Appendix 2

A Chronology of Church History

The following are significant events in the history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Words in small capitals refer to articles in the *Encyclopedia*.

1775, July 8. Lucy Mack Smith (1775–1856) b. Gilsen, Cheshire Co., NH.
1796, January 24. Joseph Smith, Sr., and Lucy Mack Smith m. in Tunbridge, VT.
1801, June 1. Brigham Young (1801–1877) b. Whitingham, Windham Co., VT.
1804, July 10. Emma Hale Smith (1804–1879) b. to Isaac Hale and Elizabeth Lewis Hale, Harmony, Susquehanna Co., PA.
1805, December 23. Joseph Smith (1805–1844) b. to Joseph Smith, Sr., and Lucy Mack Smith, Sharon, Windson Co., VT.
1814, April 3. Lorenzo Snow (1814–1901) b. Mantua, Portage Co., OH.
1816. The “year without a summer.” Crops failed throughout New England. Joseph Smith, Sr., left Norwich, VT, settled his family in Palmyra, NY.
1820, Early spring. Joseph Smith received FIRST VISION in a grove near his home in Palmyra, NY.
1825, October. Joseph Smith hired by Josiah Stowell to work at Harmony, PA. Boarded at Isaac Hale’s and met Emma Hale.
1826, March 20. Joseph Smith tried and acquitted on charge of being a disorderly person at South Bainbridge, NY. [See Smith, Joseph: Legal Trials of Joseph Smith.]
1827, January 18. Joseph Smith m. Emma Hale in South Bainbridge, NY. [See Smith, Emma Hale.]

September 22. Joseph Smith obtained gold plates from hill Cumorah.

December. Joseph and Emma Smith moved to Harmony, PA, where plates could be safely translated.

1828, February. Martin Harris took a transcript of characters from the Gold Plates to Charles Anthon in New York City. [See Anthon Transcript.]

April 12–June 14. First 116 translated manuscript pages stolen from the Harris home (June–July). [See Book of Mormon Translation by Joseph Smith; Manuscript, Lost 116 Pages.]

1829, April 7. Joseph Smith resumed translation of the record assisted by Oliver Cowdery as scribe.

May 15. John the Baptist conferred Aaronic priesthood on Joseph Smith, and Oliver Cowdery near Harmony, PA.

May–June. Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery received MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD from Peter, James, and John, near the Susquehanna River between Harmony, PA, and Colvesville, NY.

June. Translation of Book of Mormon completed and copyrighted for (June 11). The Three Witnesses shown the plates and other Nephite artifacts by Moroni in Fayette, NY. The Eight Witnesses shown the Gold Plates by Joseph Smith in Manchester, NY. [See Book of Mormon Witnesses.]

August. Egbert B. Grandin began printing the Book of Mormon at Palmyra, NY. Martin Harris guaranteed payment.

1830, March 26. First copies of Book of Mormon available at Grandin Bookstore.

April 6. The “Church of Christ” organized, Fayette township, NY, and “Articles and Covenants of the Church” revealed (D&C 20). [See Article 6; Fayette, NY.]

June. “Visions of Moses” received by Joseph Smith as part of Bible translation (now chapter 1 of the Book of Moses, Pearl of Great Price). [See Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible.]
June 9. First conference of the Church held in Whitmer log home, Fayette, NY.  

September–October. First missionaries called to preach to the Lamanites (Native Americans). [See Lamanite Mission.]  

October–November. Lamanite missionaries converted some 130 non-Indians in Kirtland, OH, area en route to western border of Missouri.  

December. Sidney Rigdon called as scribe to assist Joseph Smith in Bible translation (D&C 35:20).  

December. First revelation on gathering given. Command for Church to move to Ohio (D&C 37). Reiterated (D&C 38).  


February 4. Edward Partridge called and ordained first bishop of Church.  

February 9. Revelation on Church government and law of consecration received (D&C 42).  

May. Fayette, Colesville, and Manchester branches of Church in New York arrived in Kirtland-Thompson areas, OH.  

June 3–6. Fourth general conference of Church held, Kirtland township. Brethren first ordained to the High Priesthood. [See High Priest; Conferences: General Conference.]  

July 20. Site for city of Zion in Independence, MO, revealed to Joseph Smith (D&C 57).  

August 2. Saints laid first log for a schoolhouse as a foundation of Zion, Kaw Township, Jackson Co., MO. Sidney Rigdon consecrated land of Zion by prayer.  


November 1. Conference, at Hiram, OH. Decision made to print revelations received by Joseph Smith. [See Book of Commandments.]  

1832, January 25. Joseph Smith sustained President of High Priesthood at conference, Amherst, OH. [See High Priest; Presiding High Priest.]  

February 16. Revelation known as “The Vision” (D&C 76) received by Joseph Smith, Hiram, OH. [See Visions of Joseph Smith; Degrees of Glory.]  

March 24. Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon beaten, tarred, feathered by mob, Hiram, OH.  

June. First issue of the Evening and the Morning Star, Independence, MO.  

December 25. Revelation and Prophecy on War (D&C 87) received by Joseph Smith. [See Civil War Prophecy.]  

December 27. Revelation known as The Olive Leaf (D&C 88) received by Joseph Smith, calling for building a temple in Kirtland and establishing School of the Prophets.  

1833, February 27. Revelation known as the Word of Wisdom (D&C 89) received by Joseph Smith.  

March 18. Sidney Rigdon and Frederick C. Williams set apart as counselors in Presidency of the Church (D&C 91 headnote).  

July 2. Joseph Smith concluded first draft of Bible translation.  


November 7. Saints fled from Jackson Co. mobs across Missouri River into Clay Co. [See Missouri Conflict.]  

December 18. Joseph Smith, Sr., ordained first church patriarch.  

1834, February 17. First Stake and High Council of Church organized, Kirtland, OH.  

May 5. Joseph Smith left Kirtland for Missouri as leader of Zion’s Camp to bring relief to Saints expelled from Jackson Co.  


October. First issue of Messenger and Advocate published, Kirtland, OH.  

December 5. Oliver Cowdery made Assistant (Associate) President of Church.  

1835, February 14. Quorum of the Twelve Apostles organized, Kirtland, OH.  

February 28. First Council of the Seventy organized, Kirtland, OH.  

March 28. Revelation on priesthood (D&C 107) given through Joseph Smith.  

July 3. Michael Chandler exhibited Egyptian mummies and papyrus, Kirtland, OH. [See Papyri (Joseph Smith).]  

July 6. Mummies and papyrus purchased, and Joseph Smith commenced translation. [See Book of Abraham, Translation.]  

August 17. Doctrine and Covenants adopted as standard work of the Church, Kirtland.  

September. Doctrine and Covenants issued from press in Kirtland.  

September 14. Emma Smith appointed to select Hymns according to previous revelation (D&C 25).  

1836, January 21. In Kirtland Temple, Joseph Smith, received vision of Celestial Kingdom and revelation concerning salvation of the dead (D&C 137). [See Visions of Joseph Smith.]
March 27. Kirtland Temple dedicated. Outpouring of Spirit of the Lord and presence of angels reported.


November 2. Kirtland Safety Society Bank organized. [See Kirtland, Ohio: Economy.]

1837, July 19. Heber C. Kimball and others arrived in Liverpool, England, on first overseas mission. [See Missions of Twelve to British Isles.]


October. The Elders' Journal first published in Kirtland, OH.

1838, March 14. Joseph Smith established headquarters of Church in Far West, MO.


May 19. Adam-Ondi-Ahman selected as settlement site in Daviess Co., MO.


July 8. Revelation on Tithing received (D&C 119).

August 6. Election day fight, Gallatin, MO. [See Missouri Conflict.]

October 25. Battle of Crooked River, between Missouri State militia and Saints. David W. Patten, apostle, slain.

October 27. Missouri Governor Lilburn W. Boggs issued extermination order, Jefferson City, MO. (Rescinded June 25, 1976, by Governor Christopher S. Bond.)

October 30. Haun's Mill Massacre, Caldwell Co., MO.

October 31. Joseph Smith and other leaders of the Church arrested by Missouri State militia, Far West.

November 9. Joseph Smith and fellow prisoners arrived at Richmond, MO, and put in chains. Joseph rebuked guards. [See Richmond Jail.]


December 1. Joseph Smith and others imprisoned, Liberty Jail, Liberty, Clay Co., MO.

1839, February 23. Many refugee Saints arrived at Quincy, IL, and local citizens adopted relief measures.

March 20–25. Joseph Smith still imprisoned in Liberty Jail, wrote epistle to Saints (D&C 121, 122, 123).

April 26. Apostles (at great personal risk) gathered at Far West Temple site, to fulfill revelation regarding second apostolic mission to British Isles (D&C 118).

May 9–10. Joseph Smith moved from Quincy to Commerce (later renamed Nauvoo), IL.

August 8. John Taylor and Wilford Woodruff, the first Apostles to leave Commerce on British mission.


November. First issue of Times and Seasons published, Commerce, IL.

1840, May. First number of Millennial Star published, Manchester, England.

August 15. Baptism for the Dead publicly announced by Joseph Smith.


1842, March 1. Publication of Book of Abraham commenced in Times and Seasons.

March 1. Wentworth Letter published in Times and Seasons. [See Appendix 12.]

March 17. Female Relief Society organized, Nauvoo, IL. [See Relief Society in Nauvoo.]


August 6. Joseph Smith prophesied Saints would be driven to Rocky Mountains.

1843, July 12. Revelation on celestial marriage received (D&C 132).

1844, March 11. The General Council (Council of Fifty) organized in Nauvoo.

April 7. King Follett Discourse delivered by Joseph Smith.


June 27. Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith martyred in Carthage jail. [See Martyrdom of Joseph & Hyrum Smith.]
August 8. At Church meeting, Nauvoo, mantle of Prophet fell upon senior apostle, Brigham Young. Apostles sustained by people to lead Church. [See Succession in the Presidency; Quorum of the Twelve.]

1845, April 6. The Twelve Apostles issue "Proclamation . . . To all the Kings of the World; To the President of the United States of America; To the Governors of the Several States, And to the Rulers and People of all Nations." [See Proclamations of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.]

1846, February 4. Nauvoo Saints commenced crossing Mississippi river to move to the Great Basin.


May 1. NAUVOO TEMPLE publicly dedicated by ORSON HYDE. [See Temples: Latter-day Saint Temples.]

June 30. U.S. Army asked Church at COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA, to raise 500 volunteers to fight in war with Mexico.

July 16. MORMON BATTALION mustered into U.S. service.


1847, January 14. Brigham Young received revelation concerning organization of Saints for move west (D&C 136).

April 5. First element of Brigham Young's Pioneer company left WINTER QUARTERS on the journey west.

July 21. Orson Pratt and Erastus Snow made first LDS reconnaissance of SALT LAKE VALLEY.

July 24. Brigham Young entered SALT LAKE VALLEY.

July 28. SALT LAKE TEMPLE site selected by Brigham Young.

December 5. Brigham Young unanimously sustained as President of Church by council of Apostles, Kanesville, Pottawattamie Co., IA.

December 27. CONFERENCE of Church at Kanesville sustained Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Willard Richards as FIRST PRESIDENCY.

1848, June. Crickets came from mountains into Salt Lake Valley, devastating crops. Fields saved as flocks of SEAGULLS devoured crickets.

1849, Fall. PERPETUAL EMIGRATING FUND company established.

December 9. SUNDAY SCHOOL organized by Richard BALLANTYNE.

1850, June 15. DESERET NEWS began publication in SALT LAKE CITY.

September 20. Brigham Young appointed governor of UTAH TERRITORY by U.S. President Millard Fillmore.


November 11. "UNIVERSITY OF DESERET" opened, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

1852, August 29. Public announcement of PLURAL MARRIAGE made, SALT LAKE CITY.

1853, February 14. Temple Block consecrated and ground broken, SALT LAKE CITY. [See Temple Square.]

April 6. SALT LAKE TEMPLE cornerstones laid under direction of FIRST PRESIDENCY.

1855, May 5. ENDOWMENT HOUSE on Temple Block dedicated at SALT LAKE CITY. [See Temple Ordinances.]

Fast day inaugurated as first Thursday of each month. [See Fast and Testimony Meeting.]


September 26. First two handcart companies arrived at SALT LAKE CITY, led by Edmund L. Ellsworth and Daniel D. McArthur.

October 25. HANDCART COMPANY of Captain Edward Martin detained by early snow storms. Found by members of rescue company from SALT LAKE VALLEY.


November 22. Heber J. Grant (1856–1945) b. SALT LAKE CITY.

November 30. Martin HANDCART COMPANY arrived, SALT LAKE CITY. Suffered between 135 and 150 deaths.


July 24. Word received of UTAH EXPEDITION.

August 5. Governor Brigham Young placed UTAH TERRITORY under martial law and forbade U.S. troops to enter Salt Lake Valley.

September 7–11. Emigrating party led by John T. Baker and Alexander Fancher besieged by Indians at Mountain Meadows; killed by Indians and Mormon militia. [See Mountain Meadows Massacre.]

1858, May. "Move South" began evacuation of all northern Utah settlements in preparation for war with U.S. troops.
June 11. Peaceful settlement to “Utah War” negotiated through efforts of Brigham Young, Governor Alfred Cumming, Thomas L. Kane, and government peace commissioners.

1862, July 8. Morrill antibigamy bill became law, designed to prevent practice of polygamy in U.S. territories. [See Anti-Polygamy Legislation.]

1867, October 6. First General Conference held in new Tabernacle, Salt Lake City.

December 8. Relief Society program reemphasized by President Brigham Young, under President Eliza R. Snow.

1869, March 1. Zion’s Cooperative Mercantile Institution (ZCMI), a cooperative business system, began in Salt Lake City.

May 10. Great Pacific Railroad completed by junction of Union Pacific and Central Pacific Railroads, Promontory Summit, UT.

November 25. Young Ladies’ Retrenchment Association organized by Brigham Young, forerunner of modern young women organization.


August 30. Martin Harris (age 88) arrived in Salt Lake City and bore testimony to truth of Book of Mormon at General Conference.

1872, June. First issue of Woman’s Exponent published, Salt Lake City, Utah.


1873–1874, Winter. United Orders movement established under direction of President Brigham Young.

1875, June 10. Young Men’s Mutual Improvement Association organized, forerunner of Young Men program.

July 10. Martin Harris, one of Three Witnesses to the Book of Mormon, d. Clarkson, Cache Co., UT, age 92.

October 16. Brigham Young Academy organized, Provo, UT, first Church academy. [See Academies.]


1877, April 6. St. George Temple dedicated. [See Temples: Latter-day Saint Temples.] President Brigham Young received revelation to set in order the Church priesthood organization and stakes of Zion.

August 29. President Brigham Young d. Salt Lake City, age 76.

1878, August 25. Aurelia Spencer Rogers founded primary organization, Farmington, UT.

1879, January 6. U.S. Supreme Court upheld 1862 antibigamy law in George Reynolds case. [See Anti-Polygamy Legislation; Reynolds v. United States.]

April 30. Emma Hale Smith Bidamon d. Nauvoo, IL, age 74.

1880, April 6. Fiftieth year since organization of Church declared Year of Jubilee. [See April 6.]

October 10. John Taylor sustained President of Church. Pearl of Great Price accepted as standard work.

1882, March 22. Edmunds bill signed into law by President Chester A. Arthur. [See Antipolygamy Legislation.]

1887, March 3. Edmunds-Tucker bill became law without signature of President Grover Cleveland. [See Antipolygamy Legislation.]

July 25. President John Taylor d. in exile, Kaysville, Davis Co., UT.

1889, April 7. Wilford Woodruff sustained President of Church.

1890, September 24. President Wilford Woodruff received the vision which led to his issuance of the “Manifesto” stating plural marriage officially discontinued in the Church.

October 6. “Manifesto” accepted in General Conference.

1893, April 6. Salt Lake Temple, forty years in construction, dedicated by President Wilford Woodruff. [See Temples: Latter-day Saint Temples.]

1894, April 5. President Wilford Woodruff presented to his counselors and quorum of the Twelve a revelation concerning endowments and adoptions. [See Law of Adoption.]


1896, January 4. Utah became U.S. 45th state, proclamation signed by President Grover Cleveland. [See Utah Statehood.]

April 6. LDS “Political Manifesto” issued at General Conference.

December 6. Fast Day changed from first Thursday of month to first Sunday. [See Fast and Testimony Meeting.]

1897, November. First issue of Improvement Era published.

1898, September 2. President Wilford Woodruff d. San Francisco, CA, age 91.

September 13. Lorenzo Snow became President of Church.

Publication of first serial Conference Report.

May 17. President Lorenzo Snow received revelation in St. George prompting him to emphasize tithing.

August 4. Ezra Taft Benson (1899– ) b. Whitney, Oneida Co., ID.

1901, October 10. President Lorenzo Snow d. SALT LAKE CITY, age 87.

December 17. Joseph F. Smith became President of Church.

1902, January. First issue of CHILDREN’S FRIEND published.

1903, October 15. Brigham Young Academy became BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY.

1904, April 5. President Joseph F. Smith issued “Second Manifesto.”

1904–1906. U.S. Senate hearings regarding seating of Reed Smoot, an apostle, elected to Senate in 1902. [See Smoot Hearings.]

1909, November. First PRESIDENCY issued statement on “Origin of Man.” [See Origin of Man].

1911. Church adopted Boy Scout program. [See Scouting.]

1912, Fall. First LDS seminary opened at Granite High School, SALT LAKE CITY. [See Seminaries.]

1915, January. RELIEF SOCIETY MAGAZINE began publication.

1916, June 30. First PRESIDENCY and QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES issued statement on “The Father and the Son.” [See Appendix 4.]

1917, October 2. Church Administration Building completed.


November 19. President Joseph F. Smith d. SALT LAKE CITY, age 80.

November 23. Heber J. Grant became President of Church.

1922, 6 May. Restored gospel taught by radio for first time as station KZN broadcast message from President Heber J. Grant. [See KSL Radio.]

1926, Fall. First Institute of Religion, Moscow, ID.

1929, July 15. Tabernacle Choir began weekly network radio broadcasts. [See Mormon Tabernacle Choir Broadcasts.]

1930, April 6. CENTENNIAL of Church organization.

1931, April 4. CHURCH NEWS section of DESERET NEWS began publication.

1936, April 7. Church Security Program instituted to assist poor during Great Depression; became Church Welfare Program. [See Welfare.]

1938. DESERET INDUSTRIES Program established.

Inauguration of microfilming of genealogical records by Genealogical Society.

1941, April 6. ASSISTANTS TO THE TWELVE first called.

1945, May 14. President Heber J. Grant d. SALT LAKE CITY, age 88.

May 21. George Albert Smith became President of Church.

1946, February. Elder Ezra Taft Benson left to administer to physical and spiritual needs of European Saints after World War II.

1947. Church membership reached 1 million.

July 24. CENTENNIAL of Pioneer entry into SALT LAKE VALLEY.

1951, April 4. President George Albert Smith d. SALT LAKE CITY, age 81.

April 9. David O. McKay sustained President of Church.

1952, November 25. Elder Ezra Taft Benson, apostle, appointed U.S. Secretary of agriculture by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.


1961, October. All-Church Coordinating Council established to correlate CURRICULUM and activities for children, youth, and adults. [See Correlation.]

1963. Church membership reached 2 million.

March 7. Stake Presidencies also became presidencies of stake high priests quorums. [See High Priest.]

1964, October. Observance of Family Home Evening reemphasized.


1966. Uniform Church Curriculum year inaugurated; all organizations begin curriculum year at same time.

1967, September 29. First Regional Representatives called, to begin January 1, 1968.

1969, August 3–8. First World Conference on Records held, SALT LAKE CITY.


January 23. Joseph Fielding Smith became President of Church.

1971. Church membership reached 3 million.

January. New Church magazines, ENSIGN, NEW ERA, and FRIEND commenced publication.


1972, July 2. President Joseph Fielding Smith d. SALT LAKE CITY, age 95.

July 7. Harold B. Lee became President of the Church.

December 30. Spencer W. Kimball became President of the Church.


October 3. President Spencer W. Kimball announced organization of First Quorum of Seventy.


October 1. Assistants to the Twelve made Seventies.


June 8. First Presidency issued letter announcing revelation granting the priesthood to worthy men of all races.

September 16. First annual women’s meeting held.

September 30. June 8 revelation on priesthood sustained by Church (D&C: Official Declaration —2); “emeritus” status announced for General Authorities other than First Presidency and Twelve.

1979. February 18. The 1,000th stake of the Church organized, Nauvoo, Ill., by Ezra Taft Benson, President of the Twelve.

August. LDS edition of King James Bible with study helps published. [See Bible, LDS Publication of.]

1980. March 2. Consolidated ward meeting schedule inaugurated in Church units in U.S., Canada.

April 6. Church sesquicentennial General Conference held, with commemorative activities.


Announcement made of network of satellite receiving dishes for stake centers outside Utah for receiving Church broadcasts. [See Satellite Communication System.]

1982. Church membership reached 5 million.

1983. Stake welfare properties placed under general Church control.


June. Area presidencies inaugurated, with members called from the Seventies. [See Area, Area Presidency.]

April 4. Museum of Church History and Art dedicated, Salt Lake City, Utah.

October 28. The 1,500th Church stake organized, Ciudad Obregon Mexico Yaque Stake.


October 23. The Family History Library dedicated.

November 5. President Spencer W. Kimball d. Salt Lake City, age 90.

November 10. Ezra Taft Benson became President of Church.

1996. Church membership reached 6 million.

October 4. Seventies quorums in stakes were discontinued.


July 24–26. 150th anniversary of first missionary labors in Britain celebrated.

1999. Church membership reached 7 million.

April 1. Second Quorum of Seventy organized.

May 16. BYU Jerusalem Center dedicated by Howard W. Hunter, President of the Twelve.


December. Number of missionaries serving reached 43,651. [See Missionary; Missionary Life.]


June 24. The Russian Republic, the largest republic in the Soviet Union, granted official recognition to the Church.

In 1991, Church membership exceeded 8 million members.