by former Mormon apostle William E. McLellin, he states that Granville arrived in Independence for a church conference on June 1, 1869.³⁴

The first meeting of the replanted Church of Christ took place on March 3, 1867, the Sunday following their arrival in Independence. They met at the home of John Clark, a member of the vanguard party of 1866. A second meeting took place two weeks later on March 17, 1867, again at the Clark home.³⁵

Reclaiming the Temple Lot

Meanwhile, notwithstanding Granville’s absence, adherents commenced reclaiming of the “center place” and specifically the “temple lot.” The actual reclaiming of the “center place” meant purchasing (actually repurchasing) the lots on and around the spot where Joseph Smith dedicated the temple site on August 3, 1831.³⁶ The original purchase of 63.2 acres encompassing the previously dedicated site for a temple was transacted by Edward Partridge, acting

in his ordained role as bishop for the Church. He completed the purchase from Jones H. Flourney (also Flourney) on December 19, 1831.³⁷

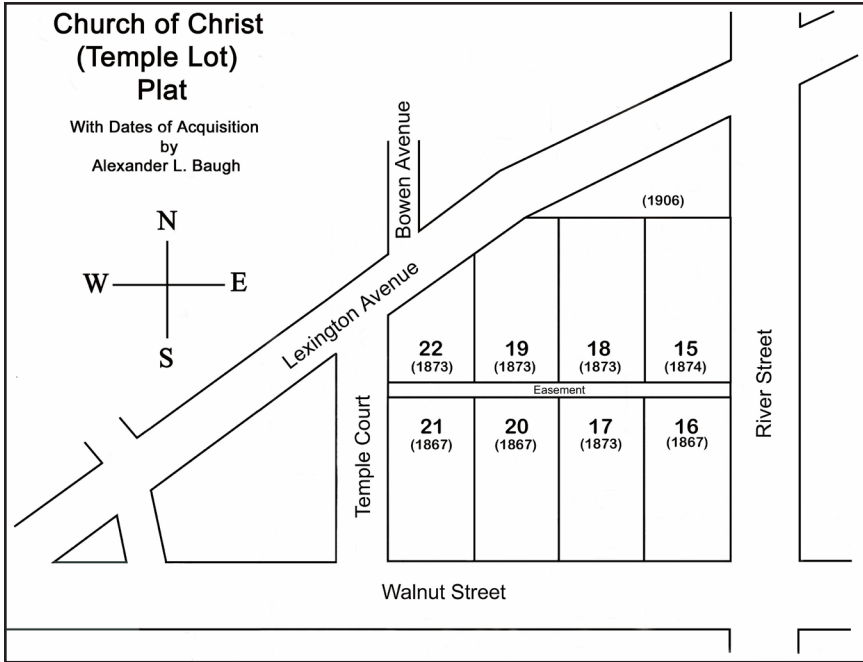
John Hedrick, Granville's brother and the leader of the small vanguard party of 1865-66, initiated the first three purchases of lots between August and December of 1867. Each lot was acquired separately. Hedrick paid \$250 for each, totaling \$750. All three lots were properly recorded in the Jackson County courthouse in Independence, Missouri.³⁸ It is important to note that John Hedrick had sold his farm in Marshall County, Illinois, in January 1866, for the impressive sum of \$7,245.³⁹ Presumably therefore, he possessed sufficient cash resources to make these land acquisitions as they became available. (John Hedrick acquired an additional 165-acre farm in March 1867).⁴⁰

On November 8, 1869, John Hedrick quit-claimed his three lots (numbers 16, 20, and 21) to Granville Hedrick as "President of the Church of Christ and as 'Trustee in Trust' for the Church of Christ." The deed also contains specific language to the effect that Granville Hedrick, acting as "Trustee in Trust" for the church, paid John Hedrick the amount of \$750, the same amount that John had paid originally for these lots two years earlier.⁴¹ It would therefore appear that John Hedrick had, at the time of purchase of these three lots, no ulterior motive. He simply wanted to "redeem by purchase" these lots as they became available to him.

Details regarding the Church of Christ's efforts to purchase additional lots over the next several years are nearly non-existent. Some members of the church, drawing on stories passed on to them by the pioneers of 1867 recorded that Granville Hedrick received another revelation sometime after his belated arrival in Independence, which later revelation may explain the reason for the delay.

Estella Hedrick, a daughter-in-law of Granville Hedrick, recorded the following: "Granville Hedrick gave a so-called revelation after his coming to Missouri, to 'scatter out and let the wind blow between you for the time of the gathering is not for many days.'"⁴² Other members of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) have stated in oral traditions handed down from generation to generation that the pronoun "you" in the quote "let the wind blow between you," should be replaced by the pronoun "us," having been told that this statement referred to certain personal differences that had developed between the brothers Granville and John.⁴³

Significantly, John Hedrick was killed in an unfortunate accident on May 11, 1872, while driving a team of horses pulling a wagon load of wood to town. His obituary notice, carried in the *Saints' Herald* (the newspaper of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints), states that John Hedrick's "horses ran away, threw him off the wagon and broke his neck. He was a good man and we miss him very much."⁴⁴ As indicated, this obituary,



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

published in the RLDS *Saints' Herald*, suggests an association with the RLDS church. Though John is not listed on RLDS membership records, the tone of the comment “we shall miss him very much” could indicate that John Hedrick and his family may have established ties with the RLDS church. If that is true, it may explain the previous statement of Granville Hedrick, “and let the wind blow between ‘us.’”⁴⁵ Over time, however, some members of the Hedrick family did affiliate with the RLDS church.⁴⁶

Perhaps because of differences between the brothers, or among the members and their leader Granville Hedrick, it appears that neither the church nor any individual church member pursued the acquisition of the additional parcels of the temple lot for several years. It is also possible that the owners of the desired lots were not interested or were simply unwilling to sell their property between 1867 and 1873.

Finally, however, on July 9, 1873, William Eaton (a member of the old Crow Creek branch, one of the early pioneers of 1867, and an active member of the Church of Christ in 1873), purchased lot numbers 17, 18, 19, and 22 for

the sum of \$525, obviously a much better price than what John Hedrick had paid seven years earlier.⁴⁷ He followed this acquisition with the purchase of lot number 15 on March 7, 1874 for \$200.⁴⁸ (Lot number 15 is considered the location where Joseph Smith dedicated the site for the temple.) This brought the total of contiguous “temple” lots owned by the Church of Christ or one of its members to eight, and approximated 2½ acres. The eight contiguous lots (lot numbers 15-22) comprised the three lots quit-claimed to Granville Hedrick as “Trustee in Trust” for the Church of Christ by John Hedrick in 1869, plus five lots of the seven lots then owned by William Eaton.

Significantly, less than six months later, Granville Hedrick left Independence with his family and on August 29, 1874, purchased a large farm consisting of an entire section of land (640 acres) in Johnson County, Kansas.⁴⁹ Here he lived and farmed for the rest of his life. How often he traveled back to Independence is unknown. Nevertheless, on November 5, 1877, Granville Hedrick, acting as “Trustee in Trust” for the Church of Christ, purchased and recorded the five lots that Eaton had deeded to Hedrick as “Trustee” in the county courthouse for Jackson County, Missouri, for the sum of \$425.⁵⁰ This final transaction meant that the eight contiguous lots encompassing the dimensions of the site for the first temple dedicated by Joseph Smith were now in the name of the Church of Christ.

Finally, on July 17, 1906, the city of Independence sold Richard Hill (as “Trustee in Trust” for the church) for \$75 a parcel “for the use and benefit of said Church of Christ.” This parcel consisted of a small triangular strip of land (approximately one-fourth acre) lying just north of these eight contiguous lots (specifically lots 15, 18, and 19) that had been platted as a street but later abandoned by the city.⁵¹ This brought the total property owned by the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) to approximately 2¾ acres. This acreage comprises the property that the church owns today. A thirty foot strip of land lying to the west of lots 21 and 22 was never owned by the Church of Christ. It was used by the city of Independence into a widening of Bowen Avenue and renamed Temple Court.

Conclusion

As a result of Granville Hedrick’s revelation (1864) and John Hedrick’s financial resources (1867), the property known as the “temple lot” in the “center place” of Zion was saved and preserved. Furthermore, this acquisition prompted serious attention by the RLDS and LDS churches in subsequent years regarding the remaining acreage of the original parcel of 63.2 acres purchased by Edward Partridge for the original Church in 1831.⁵²



Aerial view of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) property (2001).
Photograph courtesy Intellectual Reserve.

With purchases made by the RLDS and LDS churches beginning in the late nineteenth century and continuing well into the twentieth century, the westward growth of the downtown and business areas of Independence was gradually but effectively stopped.⁵³ As religious structures were built on what had been vacant land, condemnation of the property was also avoided by government authorities for the building of schools or other government facilities.⁵⁴ With these acquisitions, Joseph's vision of the nature and use of this land has been more fully realized as representatives of the "Restoration movement" have reasserted controlling interest.

In conclusion, the Hedrick brothers may be credited with three separate actions to reclaim the "temple lot" in the "center place" of Zion: (1) Granville Hedrick's reception of specific instruction in an 1864 revelatory experience which directed his followers in the Crow Creek Branch, Woodford County, Illinois, to return to Jackson County, Missouri; (2) John Hedrick's demonstration of faith to return to Independence, Missouri, beginning with his journey to Jackson County to purchase a farm in 1865; and, (3) John Hedrick's commitment of financial means, and willingness to use them, to begin the acquisition of this sacred ground in 1867. Without these responses, adherents to the original revelation received by Joseph Smith in July 1831 would find it difficult to contemplate what might have become of that "spot for the temple

... lying westward, upon a lot which is not far from the court-house” (D&C 57:3).⁵⁵

Notes

1. Community of Christ (formerly RLDS), Independence, Missouri, D&C 57:1a-d. It is noteworthy that this section (chapter) of the Doctrine and Covenants is not contained in the 1833 Book of Commandments. The most likely explanations for this omission are that (1) The Book of Commandments was not completed at the time the press was destroyed by a mob in Independence, Missouri, in July of 1833; or (2) the editors/publishers opted not to include it for reason of its sensitivity. The latter conjecture or explanation was suggested to the author by William A. Sheldon, Apostle, Church of Christ, May 2006.

2. Jackson County, Missouri, Property Records, Book B, 1, Independence, Missouri. The exact date of the purchase is noted in the records: “Jones H. Flourney and Clara, his wife . . . to Edward Partridge, 63 and 43/160th acres in Section 3, Township 9, Range 32 . . . dated December 19, 1831.”

3. Community of Christ, D&C 57:1-d.

4. On June 25, 1833, Joseph Smith, Jr. released his plat for the city of Zion showing the twenty-four temples and giving his explanation for their use. 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: Deseret Book, 1971), 1:357-62 (hereafter cited as *History of the Church*); also Richard H. Jackson, “The City of Zion Plat,” in S. Kent Brown, Donald Q. Cannon, and Richard H. Jackson, eds., *Historical Atlas of Mormonism* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1994), 44-45.

5. As a result of the Church abandoning its properties in Jackson County, Missouri, these properties were either later sold at a sheriff’s auction, or sold for failure to pay delinquent property taxes, or were foreclosed upon by the federal government or secondary owners who had not been paid under terms of their respective contracts.

6. See *Crow Creek Record, From Winter of 1852 to April 24, 1864* (Independence, Missouri: Church of Christ [Temple Lot], n.d.), preface.

7. *Crow Creek Record*, 1.

8. *Crow Creek Record*, preface. The history specifically states that “G. Hedrick” was ordained “to the office of presiding high priest of the Crow Creek Branch of the church.” *Crow Creek Record*, 9.

9. *Crow Creek Record*, 10.

10. William A. Sheldon to R. Jean Addams, August 23, 2006. In his correspondence, Sheldon states, “There has never been Church action to attach ‘Temple Lot’ to the church name of Church of Christ. It has been done parenthetically according to whim. . . . We have local congregations which do not use the appellation at all.”

11. *Crow Creek Record*, 1.

12. *Crow Creek Record*, cover.

13. Marshall County, Illinois, Property Records, Book H, 237, Lacon, Illinois.

14. Granville Hedrick, *Spiritual Wife System Proven False and the True Order of Church Discipline* (Bloomington, Illinois: n. p., 1856).

15. Joseph Smith III, and Heman C. Smith, *The History of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints*, Vols. 1-4. (Independence: Herald House, 1951), 3:637 (hereafter cited as *History of the Reorganized Church*).

16. *History of the Reorganized Church*, 3:636.

17. "Agreement of Working Harmony," General Records of the Church of Christ, April 6, 1918, 258-61; *History of the Reorganized Church*, and F. Henry Edwards, *The History of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints*, Vols. 5-8. (Independence: Herald House, 1969-77), 7:280-82.

18. *Crow Creek Record*, 4.

19. *Crow Creek Record*, 12.

20. *History of the Church*, 3:240-41.

21. Roberts, B. H., *A Comprehensive History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Century One*, 6 vols. (Provo, Utah: Corporation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1965), 2:431.

22. *Crow Creek Record*, 14.

23. *Crow Creek Record*, 15.

24. *Crow Creek Record*, 15.

25. *The Truth Teller* was the official monthly newspaper of the Church of Christ published between July 1864 and June 1865 at Bloomington, Illinois. Publication was restarted in June 1868 at Independence, Missouri (two issues only). The name of the church used in the mast is the Church of Jesus Christ (of Latter Day Saints). Obviously, in spite of efforts to return to the original name of the church, namely the Church of Christ, the name of the church used for the newspaper would continue to be used for many years.

26. *The Truth Teller* 1, no. 1 (July 1864): 4.

27. E. E. Lang, "Return to Zion," *Zion's Advocate* (Independence, Missouri) 7, no. 17 (November 1930): 177.

28. Jackson County, Missouri, Property Records, Book 43, 615-16, Independence, Missouri.

29. Jackson County, Missouri, Property Records, Book 44, 564-65 (Clark); and Book 46, 405-06 (Owen), Independence, Missouri.

30. B. C. Flint, *An Outline History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)* (Independence, Missouri: Church of Christ, n. d.), 108-09.

31. Flint, *An Outline History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)*, 108. List #1—Flint records the names of several of the accompanying women on his list, but also includes names of those who actually came in 1865 and 1866, as well as those who came later in 1868 or 1869 (besides Granville Hedrick). He also includes the name of William E. McLellan who joined the church in 1869 in Independence. List #2—Nicholas Denham prepared a typed record of those original pioneers in 1999. The author conducted an interview with Denham in September 2005 at his home in Independence, Missouri. He was 90 years old and very alert with an excellent memory. He is a descendant of the Frisbey family who came to Independence in 1867. He states in an opening paragraph to William A. Sheldon (to whom he provided the list): "The following is a list of the families who came to Independence, MO, from Bloomington, Ill. early in the year 1867 as taken from records left by my mother, Marion Olive Frisbey Denham." No women or children are mentioned. He excludes the names of John Hedrick, John Clark, Jedediah Owen, or Alma Owen, which I interpret to mean that he knew that they were already in Independence. To his typed list he appended notes in his own handwriting "The [Granville] Hedrick family came at a later date!" A copy of the list with comments was provided to the author by William A. Sheldon. List #3—Angela Denham Wheaton in a handwritten note dated December 4, 1977, stated, "This [meaning the attached list] was given to me by Uncle Alma Frisbey (born Sept 12, 1867 at Independence, MO.) when he made his home with us in his last years." The list is in Alma Frisbey's handwriting. He also indicates next to the entry for Granville Hedrick that he "came later." He notes next to each adult male "and wife" but does not provide any female names. He does list two sets of children's names. He excludes the names of John

Hedrick, John Clark, Jedediah Owen, or Alma Owen. A copy of the list with comments was provided to the author by Richard Wheaton, son of Angela Denham Wheaton.

32. Lists #2 and #3, see n. 31.

33. Recording of the power of attorney from John Hedrick to Granville Hedrick, Marshall County, Illinois, Property Records, Book 5, 138, Lacon, Illinois; and recording of the power of attorney from John Hederick to Granville Hedrick, Jackson County, Missouri, Property Records Book 17, 205-06, Independence, Missouri.

34. William E. McLellin to "Our very dear Friends," Brownsville, Missouri, 12 July 1869, Miscellaneous Letter and Papers, Community of Christ Library-Archives, Independence, Missouri.

35. Flint, *An Outline History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)*, 108-09.

36. *History of the Church*, 1:196.

37. Jackson County, Missouri, Property Records, Book B, 1, Independence, Missouri; see also n. 3.

38. Jackson County, Missouri, Property Records, Book 50, 331 (lot #21); Book 50, 332 (lot #22); and Book 53, 526-27 (lot #16), Independence, Missouri.

39. Marshall County, Illinois, Property Records, Book 17, 205-06, Lacon, Illinois.

40. Jackson County, Missouri Property Records, Book 48, 343, Independence, Missouri.

41. Jackson County, Missouri, Property Records, Book 73, 1-2, Independence, Missouri.

42. Handwritten statement of Nicholas F. Denham quoting Estella Hedrick, March 29, 1999; see also n. 29. Copy provided to the author by William A. Sheldon.

43. R. Jean Addams interview with Geri Adams (direct descendent of Granville Hedrick) and others, September 2005, Independence, Missouri.

44. *Saints' Herald*, Obituaries 19 (September 15, 1872): 574.

45. R. Jean Addams interview with Geri Adams and others, September 2005, Independence, Missouri.

46. Index of RLDS Membership Records, Community of Christ Library-Archives, Independence, Missouri.

47. Jackson County, Missouri, Property Records, Book 104, 311. Independence, Missouri.

48. Jackson County, Missouri, Property Records, Book 104, 517, Independence, Missouri.

49. Johnson County, Kansas, Property Records, Book 29, 62, Olathe, Kansas.

50. Jackson County, Missouri, Property Records, Book 115, 452-54, Independence, Missouri.

51. Jackson County, Missouri, Property Records, Book, 264, 621-22, Independence, Missouri.

52. Jackson County, Missouri, Property Records, Book B, 1, Independence, Missouri; see also n. 35.

53. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints made its first purchase of nearly twenty-six acres of the original 63.2 acres in early 1904. Individual RLDS members began purchasing lots "as early as the 1880s—maybe the late 1870s." Ronald E. Romig to R. Jean Adams, September 1, 2006. These lots were later deeded to the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

54. See Paul E. Reimann, "A Generous gift from the First Presidency in 1950 for Education at Independence, Missouri," LDS Church Archives, Family and Church History Department, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah. In 1950 the LDS First Presidency provided a generous monetary gift to the city of Independen-

dence, Missouri, for education purposes. The gift was a direct response by the LDS Church to prevent the potential process of eminent domain by the city of Independence, Missouri, to take possession of the vacant land (comprising the LDS Church's 1904 purchase) to build a new high school. The mayor of Independence and the city's school board president traveled to Salt Lake City in 1950 to discuss the matter with LDS Church President George A. Smith. Ironically, the donation was \$25,000, the same amount that the LDS Church had paid for the twenty-six acre tract of land purchased in 1904.

55. Community of Christ, D&C 57:1-d.

