



Front page of the Nauvoo Library and Literary Institute Record Book. Image courtesy of the Church History Library, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Complete Record of the Nauvoo Library and Literary Institute

Christopher C. Jones

In 1974, historian Kenneth W. Godfrey brought to the attention of historians a document located in the LDS Church History Library that contains the constitution, bylaws, minutes, and holdings of the short-lived Nauvoo Library and Literary Institute.¹ Drawing upon the extant records detailing the library's constitution, the minutes from its several meetings, and a record of its holdings, Godfrey briefly outlined the history of the library, noted the various books that Mormon prophet Joseph Smith had donated, and suggested a number of potentially fruitful avenues of research for historians.² Those questions posed by Godfrey reflect larger trends in the historical profession of that era. The "New Mormon History" that emerged in the latter half of the twentieth century sought to incorporate the historical concerns posed by the increasingly influential social history of the day.³

Godfrey was thus interested in using the record of the Nauvoo Library and Institute's minutes and holdings to learn more about what books Latter-day Saints were reading in the 1840s, identifying otherwise unknown figures whose names appeared in the record, and gauging "the intellectual climate" and "cultural life" of Nauvoo. Ironically, other questions posed by Godfrey—and the fact that he listed only the books donated to the library by Joseph Smith—reveals the centrality of early Mormon leaders (especially Joseph Smith) in scholars' efforts to understand Mormon history. Godfrey was especially interested in using the document to shed additional light on issues concerning the intellectual materials with which Joseph Smith was familiar

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and the importance of those materials in his developing thought and theology. He thus asked, “[D]oes the above list only represent the books Joseph Smith did not like to read and therefore gave them to the library? Are these books the source of some of the Prophet’s intellectual ideas? If so, which ones?”⁴

In the subsequent thirty-plus years, a handful of historians have used the Nauvoo Library and Literary Institute Record to provide answers to the questions raised by Godfrey and illuminate interesting aspects of early Mormon history. Apparently in response to Godfrey’s call for research examining the intellectual life of Latter-day Saints in Nauvoo, several historians have analyzed the library’s record to reveal various aspects of Mormon culture in the 1840s. These studies, comparing Mormon reading habits and intellectual life to the larger American society of the day, have argued that “Mormon tastes in reading at this time tended more to the intellectual than the frivolous,” noting that “patrons shunned novels and inclined to history and philosophy.”⁵ One study examined “how typical ... the Nauvoo library books [were] compared to those being read by the American[s] in general,” and suggested that the results reveal “a striking similarity in the proportion of books” dealing with various subjects.⁶

The library’s donation list (especially the books Joseph Smith donated) has been used by other historians in an effort to better understand the intellectual sources that interested Joseph Smith and potentially influenced his developing thought and theology. In their respective works on Mormon cosmology, for instance, Erich Robert Paul and John L. Brooke each relied on the record to confirm that Smith was familiar with philosopher Thomas Dick’s work.⁷ D. Michael Quinn’s revised and enlarged edition of his *Early Mormonism and the Magic World View* picked up where Paul and Brooke left off, using the library’s donation list not only to examine the content of Joseph Smith’s library but also to estimate its size.⁸ Most recently, historians Ronald Walker, David Whitaker, and James B. Allen have suggested that the library’s inventory inadvertently represents one of “the earliest attempts to describe or catalogue Mormon books.”⁹

Despite all the work done by use of this document, there remain questions to be asked of it. In exploring what sources were available to Joseph Smith, historians need not limit themselves to the list of Smith’s own donated books. Going beyond what types of books the Mormons were reading in Nauvoo, research that explores the specifics and details of various categories of literature might prove illuminating. For example, within the collections of religious pamphlets, tracts, and books donated to the library, historians might examine whether an assortment of theologians and commentators was represented. Furthermore, because of the involvement of such individuals as Francis Higbee and Charles Foster in the library, the minutes provide additional insight

(albeit minor) into the tensions that plagued Nauvoo during the last months of Joseph Smith's life. Building on the work of Kenneth Godfrey, George Givens, Terryl Givens, and Glen Leonard, research remains to be done that explores the place of the library in the community. For example, the membership of a number of females might point to greater involvement by women in the cultural and intellectual activities of Mormons in Nauvoo. The uniqueness of the Mormon community as both civil and ecclesial presents possible complications in comparing the Nauvoo library to the various types of libraries in nineteenth-century America.¹⁰ A growing body of literature also situates public libraries as areas of contested space. The holdings, membership demographics, and location of the Nauvoo library might yield interesting nuances to that literature.¹¹

A transcription of the record of the Nauvoo Library and Literary Institute in its entirety is produced here for the first time with the intent to make this fascinating document available to a wider audience of researchers and interested persons. It is hoped that it will facilitate attempts to build on the previous work of historians in answering the various questions and research suggestions addressed here.

I offer one final note here to clarify my editorial methods. I have reproduced the record in a line-by-line transcription, trying to maintain the original structure of the document, including underlined words, superscripted abbreviations, and original spelling and punctuation. Both erasures and crossing out of words are indicated by ~~striking out the words~~ (though I have noted the lone erasure in a footnote). The record appears to have been kept by the various secretaries of the Nauvoo Library and Literary Institute. Contributions of one of the later secretaries, Robert Campbell, include going through the minutes and noting the dates in which no recorded minutes were transferred to his care. I have indicated these insertions, together with other later insertions or revisions, with <angle brackets>. Last, the pages in the record are not numbered in the original. I have inserted page numbers in [brackets] to identify page breaks.

Owing to many culpable neglects on the part of the late Secretary F.M. Higbee much of the business of the Institute has been neglected the minutes not taken of many meetings – The dates of the entrance of the members not set down – the quarterly dues not correctly ascertained – and many other delinquencies, consequently the present Sec^l is obliged to <enter> much of the business of the Institute in a very deranged manner

Rob^l Campbell Sec^l ¹²

[p. 1]

Constitution—
of the Nauvoo Library & Literary Institute

- Art 1st This Institution or Society shall be known by the Name of the “Nauvoo Library and Literary Institute.
- Art 2nd The Officers of This Institution shall consist of Seven Trustees, who shall be elected by a majority of two thirds of the Members, and who shall choose out of their number a President Secretary, Librarian and Treasurer, who shall hold their Office during the term of one Year.
- Art 3rd The Librarian if thought expedient by the Board of Trustees may act as Treasurer, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to act as collector
- Art 4th It shall be the duty of the above Officers to act in conformity with the Laws of the State of Illinois in such case made and provided

By Laws

- Art 1st The Stock of this Society shall be divided into shares to consist of Five Dollars each.
- Art 2nd Any Person can become a Member of the Society by obtaining one or more shares, and subscribing to the Constitution and Bye Laws
- Art 3rd The Shares of Stock shall be paid in Books at Market price Money or other Property that shall be received at the discretion of the President and Secretary.
- Art 4th It shall be the duty of the President Secretary, and Librarian to examine the character of all Books offered in payment of Stock, and if found worthy of reception to apprise them.
- Art 5th It shall be the duty of the Secretary to procure a good Book in which he shall enter the Names of the members and the Amount of the Stock received and collect the quarterly dues of the members which funds he shall transfer to the Treasurer and take his receipt for the same [p.2]
- Art 6th It shall be the duty of the Librarian to hold the Library open on Saturday of each week from 1 o'clock PM to 5, and from 6 to 8 for the purpose of distributing and receiving Books.
- Art 8th The Librarian shall distribute Books in rotation according to each application of the members
- Art 9th It shall be the duty of the Librarian to keep a regular Catalogue of all the Books received into the Library and inscribe in each Book the Name by which the Institution is known.
- Art 10th The Treasurer shall hold all Monies in his hands belonging to the Library, subject to the orders of the Trustees.
- Art 11th It shall be the duty of the Trustees or a Committee, whom they shall appoint to act in their stead, to procure a good and suitable room and fit it up with good and convenient fixtures for the Library and Institute
- Art 12th Each member of the Library & Institute shall pay for the support of the Institution twenty five cents every three months which shall entitle him or her to a full privilege of the Library
- Art 13th In case there should be an immediate want of funds when there is more in the Treasure, the Trustees shall have power to levy a Tax upon each member which however shall not exceed the sum of Twenty five cents
- Art 14th Any Person who is not a member may draw Books by leaving a deposit worth twice as much as each Book taken or presenting a recommend from one of the members of the Institute by paying five cents a Week for each volume not worth over One Dollar and ten cents for each volume over this amount [p. 3]

- Art 15th Each Person drawing Books and shall not return the same at the amount of one dollar within one week and those over this price within two weeks after having been taken out
- Art 16th Each Person drawing Books who shall not return the same agreeably to the proceeding Rule shall pay Ten Cents each subsequent week for all Books valued at one Dollar or under and twelve and a half cents for all over this valuation
- Art 17th Any Person who shall damage a Book shall pay to the Librarian on returning the same the price which he (the Librarian) shall assess for said damage subject to an appeal to the Board of Trustees
- Art 18th No Person shall be allowed to draw the same Book twice successively from the Library provided the same be called for by others during the first term
- Art 19th Exercises that shall be lawful in the Institute shall be Lectures on scientific and moral subjects, Reading, Declamation and in the performance of Moral Dramas but every thing immoral shall be strictly prohibited
- Art 20th No individual who is not a member of the Institute shall have the privilege to take part in the exercises of the Institute unless by vote of two thirds of the members
- Art 21st The Institute shall be exclusively for the members with the exception of Public Lectures and exhibitions
- Art 22nd It shall be the privilege of the Institute to hold Public and Private meetings for reading declamation and other exercises above mentioned as often as shall be deemed prudent by a majority of the members
- Art 23rd Any existing By Law may be amended and a new one enacted by a majority of the Institute at any regular meeting of the Society. [p. 4]
- Art 24th Any members or members who shall conduct themselves in a disorderly manner shall be subject to expulsion from the Society by a vote of two thirds of its members and shall therewith forfeit their stock in the Library and Institute [p. 5]

Stockholders having Shares in the Library

We the undersigned Citizens of Nauvoo Hancock County State of Illinois having associated ourselves together for the purpose of establishing a Library in conformity with the Statutes of this State, in such case made & provided and a Literary Institute to be united therewith do agree to pay for that purpose the sum set opposite our respective Names¹³

Dates	Names	Shares	Dates	Names	No of Shares
Jan ^y 25 th	Benjamin Winchester	4		James H Van Natta	1
—	Francis M. Higbee	1		Julia Smith	1
+	Cha ^s A Foster pd 25 ct	1		John L. Huntington	1
—	Lorenzo D Wasson 25	2	—	Oliver Huntington	2
—	Joseph Smith J ^r	1	—	O B Huntington	1
—	Josiah Ells	1	—	Robert Campbell 25	1
	Josiah W Ells	1	—	Jonathan Browning 25	1
—	Erastus Snow	2	—	Gabriel Mayberry 25	1
—	P Talmon Rolfe 25	1	May 1 st	Lucy Jane Leonard	1
—	S S Norris	1		William Herry	1
—	Sam ^l Mills J ^r	1		Harman Bailes	1

	Tho ^s C Ells	1		John Scott	1
—	I.J. Rolfe	1	—	Samuel Fields 25	1
—	J Nicholls	1	—	John Oakley 25	1
+	J H Van Allen	1		Cyrus Eddy	1
—	J M Cole	3	—	Isaah Muttison 25	1
—	J Hatch J ^t 25	3	—	William S Ivins	1
—	E Robinson 25	3	—	Tho ^s Lanyon	1
—	Joseph Smith	2		Miss Adelia Cole	1
Jan ^y 31 st	L O Littlefield	1	—	Sophia Marks 25	1
—	A C Hodges	1		M ^{rs} H.H.M Winchester	1
	Charles Allen	1	Feb ^y 22	M ^{rs} John Taylor 25	1
—	Isaac Beebee	1	—	Miss Hannah Ells 25	1
—	Hiram Kimball	1	—	Miss Maria Lawrence 25	1
	Isaac Hill	1		Eliza Rigdon	1

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Dates	Names	Shares	Dates	Names	Shares
	Miss Julia Stone	1			
—	Elizabeth Cane 25	1			
—	C G Webb 25	1			
	I F Allread	1			
—	Jacob F. Hutchinson	1			
	Stanley Flagg	1			
	M ^{rs} Emma Smith	1			
—	Miss Nancy Rigdon	1			
—	Sarah Lawrence	1			
—	Rosanne Marks	1			
—	Sarah Rigdon	1			
	Gustavus Hills	1			
	Henry G Hills	1			
	John Halladay	1			
	Carlos G. Murray	1			
	J W Coolidge	1			
	Balls {& Mills}	1			
	M ^{rs} Addison Pratt	1			
	John Gray	5			
	Sidney Rigdon	1			
	John R Clawson	1			
	George Howler	1			
	Aaron Johnson	1			
	Miss Hess	1			
	Peter M ^c Fallen	1			
	Joseph Bates	1			
	Eli B Helsey	1	<5 Shares>		
	C Wesley Wandall	1			
	M ^{rs} M B Wandall	1			

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 Jan 13 ——— George Laubes ——— No. 44, 44,5

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Nauvoo Jan^y 25th 1844

Pursuant to adjournment, a meeting was held at the School Room of Joseph M Cole, the Officers of last Meeting being absent, on motion, M^r Benjamin Winchester was chosen Chairman, & Charles A. Foster, Secretary.

The Chairman then made a brief exposition of the object of the meeting, of measures that had already been prepared in reference to the formation of a Library & Institute – of the report of the Committee appointed to draft a Constitution for the adoption of said Society &c. On Motion the Chairman of said Committee was requested to read said Report, which was accordingly done, & after an interesting discussion upon the several articles of the Constitution, together with the addition of some, & amendment of other the whole was adopted.

On Motion, the L Meeting then proceeded to organize said Institute by taking Shares in the Stock in the Stock of the Library agreeable to the Constitution, and signing the same the following Names were then given into the Secretary together with the Numbers of Shares –

	Shares		Shares
Benjamin Winchester	5	Joseph M Cole	3
Charles A Foster		J Hatch J ^r	3
Lorenzo Wasson	1	Ebenezer Robinson	3
Francis M Higbee	1	L.O. Littefield	1
Joseph Smith J ^r	1	Joseph Smith	
Josiah Ells –	1		
Josiah W. Ells	1		
Erastus Snow	2		
P.L. Rolf	1		
S.S. Norris	1		
Sam ^l Miles J ^r	1		
Tho ^s E. Ells	1		
J. Nicholls	1		
J.H. Van Allen	1		

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On Motion the Society then proceeded to elect Seven Trustees, agreeable to the Constitution, the following Gentlemen were chosen, Erastus Snow, Benjamin Winchester,

Charles A Foster, Francis M Higbee, Lorenzo D. Wasson Joseph M Cole & Ebenezer Robinson (On Motion J Hatch J^r was chosen to supply the place of E Robinson if that gentleman declines serving.)

On Motion the following Gentlemen were selected to deliver Lectures before the Society viz Sidney Rigdon Benjamin Winchester, Erastus Snow, John Taylor, Orson Pratt, Orson Spencer & Orson Hyde. On Motion the Society then adjourned to meet again at the same place at 6 o'clock PM of Wednesday the 31st Inst.

Benjamin Winchester Chairman

Cha^s A. Foster Sec^{ry}

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Nauvoo Jan^y 31st 1844

The Nauvoo Library and Institute, met according to adjournment at the Store Room of Joseph Smith; the minutes of the previous meeting being read were adopted. The business of the board of Trustees, which met at the Mansion House; on the 27th Inst (Jan^y) was laid before the House for their approval, which was signified, by a unanimous vote of the house. The Committee, chosen by the Board of Trustees on the 27th Jan^y to secure a good an suitable Room, for the "Nauvoo Library & Institute" reported as follows, they said Committee had petitioned M^r James Ivings for his upper store Room, for the purposes herein mentioned; which he (James Ivins) proposes to let them (said Committee) have, for the Term of three (3) Months in case they would agree to pay him at the rate of \$5.00 per Month and after that it is aphony with himself whether 5 or 6 Dollars. Being entirely to the progress of said Library and Institute, but if said Committee desire it on those terms they can have it for the term of Twelve Months On Motion the House instructed said Committee to engage said Store Room for the term of One Year.

The President (Mr Benjamin Winchester) then stated the object and intent of the Association, for the information of those who had not attended the previous Meetings; After which Elder Sidney Rigdon addressed the Association in his usually eloquent and flowry manner, urging in a very clear, distinct and impressive manner, the utility, the necessity and importance of establishing such an association, hoping at the same time the day was not far distant when the contemplated body would be effectually and permanently organized; for he was fully satisfied that a Library connected with an Institute, established upon a permanent basis, would be the means of disseminating much useful knowledge and could not be otherwise than one of the greatest sources of improvement to the human mind. Elder Orson Hyde next addressed the association painting with all the vigor and originality of genius, the numerous advantages resulting from such an association, illuminating as it runs the youthful mind, with a world of glories which [p. 12] are had in store and which are shortly to be condensed upon the heads of the industrious and faithful student. He spoke of a time when the Sum of Science had not yet rose above the horizon; he spoke of a time when literature was incarcerated within the walls of tyrants and miscreants; he spoke of a time when intelligence was not abroad upon the face of the Land, and felt to rejoice, and thank the author of his existence that he was situated under the Argent sky of intelligence; under a genial sky, that sheds its gentle influences upon all, irrespective of party whether

civil, political, or religious, After which he concluded by expressing his great anxiety for its early and effectual organization.

The pres (Elder Benjamin Winchester) agreeable to request then addressed the House, urging in a very energetic and conclusive manner the necessity of establishing a Library connected with an Institute, for he was satisfied beneficial results would attend. He assured us that wealth dignity not fame was power but intelligence was power; and that alone could perpetuate our free institution, for it was necessary in the tribunals of Justice, it was of the utmost importance in the halls of Legislation and above all most important in the sacred desk, he then concluded by urging its immediate organization.

Elder L D Wasson by request was granted the privilege of making some remarks; in the course of which he informed us it was inconvenient for Pres Joseph Smith to be with us on the present occasion; but he assured the meeting of the Pres^{ms} approbation, and in an eloquent manner signified to the House the P^{ms} anxiety for its speedy organization &c

	The house adjourned to Wednesday Evening	
FM Higbee	Benjamin Winchester	
Sec ^y		Chairman

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Nauvoo February 7th 1844

Pursuant to adjournment, the Society met in the School Room of Joseph M Cole—The President M^r Winchester in the Chair, the Secretary being absent Cha^s A Foster was chosen Secretary pro tem – On Motion the proceedings of last Meeting were read and accepted. The President then made some interesting remarks relative to the object and progress of the Society. On Motion the Constitution & Bye Laws were read by the Secretary after which M^r John Oakley was admitted unto the Society and subscribed one share Miss E Draper also subscribed one share and was admitted to Membership. After the transaction of some miscellaneous business, the Society adjourned to meet again on the Evening of the 15th Inst at the Upper Room of M^r James Ivins Store

Cha ^s A Foster Sec ^y	Benjamin Winchester Chair ^a
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<Feb^y 15 Minutes of the Meeting handed to Secretary R. Campbell>

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Nauvoo February 22nd 1844

At a Meeting of the Nauvoo Institute & Library held pursuant to previous notice at the Room of the Institute Feb^y 22nd. The Secretary being absent Robert Campbell was chosen Secretary pro tem. While the audience were kept in suspense waiting the arrival of General Smith who had generously proffered an address, which was announced at a previous meeting, The President opened the Meeting on the nature and important of such an Institute. After many impertinent remarks from that gentleman and General Smith not being able to be present – the Secretary read the Constitution and By Laws. The president introduced the Rev^d DeWolfe¹⁴ to the audience and was invited to deliver a Lecture to the Institute which was cheerfully responded to. Mess^{rs} Cole & Wasson severally addressed the Meeting in their usually eloquent and happy style. The Rev^d De Wolfe rose and spoke in a neat and effective manner of the results

and benefits accruing in the formation of such an Institute. that a general knowledge would be acquired which could not through any other source. that the exercise of learning to speak correctly by elocutionary instruction, would admirably qualify persons so taught with elegance and perspicuity before any public assembly. The reading Room was also dwelt upon with pathos setting forth the intelligence the world would afford our Citizens by a general exchange of Papers. M^r De Wolfe's speech gave general satisfaction and was received with unbounded applause. The following resolution was offered by M^r Cole and unanimously carried – That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to the Rev^d De Wolfe for the able familiar and friendly given to this audience.

Other pith remarks were made by the President and M^r Cole. An Appeal was made to the Ladies [p. 15] and gentlemen to become members, bring forward their Books and pay their quarterly dues, when M^r John Taylor Misses Hannah Ells, Maria Lawrence Eliza Rigdon Julia Stone & Elizabeth Khane presented themselves as members

The regular meeting of the Institute adjourned to meet on Monday Week <March> April 1st 1844

Robert Campbell Sec^y

Benjamin Winchester Chairman

<March 1st No Minutes of this Meeting handed to Sec^y R Campbell>

The Members of the Nauvoo Library and Institute met according to adjournment March 13th 1844

The following Resolutions were adopted

Resolved. That the Librarian procure the Printing of a thousand Labels, suitable for labeling the Books belonging to said Library

Resolved. That the Secretary be instructed to procure a seal for the purposes of the Society with the Motto "Sapientia est vis,"

Resolved. That the Secretary attend to the recording the Society Papers as soon as is possible.

Resolved. That the President Secretary and Librarian revise and arrange the Constitution and By Laws of the Society

Resolved. That the Librarian be compensated for services as follows; one per cent on all sums received in payment of Stock and 10 per cent on all monies received in payment for Books loaned

Resolved. That any person may become a yearly member of the Institute by paying into the Treasury of the Society, the Sum of Fifty Cents in advance and the quarterly dues, or he she or they may become a yearly member of the Library by paying into the Treasury of the Institute three Dollars in advance and the quarterly dues or he she or they may become yearly members of both the Library and Institute by paying into the Treasury the Sum of Three Dollars & fifty cents and quarterly dues

Society adjourned to meet at Wednesday Evening next (20th March

1844)

~~Robert Campbell~~^{ts} <Francis M Higbee Secy>

Benjamin Winchester Chair ^a

<Mar 20th No Minutes of the Meeting handed to Sec R. Campbell>

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Nauvoo Wednesday Eve 10th April

The Members of the Institute assembled agreeably to adjournment the Secretary being absent J Hatch was appointed pro tem. The object of the Meeting was unfolded by the President which was to appoint Officers to fill the places of those resigned and delinquent. The Constitution and By Laws were then read by M^r Cole whereupon M^r Snow introduced a motion to instruct the Trustees to provide themselves with suitable Officers to attend to the business of the Institute. Also a Motion by S. Rigdon to Instruct the Board of Trustees to make out a regular report of the delinquent Officers from the next Meeting on Motion M^r Cole was appointed Secretary Pro Tem. The Institute then adjourned to meet the following Wednesday 7 o'clock P.M.

J Hatch Sec^y pro tem

Benjamin Winchester Chair^a

The Members of the Institute met agreeably to adjournment the 17th Day of April 1844 the Meeting was called to order by the President who also addressed the Institute and stated the object of the present Meeting and then called upon M^r Cole to report his interview with M^r Higbee stated that he would attend the next meeting and answer for himself. He M^r Higbee further stated that he wished for certain reasons to withdraw from the Institute

It was then motioned and seconded that M^r Higbee be dropt from the Institute. Elder S. Rigdon then addressed the Institute and stated that the motion was very appropriate and necessary at the present time under existing circumstances and that he should support the Motion.

Twas voted that Francis M Higbee be dropped from the Office of Secretary and Trustee of the Institute

On Motion voted that Charles A Foster be [p. 17] no longer a Member of this Library and Institute

On Motion it was voted that Elder Sidney Rigdon be one of the Board of Trustees of the Institute in place of Francis M Higbee.

On Motion voted that Robert Campbell be a Trustee of said Institute in place of Charles A Foster

The Trustees then resolved themselves into a Committee and voted Robert Campbell Secretary of said Institution and Library

On Motion of Erastus Snow it was voted that Joseph W Colridge by a Trustee pro tem in place of said E Snow during his absence the present season.

Motioned and Voted that the Library Room may be rented for a School Room during the present Summer

Elder S Rigdon then took the floor and remarked that as it was getting late he did not feel as though he could deliver a Lecture and do justice to the subject without encroaching upon a late hour of the night he would however make some remarks upon the subject for the benefit of the members.

He then in his usual pleasing style commenced with the early history of his own life showing that his ~~own~~ first studies were commenced in a circulating Library, he then set forth in glowing colors the beauties of and benefits derived from a Library. he showed that his own rise to notoriety were all derived from the privilege of a Library and then set forth the manner in which the members of this Library and especially the Youth of this City may receive the most possible benefits from this Library which is equal to the privilege of a College and often superior (from in the language of Burns men sometimes go to College they go in dunces and they come out asses. they go in dunces and they come out Blockheads after other very appropriate the Institute adjourned until a fortnight from to night

J M Cole Secretary.

Benjamin Winchester Ch

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Amount of Stock Received into the Library

Ebenezer Robinson	\$ 0	
Walter Scott – in 2 Vols \$3.00 per Vol	6.00	
Flavius Josephus	1.00	
Tooke's Pantheon	1.25	
Beatties Essay on Truth	.50	
Lewis & Clarke	.62½	
Gardners Universal History	1.00	
Women of England	.62½	
Blank Book	2.00	
		\$13.00

Joseph Smith¹⁶

Review of Edwards on the Will	.62½	
Life of Tecumseh	.37½	
Whepleys Compend	1.00	
Scotts Poetical Works in 5 vols 40 cts per Vol	2.00	
Gillmores Lectures	.50	
Merrills Harmony	.50	
Epicureo	.25	
Krumanachers Works	.62½	
Catholic Piety	.25	
Home Physician	1.00	
Apochryphal Testament	2.00	
Bruns' Travels	.12½	
Rebel & other Travels	.50	
Browns' Appeal. gram	.75	
Browns English Syntascope	.75	
Studies in Poetry & Prose	.75	
Carried Over	0	\$12.00

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Amount of Stock Rec^d in the Library

Joseph Smith brot Over		\$12.00
Old World & the New – Vol 1 st	.25	
Voyage & Travels of Ross Perry & others	4.00	
Bennetts Book Keeping 2 Copies at 1.25 pr Bk	2.50	
Incidents of Travel in Yucatan by Stephens 2 Vo	5.00	
Stephens Travels in Central America 2 Vo	2.50	
Mosheims Church History 1 Vol	1.50	
Times & Seasons 1 2 & 3 Vol also Vol 1 & 2 \$5 & 3	8.00	
Dick's Philosophy	2.00	

Millenium & other Poems	.37½	
Beaumonts Experiments	.50	
Dictionary of the Holy Bible	1.00	
Parkers Lectures on Universalism	.50	
Sanders Discourse	.25	
Metropolitan	1.50	
Goodrich's History of the United States	.37½	
Doddridges Sermons	.25	
Catholic Manuel	.50	
Whelpleys Compend	1.00	
Herveys Meditations	.75	
Historia de Charles	.25	
Rollin 2 Vol 3.00 per vol	6.00	
Book of Mormon	1.00	
		\$54.50

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Amount of Stock Received in the Library

Carlos G Murry		
Science of Government	1.50	
History of Napoleon	1.50	
History of Vermont 2 Vol 1.00 per Vo	2.00	
<Rec ^d History of V ^t & Science of Government March, 1846		\$5.00
Carlos G. Murry>		

J W Coolidge		
Pictoral Geography	4.50	
History of England	.50	
		\$5.00

Isaah Mattison		
American Mechanics	1.00	
Arabian Knights	.25	
Young Men's Lectures	.12½	
French Verbs	. 6¼	
Life of Benjamin Franklin	.50	
Settlement of Kentucky (an address)	.25	
Parleys Rambles	.25	
Farwell Address of Washington & Jackson	.12½	
Meterological Alminack	. 6¼	
Napoleon Bonaparte 1 Vol	.25	
		2.87

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Amount of Stock Rec^d in Library

James H Van Natta		
Young Man's Own Book	.37½	

Smiths Grammar	.37½	
World Displayed	2.00	2.75
Josiah Ells		
Watsons Dictionary	2.00	
Wesleys Notes	1.50	
History of Josiah	.12½	
Capt James Voyages	.25	
Self Knowledge	.25	
Memoirs of Elizabeth Mortimer	.25	
Discussion on Universal Salvation	.50	
Bible Antiquities	.50	
Memoirs & Private Correspondence of Rob Hall	.25	
Essays on the Formation of Public Opinion	.25	5.87
John R Clawson		
Elements of History	.75	
Wellesly Grey	.12½	
Anchor	.12½	
Friend of Peace	.6½	
Roling Ridge	<u>.25</u>	1.31
[p. 22]		
Amount of Stock Received in the Library		
Robert Campbell		
Moore's Life of Byron 2 Vol 1.50 per V.	3.00	
Mental Illumination & Moral Improvement	1.00	
Book of Martyrs by Fox	<u>1.00</u>	5.00
John Oakley		
Young Mans Book of Knowledge	.62½	
Guy's Astronomy	.62½	
Diffusion of Knowledge	.62½	
Fry's Letters 1 Vol	.50	
Robinson's Bible Dictionary	.75 <1.00>	
Pecks Gazzetteer	.50	
Paradise Lost	<u>.50</u>	4.12½
Oliver B. Huntington		
Life of Parsons	.62½	
Derk Astro	.37½	
Family Adviser	.75	
Abridgement of Rhetoric by H Blair	.25	

Library of Useful Knowledge 2 Vol 50 cts pr vo.,.50	1.00
Gardners Cyclopedia Vol 4 th	.25
Saints Rest	.12½
Discipline of Methodist Church	.25
Strangers Guide by Wilson	.12½
Concordance by Brown	.12½
Sketch of a Tour	.62½
American Gardener	.50
Christs Return to Glory	.25
History of the United States (Goodrich	<u>.50</u>
Carried Over	5.75

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Amount of Stock in the Library

Oliver B Huntington Brot Over	5.75
Memoirs of Lafayette	.50
Builders Manuel	.75
Hintons Baptism	.75
Bucks Theological Dictionary	1.25
American Biography	<u>1.00</u>

10.00

P.T. Rolfe	
Life of Napoleon	2.00
Whelpley's Compend	1.25
Conversations on Chemistry	.75

4.00

Samuel Mills	
Hoopers Rational Recitations	1.00
Frosts History of the United States	.75
Watts on the Mind	.37½
American Gentleman	.50
Life of Franklin	.25
Orations	<u>.6¼</u>
	2.93

R A Ball	
History of Animals	.37½
Spectator	.25
Chesterfields Letters	.37½
Young Woman's Guide	.62½
Sardapolis	<u>.25</u>
Carried Up	1.87½

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R A Ball Brot Up	1.87½
History of the Distinction of the Helvetic Union	.25
Young Wife	.50
Goldsmiths' Rome	.75
Confessions of an Old Maid 2 Vol 25 cts	.50
Mines & Minerals of the West	.25
Hickruder's Narrative	<u>.50</u>
	4.62½

Books since entered to make Up

Miles & Ball's full Shares	
Sketches of M ^{rs} Sigourney	.75
Practical Hints to Universalists	.75
Universalism Illustrated & defended	<u>1.00</u>
	2.50

Miles & Balls full Shares 10.05

Jonathan Browning

<1 Vol of Family Magazine	2.50>
2 Vol of Family Magazine	5.00
McKenzies 5000 Receipts	1.00
American's Guide	<u>.37½</u>

6.37½

<J Browning 8 pages forward

2.50

8.87½

1.31¼

\$10.19>

George Fowler

History of Martyrs	1.00
History of Bonaparte 18¾ per V	.37½
Morsi's Geography 2 Vol 75 per V	1.50
Peace & War	<u>.25</u>
	3.12 ½

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Amount of Stock in the Library

Nathaniel G Norris	
Porters Rhetorical Reader	.75
Smiths Grammer	.31½
History of the Destruction of Jerusalem	.50
Tesimony of God	.12½
Union No 5	.37½
Towns Analysis	.37½
Voice of Warnig	.25
Life & Travels of St Paul	<u>.12½</u>

2.81

I J Rolfe	
1 st & 2 nd Vol of Waverly .25 cts per vol	.50
Columbian Orator	.37½
Brewsters Lectures on Education	.50
Pollocks Course of Time	.25
Life of W ^m Pain	.25
	<hr/> 1.87½

James Allred	
Hymn Book by F Muller	.12½
Missionary Herald 2 Vol 25	.50
Times & Seasons	5.00
Grimshaws United States	.50
W ^m Scott on Education	.12½
Views & Manners of France	.25
	<hr/> 6.50

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Amount of Stock in Library

Benjamin Winchester	
American Antiquities	4.00
Gallands Map	.50
History of the Priesthood	.25
Synopsis	.62½
Paradise Lost 2 Vol 62½ per Vol	1.25
Universal Biographical Dictionary	1.25
Tytlers History	1.00
Conversations on Chemistry	.62½
Browns English Syntax 2 Vo 62½ pr vo	1.25
Parkers Logic	.62½
English Prosdy	.50
German Grammar	.62½
Youngs Night Thoughts	.50
Trial of Antichrist	.37
Scholars Companion	.50
Millers Doctrine	.25
Hebrew Grammar	1.75
	<hr/> 15.87

M ^{rs} Addison Pratt ¹⁷	
Gazetteer of the Eastern & West ^m Continent	
2 Volumes – 1.50 per Vol	3.00
Simpsons Plea for Religion	.50
The Pantheon	.60
27 Pamphlets at 3 cts	.84
	<hr/> 5.00

M ^r Gustaves Hill	
American Constitution of the States	1.00
Hebrew Grammar	1.00
History of the Church of Christs by Townsend	.75
Guys Astronomy	.50
Kieth on the Globes	<u>.50</u>
	3.75

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Amount of Stock in the Library

Francis M Higbee		
Blairs Rhetoric	2.00	
Walkers Critical Pronouncing Dictionary	.75	
Rhetorical Reader	.50	
Blairs Rhetoric	.37½	
Miss Buchers on the Slave Question	.12½	
Tytlers History	1.00	
		4.75

Aaron Johnson		
Lorenzo Dows Reflections	.18¾	
Fleetwood's Life of Christ	2.00	
General Class Book	.25	
History of the Devil	.37½	
		2.81

Jesse Nicholls		
Pictorial Illustrations of the Bible	1.25	

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Jeremiah Hatch, J ^r		
Greca Majoras 2 nd Vols	1.50	
Greca Majora 1st Vol	.75	
Copy of Lord Byron's Works	4.00	
Copy of Shakespeare	3.00	
Tristan Shandy	1.00	
Burn's Works	2.00	
Lock's Essays	1.00	
Universal Traveller	.50	
Valpeys Virgil	1.50	
Essay on Important Subjects	.37½	
Family Prayer Book	.25	
Tytlers History	1.00	
Bugards French Translator	.75	
Cicero De Oratori	.50	
Alcestes	.50	
Eugene Aram	1.25	

Greek Testament	.25
Blairs Rhetoric	.25
Livizacs Grammar	.62
Abercrombies Philosophy	.50
Gill Blass	1.00
Brans Grammar	.50
Volneys Ruins	.25
Essays by Palmer	.37½
Comstocks Philosophy	.75
Le Bruns Talameke	.75
Thompson's Seasons	.25
Hedge's Logic	.25
Paley's Natural Theology	.25
Peter the Great	.25
Paley's Philosophy	.25
Comic Sections	.12½
Bometheus	.50
	26.49

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Amount of Stock in the Library

	John Gray	
.37½	History of the US by Trumbull	.75
	Henry	1.00
	Mental Improvement on the Mind	.25
	Thompsons Seasons	.37½
.75 ^{cts}	Life of Spencers	.37½
	Religion on the Mind by Murray	.50
	Lectures on Witchcraft	.50
.75 ^{cts}	Napoleons Expedition to Russia	.62½
	Views, Manners of America	.50
.37½	Thoughts in Prison	.10
25 ^{cts}	Moral Mirror	.10
	Remarkable Passages of Jardisa	.12½
	Uphams Letters on the Logos	.25
.62½	Journal of a Mission to the interior of Africa	.50
.25	Chapam's Letters on the improvement	.12½
.37½	Letters on History	.25
	Goety of Berlichingin	.25
	The Letter of Chesterfield	.25
	Jamisons Rhetoric	.50
1.00	Notes on Mexico	.50
	Morses' Universal Geography 2 Vol	4.00
	Saline Farm	.37½
	Thomas Spencers Memoirs	.37½
	Miscellaneous from Public Journals	.12½
.37½	Probate Directory	.25
.37½	National Industry	.12½

	Winter Tales	.25
.25 ^{ess}	Tables for Young Ladies	.6¼
25 ^{ess}	Guide of Health	.12½
25	Life & Sketches of Curious & Odd Characters	.10

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Amount of Stock in the Library

	John Gray — brought Up	<9.71>
	Essay on Divine Influence	.25
25	True Messiah	.12½
	Life of Will ^m Tell	.12½
	John Howard Esq ^r	.25
.25	Legal Classic	.12½
.37½	John Campbell <Cameron> Messiah	.25
	Tytlers History	1.00
	Fine & Useful Arts	.25
	Relics of Antiquity	.50
	History of France	.75
	Elements of Astronomy	.50
.25	Observations on the Human System	.12½
	Fashionable Letter Writer	.12½
.25	Lock on the Understanding	.12½
	Dickerman's Memoir	.12½
.75	Life of General W ^m Eaton	.50
.37½	Baron Frederick Trenck	.25
.50	Addisons Spectator 2 Vol 50 c	1.00
	Sketches of Eminent Lawyers & Statesman	.50
.75	Memoirs of Count Segin	.50
.50	Memoirs of Andrew Sherburn	.25
	Chemistry	.62½
	Goldsmiths Abridgement of England	.50
.37½	Hamiltons Letters in 2 Vol 25	.50
	Self Entry Book Keeping	.25
	Temperance Addresses	.25
	Thomas Robbins Element of History	1.00
1.50	A Dictionary of General Knowledge	1.00
	Curious Antiquities	.12½
	Gill Blas	.12½
1.00	Salts Voyages to Abyssinia	.62½

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Amount of Stock in the Library

	John Gray brot. Over	22.33½
.25	Life of Philip Malanctheon	.12
	Duke of Gloucester	.25
2 ^{vols} 37½	Scientific Dialogues in 3 Vol 37½ per V	1.12½

Nursery Discipline	.25	
Gregorys Dicionary in 2 Vol (2 ⁰⁰ & 3 ⁰⁰)		24.08½
Sydney Rigdon		
History of the Jews in 3 Vol 75	2.25	
History of Arabia in 2 Vol 75c	1.50	
Western Tourist		
	.50	
Life of Philip Melanctheon	.50	
Keith on the Globes	1.00	
Humbolts Travels	.75	
Dicks Improvement on the Mind	.75	
Tytlers History	1.00	
		<8.25>
H C Kimble		
Corbets Cottage Economy	.37½	
Contents of the British Museum	.50	
Volneys Ruins	.50	
Jays Lectures	.50	
		<1.87 ½>
[p. 32]		
Amount of Stock in Library		
Miss Hess ¹⁸		
The Young Book keepers Assistant	.12½	
The Way for a Child to be saved	.25	
History of South America	.37½	
Sterns on Masonry	.50	
The American Silk Growers Guide	.12½	
Geography for Youth	.37½	
History of New England	.50	
Christ Rejected	.50	
Coopers Surgery	.75	
Missionary Pioneer	.12½	
		<3.62½>
Peter M ^e Fallen		
French Mecanigru	.25	
Wallaces Poems	.25	
The Sinwoods in 2 Vol 25 cts	.50	
Goodrichs Geography	1.50	
		<2.50>
J. Browning		
Cecil's Remain	.6¼	
Clerks Magazine	.25	

Bucks Theological Dictionary	1.00
	<1.31¼>
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Amount of Stock in the Library	
Cyrus Eddy	
Morse's Universal Geography Pt 1	.75
“—————“—————“————— Pt 2	.75
Geology of Maine and Massachusetts	.25
Book of Jasher	<u>1.00</u>
	<2.75>
Joseph Bates June 15 th 1844	
Life of Nelson &c	1.25
All Religion & Ceremonies	.50
AleC History of England	.25
Sermon of the Honors of the C Priesthood	.12½
Village Sermons 3 Vo	.12½
Practical Essay on the Small Pox	<u>.25</u>
	2.50
Eli B Kelsey	
Naval Biography June 15 th	.75
Sacred Writings of the Evangelist & Life of Christ	<u>1.00</u>
	<1.75
[pp. 34-40 blank]	

Notes

1. Kenneth W. Godfrey, “A Note on the Nauvoo Library and Literary Institute,” *BYU Studies* 14, no. 3 (Spring 1974): 386–89.

2. “Nauvoo Library and Literary Institute, Record 1844 Jan.–June,” Church History Library, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah.

3. For an overview of the “New Mormon History,” see Ronald W. Walker, David J. Whitaker, and James B. Allen, *Mormon History* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2001), 60–112. For an overview of the expansive influence of the movement and its most recent manifestations, see Jan Shippo, “Richard Lyman Bushman, the Story of Joseph Smith and Mormonism, and the New Mormon History,” *Journal of American History* 94, no. 2 (September 2007): 498–516; and Richard Lyman Bushman, “What’s New in Mormon History: A Response to Jan Shippo,” *Journal of American History* 94, no. 2 (September 2007): 517–21.

4. Godfrey, “A Note on the Nauvoo Library and Literary Institute,” 388. In fairness to Godfrey, he published an article the following year that used the Nauvoo Library and Literary Institute Record, among other sources, to offer some preliminary thoughts on “daily life in Nauvoo as it was experienced by the women and children who sacrificed so much for the cause they, too, believed was true.” See Kenneth W. Godfrey, “Some Thoughts Regard-

ing an Unwritten History of Nauvoo,” *BYU Studies* 15, no. 4 (Summer 1975): 418.

5. Terryl L. Givens, *People of Paradox: A History of Mormon Culture* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007), 85, see also 171; Godfrey, “Some Thoughts Regarding an Unwritten History of Nauvoo,” 421–22; George W. Givens, *In Old Nauvoo: Everyday Life in the City of Joseph* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1990), 253–62; and Glen M. Leonard, *Nauvoo: A Place of Peace, A People of Promise* (Salt Lake City and Provo, Utah: Deseret Book and Brigham Young University Press, 2002), 197–98.

6. Givens, *In Old Nauvoo*, 257–58. Givens based his comparison on the study of “book culture in post-Revolutionary Virginia” conducted by two scholars in 1984—Joseph F. Kett and Patricia A. McClung, *Book Culture in Post-Revolutionary Virginia* (Worcester: American Antiquarian Society, 1984). While Givens’s analysis points to potentially interesting parallels, the limited geographical scope of Kett and McClung’s study presents obvious problems for generalizations about the larger book culture of antebellum America.

7. See Erich Robert Paul, *Science, Religion, and Mormon Cosmology* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1992), 90, 98; and John L. Brooke, *The Refiner’s Fire: The Making of Mormon Cosmology, 1644–1844* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), 379, n88.

8. D. Michael Quinn, *Early Mormonism and the Magic World View*, rev. and enlarged (Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1998), 188–90. Quinn’s methods of calculating the size of Smith’s personal library drew sharp criticism from reviewer William Hamblin, who seemed intent on criticizing every minute aspect of Quinn’s work. See William J. Hamblin, “That Old Black Magic,” *FARMS Review of Books* 12, no. 2 (2000): 273–74.

9. Walker, Whitaker, and Allen, *Mormon History*, 248.

10. See, for example, the overview of the many different types of libraries in early America in Haynes McMullen, *American Libraries Before 1876* (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2000). The Nauvoo Library and Literary Institute does not fit neatly under any of the types of libraries that McMullen identifies. It partially fits his descriptions of church library, institute library, literary society library, public library owned by a religious group, religious society library, social library, and subscription library. See McMullen, *American Libraries Before 1876*, 163–71.

11. See, for example, the collection of essays in John E. Buschman and Gloria J. Leckie, eds., *The Library as Place: History, Community, and Culture* (Westport, Connecticut: Libraries Unlimited, 2007), especially the editors’ introduction, “Space, Place, and Libraries: An Introduction,” 3–25; and Adam Arenson, “Libraries in Public before the Age of Public Libraries: Interpreting the Furnishings and Design of Athenaeums and Other ‘Social Libraries,’ 1800–1860,” 41–60. Also useful is D.W. Davies’s pioneering effort, *Public Libraries as Culture and Social Centers: The Origin of a Concept* (Metuchen, New Jersey: Scarecrow Press, 1974), and various articles published in *The Library Quarterly*.

12. This note, written on a separate piece of paper, is attached to the first page of the record.

13. This list of stockholders counts seventy-nine members, including nineteen identifiable females. The presence of female members as part of the library and literary institute parallels with other libraries throughout America at this time. The presence of both genders, however, was only a recent development in social libraries and reading societies. See James MacGregor Burns, *The Vineyard of Liberty* (New York, Knopf: 1982), 110, 396.

14. Erastus De Wolfe, an Episcopalian minister, came to Illinois from New Jersey in 1837, where he organized an Episcopal congregation and Sunday School. See *Recollections of the Pioneers of Lee County* (Dixon, Illinois: I.A. Kennedy, 1893), 85. Reverend De Wolfe had lectured previously in Nauvoo to the Mormons, including in the assembly room above the Red Brick Store the previous evening. See Joseph Smith’s Journal entry

for February 21, 1844, published in Scott H. Faulring, ed., *An American Prophet's Record: The Diaries and Journals of Joseph Smith* (Salt Lake City: Signature Books in association with Smith Research Associates, 1987), 447. In 1843, De Wolfe visited Joseph Smith and later preached at a Sunday meeting of the Saints. See Faulring, ed., *An American Prophet's Record*, 382, 386.

15. "Robert Campbell" is erased.

16. A complete transcription of Joseph Smith's donations, complete with identification of the books' authors, full titles, and publication information is included in Quinn, *Early Mormonism and the Magic World View* (rev. ed.), 496, n78.

17. Louisa Barnes Pratt, whose husband was on a mission to the islands of French Polynesia in 1844, was one of two female members of the institute who donated books to the library. A "missionary widow" for much of her adult life, Pratt would later become an outspoken advocate of women's rights and a respectable writer for the *Woman's Exponent* in Utah. See S. George Ellsworth, ed., *The History of Louisa Barnes Pratt: The Autobiography of a Mormon Missionary Widow and Pioneer* (Logan: Utah State University Press, 1998).

18. It is probable that "Miss Hess," the only other female member of the institute to donate books, is Mary Hess, who came to Nauvoo on October 2, 1843 from the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Branch. Her father, Peter Hess, Jr., was an important church leader in the Philadelphia Branch and labored there with Benjamin Winchester, president of the Nauvoo Library and Literary Institute. Miss Hess was among a group of former members of the Philadelphia Branch to participate in the institute, including Winchester, Lorenzo D. Wasson, and Hannah Ells. For information on Mary Hess, see Record of Members, Nauvoo, Illinois 1841–1845, 6, microfilm; L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah; and Maurine C. Ward, "Philadelphia Pennsylvania Branch Membership: 1840–1854," *Mormon Historical Studies* 6, no. 1 (Spring 2005): 77–78. For more on the Philadelphia Branch, and especially Peter Hess's leadership, see David J. Whitaker, "The Philadelphia Branch: Its Early History and Records," *Mormon Historical Studies* 6, no. 1 (Spring 2005): 53–66; and Stephen J. Fleming, "Discord in the City of Brotherly Love: The Story of Early Mormonism in Philadelphia," *Mormon Historical Studies* 5, no. 1 (Spring 2004): 3–27.