

ing the book, microfilm, or other research tool a patron may need. The automated edition simplifies use of the catalog.

2. The INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL INDEX (IGI), which has been available for many years in a microfiche edition. The automated edition gives information about deceased persons for whom temple ordinances have been performed. It also lists birth, christening, and marriage dates and temple ordinance information.

3. Ancestral File™ is a family-linked file containing genealogies contributed by members of the Church since 1979. Many other genealogies have also been included, and additional contributions of family history information are welcomed.

Other files will be added to FamilySearch as they become available.

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L. REYNOLDS CAHOON

FARMS MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

See: Business: Church Participation in Business

FAR WEST, MISSOURI

Far West, Caldwell County, Missouri, was settled in 1836 as Latter-day Saints sought a home and refuge from persecution in Clay County. It became the county seat, with an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 inhabitants. Far West is important to LDS history because that is where the following happened: (1) a temple site was dedicated and the cornerstones laid; (2) seven revelations now published in the Doctrine and Covenants (113, 114, 115, 117, 118, 119, 120) were received; (3) Joseph F. SMITH, sixth president of the Church, was born (November 13, 1838); (4) the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles officially left from for a mission to Great Britain; (5) a stake of Zion was organized; (6) Joseph SMITH and his family lived (beginning March 14, 1838); (7) and for a short time the headquarters of the Church was located.

Among the notable revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants received at Far West and vicinity are: the proper NAME OF THE CHURCH was given (115:4); four new members of the Twelve Apostles were named and the Twelve as a quorum were called to serve an overseas mission (118:1–6); and the law of TITHING was explained (119, 120).

Joseph Smith and other Church leaders were arrested in Far West on October 31, 1838, by the state militia and taken to Independence, then to Richmond, and from there to Liberty, Missouri, where they were imprisoned. While the Prophet was in prison during the winter and spring of 1838–1839, the Latter-day Saints were driven from Far West and other Missouri sites under Governor Boggs's EXTERMINATION ORDER and relocated in Illinois.

The Church still has interest in Far West and has erected appropriate monuments at the temple site.

[See also History of the Church: c. 1831–1844; Missions of the Twelve to British Isles; Missouri.]

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LARRY C. PORTER

FASTING

The practice of periodic abstinence from food and drink for devotional purposes has been documented since early times. The Bible and the Book of Mormon attest to fasting in its several forms, public or private, institutionalized or spontaneous. In a revelation to the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord commanded the Latter-day Saints to "continue in prayer and fasting from this time forth" (D&C 88:76).

Church members fast together generally on the first Sunday of each month, in preparation for FAST AND TESTIMONY MEETING. They usually abstain from food and drink for two consecutive meals, attend Church services, and donate a FAST OFFERING for the care of the needy. Additionally, an individual, family, or congregation may fast for a specific cause such as one who is sick or otherwise