1841

January 19, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 124, a revelation giving extensive instructions regarding specific callings as well as the building of the Nauvoo Temple and the Nauvoo House (a hotel). ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:274–86; D&C 124

January 26, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Writings—Joseph Smith dictated a letter to Oliver Granger, the Church's agent at Kirtland. Under the impression that Granger was planning to return to Nauvoo in fall 1840, Almon Babbitt had been called to preside over the stake at Kirtland. If Granger's letters making his intentions known had been delivered to the Prophet promptly, Granger would likely have been called to preside over the Kirtland stake. ◆ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith,* 523–25

January 30, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Ecclesiastical Duties—At a special conference, Joseph Smith was unanimously elected sole Trustee-in-Trust for the Church. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:286

February 3, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Political Events—The first general elections of the newly chartered city of Nauvoo were held on this date. At a meeting organizing the city council, Joseph Smith gave the opening prayer, presented bills concerning the University of Nauvoo and the Nauvoo Legion, and was sworn in as a member of the city council. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:288–95

February 4, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Political Events—Joseph Smith attended a court martial organizing the Nauvoo Legion and was elected lieutenant general. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:295–96

Feb. 10, 1841 The Act of Union merged Upper and Lower Canada into the Province of Canada.

February 11, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Ecclesiastical Duties—Joseph Smith performed the marriage of Philo Dibble and Hannah Ann Dubois Smith at his home. Joseph's wife, Emma, prepared a wedding supper for a large party of friends assembled. ◆ Lambert, *Early Scenes in Church History,* 92–93; Life History of Philo Dibble, 6

Feb. 18, 1841 The first ongoing filibuster in the U.S. Senate began and lasted until Mar. 11.

About February 21, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith prophesied to John Taylor's worried mother that her son John would safely return from jail within a week after having been imprisoned in Missouri for six months; he returned six days later. ◆ John Taylor, *Juvenile Instructor* 27:202

Feb. 25, 1841 Pierre-Auguste Renoir, French painter, was born.

March 1, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Legal Events—At the Nauvoo City Council meeting, Joseph Smith presented a bill for an ordinance allowing "free toleration and equal privileges" to all religious sects and denominations. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:306

Mar. 4, 1841 William Henry Harrison succeeded Martin Van Buren as U.S. President.

March 16, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Writings—Joseph Smith dictated a letter to Amos Keeler, a New York City dry-goods merchant. After his Missouri imprisonment, Joseph once again turned his attention to his unpaid Kirtland debts. ◆ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith,* 526

Mar. 8, 1841 Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., U.S. Supreme Court Justice, was born.

About March 26, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 125, a revelation concerning the Saints gathering in Iowa Territory. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:311; D&C 125

April 5, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Personal Life—Joseph Smith married Louisa Beaman. This is the first of Joseph's plural marriages for which there is documentable evidence. Joseph B. Noble, Louisa's brother-in-law, performed the ceremony as it was dictated to him by Joseph. ◆ Roberts, *Rise and Fall of Nauvoo,* 116; Newell and Avery, *Mormon Enigma,* 95

Apr. 4, 1841 President Harison died and was succeeded by Vice President John Tyler.

April 6, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Ecclesiastical Duties—Joseph Smith supervised the laying of the four Nauvoo Temple cornerstones and attended a military parade celebrating the eleventh anniversary of the Church. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:326–27; *Times and Seasons* 2:375–83

May 4, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Writings—Joseph Smith dictated a letter to Oliver Granger, his agent in Kirtland, Ohio, expressing his eagerness to have "matters which concern the First Presidency settled as soon as possible." ◆ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith,* 527–28

June 4, 1841 Quincy, Illinois

Legal Events—After Joseph Smith had an agreeable meeting with Illinois Governor Thomas Carlin, the governor sent Sheriff Thomas King of Adams County to arrest Joseph. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:364

June 5, 1841 Quincy, Illinois

Legal Events—Joseph Smith was arrested in Bear Creek, Illinois, on a warrant from Thomas Carlin, governor of Illinois, and was charged as a fugitive from justice. Joseph returned to Quincy and obtained a writ of habeas corpus. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:365

June 7, 1841 En route to Monmouth, Illinois

Legal Events—Joseph Smith started very early for his court hearing in Monmouth, Illinois, a seventy-five-mile journey, accompanied by Sheriff Thomas King, the arresting officer from Adams County. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:365–66; *Times and Seasons* 2:447–49

June 8, 1841 Monmouth, Illinois

Legal Events—Joseph Smith arrived at Monmouth for his hearing before Judge Stephen A. Douglas and "found great excitement prevailing in the public mind, and great curiosity was manifested by the citizens who were extremely anxious to obtain a sight of the Prophet, expecting to see me in chains." ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:366

June 9, 1841 Monmouth, Illinois

Legal Events—Joseph Smith was represented at his hearing by Orville H. Browning, who eloquently defended him. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:369

Apr. 28, 1841
Pierre Chanel, Catholic priest and missionary, was martyred on Futuna Island.

June 10, 1841 Monmouth, Illinois

Legal Events—On a technicality, Judge Stephen A. Douglas ruled that that Joseph Smith's writ was illegal and discharged him from the arrest warrant. Joseph returned to Nauvoo the next day. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:370–71

July 3, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Political Events—Joseph Smith made a patriotic speech to the Nauvoo Legion troops in which he declared his willingness to lay down his life in defense of the United States. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:382

1841
The Preemption Act of 1841 allowed settlers to claim up to 160 acres and then purchase them after fourteen months for $1.25 an acre.

July 9, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 126, a revelation stating that Brigham Young would no longer be required to leave his family. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:382; D&C 126

July 12, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Ecclesiastical Duties—Joseph Smith appointed John Patten to be the recorder of baptisms for the dead in Iowa. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:382

The Brigham Young home in Nauvoo.

July 18, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Ecclesiastical Duties—Joseph Smith and the Nauvoo Saints spent the day in fasting and prayer to mourn the death of Senator Sidney H. Little. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:389; *Times and Seasons* 2:481

July 25, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Ecclesiastical Duties—Joseph Smith attended a meeting in a grove where he preached a sermon on the Resurrection. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:389

August 1, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Ecclesiastical Duties—Joseph Smith and the Saints heard reports from all the members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles who had recently returned from missions. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:390–91; *Times and Seasons* 2:487

August 5, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Legal Events—Joseph Smith received a letter from his brother William Smith regarding the Hotchkiss land purchase on which Nauvoo was built. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:391–92

August 7, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Personal Life—Joseph Smith's brother Don Carlos died. He was twenty-five years old. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:393–99

August 8, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Personal Life—A large group of friends and relatives attended the funeral of Joseph Smith's brother Don Carlos, who was buried with military honors. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:399

August 10, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Ecclesiastical Duties—Joseph Smith held a council with some of the Apostles to plan the next phase of missionary work. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:400

August 12, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Ecclesiastical Duties—Joseph Smith met with about a hundred chiefs, braves, and their families, of the Keokuk, Kis-ku-kosh, and Appanoose tribes. Joseph instructed them about their fathers and the promises made concerning them in the Book of Mormon. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:401–2

1841
New England intellectuals founded Brook Farm, a Transcendentalist commune and school.

August 15, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Personal Life—Joseph and Emma Smith's son Don Carlos died at fourteen months and two days old. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:402

Aug. 16, 1841
President John Tyler vetoed a bill to establish a federal bank and Whigs rioted, causing a violent demonstration on the White House grounds.

August 16, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Personal Life—On account of the death of his son Don Carlos, Joseph Smith was absent from the morning session of a special conference of the Church. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:402–4

August 25, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Writings—Joseph Smith responded to a letter from Horace R. Hotchkiss regarding the purchase of the land that Joseph called "a deathly sickly hole." ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:406–8

August 27, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Personal Life—Joseph Smith's clerk Robert B. Thompson died. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:411; Van Orden, *BYU Studies* 32.1–2: 86–91

September 5, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Ecclesiastical Duties—Joseph Smith spoke to a large congregation concerning the science and practice of medicine. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:414

Sept. 8, 1841
Antonin Dvořák, Czech composer, was born.

September 13, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Political Events—Joseph Smith received an invitation from the militia of Lee County, Iowa, to attend a military parade on September 14 in Montrose, Illinois. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:416

September 14, 1841 Montrose, Iowa

Political Events—Joseph Smith went from Nauvoo to Montrose, Illinois, with a few of the brethren and was courteously received by General Ezekiel Swazey, along with other officers and militia. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:416

September 25, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Personal Life—Joseph Smith's nephew Hyrum Smith, son of Hyrum and Jerusha, died at the age of seven. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:418

The Nauvoo House.

September 30, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Legal Events—Joseph Smith sent the deputy sheriff of Adams County a statement detailing the total costs ($685) from his arrest and trial while in the sheriff's custody. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:419–20

October 2, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Ecclesiastical Duties—During a general conference of the Church, Joseph Smith laid the southeast cornerstone of the Nauvoo House (a hotel) and placed the original manuscript of the Book of Mormon and other important documents inside a square-cut chest hewn in the center of the cornerstone and covered with a stone lid. ◆ *History of the Church,* 1:75; 4:423–29

October 9, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Writings—Joseph Smith dictated a letter to Smith Tuttle of New Haven, Connecticut. Tuttle was a land speculator who, along with Horace R. Hotchkiss and John Gilbert, had owned the largest section of land upon which Nauvoo was being built. The Church had obtained 500 acres from these men in August 1839. ◆ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith,* 529–32

1841
John Augustus developed the concept of probation.

1841
Dorothea Dix encountered the cruel treatment of the mentally ill and began working for reforms.

November 7, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Ecclesiastical Duties—Joseph Smith spoke to the Saints about the danger of accusing and pointing out the sins of others. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:445–46

November 8, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Ecclesiastical Duties—Joseph Smith attended the dedication of the baptismal font built in the cellar of the Nauvoo Temple. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:446–47

Nov. 13, 1841
James Braid first saw a demonstration of animal magnetism, which led to his study of hypnosis.

November 14, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Writings—Under Joseph Smith's direction, the members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles met in council to prepare an epistle to the Saints in Europe. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:448–53

November 16, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Writings—Joseph Smith dictated a letter to John M. Bernhisel in New York City. Bernhisel had sent Joseph a copy of Stephens's *Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas, and Yucatan,* which Joseph read with "greatest interest & pleasure." ◆ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith,* 533–34

November 21, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Ecclesiastical Duties—The first baptisms for the dead in the Nauvoo Temple were performed in the temple font in compliance with Joseph Smith's instructions regarding the ordinance. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:454

November 26, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Legal Events—Joseph Smith presented and passed a bill at the Nauvoo City Council meeting for "an Ordinance in relation to Hawkers, Pedlars, Public Shows, and Exhibitions, in order to prevent any immoral or obscene exhibition." ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:461

November 28, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Writings—At a meeting with the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Joseph Smith told the brethren "that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book." ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:461

Joseph Smith's Red Brick Store in Nauvoo.

1841
The University of Missouri opened.

December 5, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Writings—Joseph Smith began to proof a new edition of the Book of Mormon prior to its being stereotyped. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:468

December 7, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Writings—Joseph Smith dictated a letter to Nehemiah Browning and Orville H. Bushnell, law partners who were attempting to collect debts for some of Joseph's Kirtland creditors. ◆ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith,* 535–36

December 13, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Ecclesiastical Duties—Joseph Smith appointed Willard Richards as the recorder for the Nauvoo Temple and as his personal scribe. This date marks the first journal entry in Joseph's journal that would continue virtually unbroken until the week of his death. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:470; Searle, *BYU Studies* 31.2: 41–62

December 14, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Personal Life—Joseph Smith began unpacking and sorting the dry goods for his Red Brick Store on the corner of Granger and Water Streets. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:476

December 18, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Writings—Joseph Smith sent a statement to James Gordon Bennett of the *New York Weekly Herald,* expressing gratitude for an unbiased publication concerning the Saints. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:477–78

December 19, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Ecclesiastical Duties—Joseph Smith spoke about the parable of the vine and its branches at a meeting with the Twelve Apostles in his home. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:478–79

December 22, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Personal Life—Joseph Smith received the first supply of groceries for his store in thirteen wagonloads that had been detained in St. Louis, Missouri. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:483

December 24, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

1841
A Philadelphia store began using a life-size model of Santa Claus.

Ecclesiastical Duties—In the evening, Joseph Smith consulted "with President [Brigham] Young and Bishop [Newel] Whitney about establishing an agency in England for the cheap and expeditious conveyance of the Saints to Nauvoo." ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:484

December 26, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Ecclesiastical Duties—At a public meeting of the Saints in his home, Joseph Smith explained that the gift of tongues is the ability to hear and preach the gospel in a different language. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:485–86

December 27, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Ecclesiastical Duties—In a meeting with the Twelve Apostles, Joseph Smith discussed seer stones and showed his seer stone to the brethren. ◆ McConkie, *Remembering Joseph Smith,* 232

December 28, 1841 Nauvoo, Illinois

Ecclesiastical Duties—Joseph Smith baptized Sidney Rigdon for and in behalf of Elder Rigdon's parents. The Prophet also baptized Reynolds Cahoon and others. ◆ *History of the Church,* 4:486