

Events Surrounding the Translation of the Book of Mormon, 1829–1830

Key Scripture Joseph Smith—History 1:66–67

Explanation This chart, highlighting some of the events of 1829 and 1830, illustrates the sacrifices of those who were instrumental in helping bring forth the Book of Mormon in a miraculously short period of time. Oliver Cowdery spent the two months of April and May, 1829, in Harmony, Pennsylvania, assisting the Prophet Joseph Smith as scribe for most of the Book of Mormon translation. Prejudice against the Prophet made it difficult for him to find a willing printer for the controversial “gold bible.” Fortunately, Martin Harris gave much support to this cause, mortgaging his farm to secure payment for the cost of printing five thousand copies of the first edition of the Book of Mormon. Despite such challenges, in March 1830 the ancient Nephite record was published, opening the way for the organization and growth of the restored Church of Jesus Christ.

Sources *History of the Church*, 1:28–33, 71–80. For additional sources and related discussion, see John W. Welch and Tim Rathbone, “The Translation of the Book of Mormon: Basic Historical Information” (Provo, Utah: FARMS, 1986), 16–32.

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1829	Jan.	
	Feb.	Joseph receives D&C 4 in Harmony, Pennsylvania The Lord appears to Oliver Cowdery
	Mar.	Joseph translates a few pages of the Book of Mormon Martin Harris of Palmyra visits Joseph in Harmony
	Apr.	Oliver arrives in Harmony to meet Joseph
	May	April 7 Book of Mormon Translated
	June	End of June
	July	E. B. Grandin and T. Weed decline to print Book of Mormon
	Aug.	Grandin agrees to print; typesetting begins Martin Harris mortgages his farm
	Sept.	
	Oct.	
	Nov.	Printer's manuscript is prepared through Alma 36
	Dec.	
1830	Jan.	
	Feb.	
	Mar.	Printing is finished
	Apr.	Restored Church of Jesus Christ officially organized