DAVIDSON HIBBARD
1844 HANCOCK COUNTY TAX RECEIPT

Land, Tax-Sale, Redemption, Family, and Biographical Study

Hancock County and Nauvoo, Illinois
1842-1845

Based on the original tax receipt, Nauvoo municipal tax records, deed records, contemporary newspapers, Joseph Smith Papers materials, and related biographical sources.

Final online-research edition; archival questions identified for targeted follow-up.

Highlights of his life

An early Hancock County pioneer and major Nauvoo land developer whose public service helped shape the city.

1829 — Early Hancock County pioneer, established a decade before the Saints arrived.

1826 — Commissioned captain in the 21st Regiment of the Illinois militia.

1827 and 1835 — Justice of the peace; a veteran of local public service.

1832 — Elected Hancock County coroner.

Frontier connections — Friendly association with Chief Keokuk, a reported guest at his daughter's wedding. [H1]

Nauvoo era — Sold land to Joseph Smith and the Church as the settlement expanded. [H2]

August 11, 1839 — Baptized at Commerce as the Saints began building their new home.

October 1839 — Appointed trustee for a proposed stone schoolhouse at Upper Commerce.

1840s — Major Nauvoo land developer; created Hibbard's Addition and Second Addition.

1842 — Member of the Nauvoo Masonic Lodge.

March 12, 1842 — Appointed assistant inspector general of the Nauvoo Legion.

By early 1844 — Trustee of school lands for Township 6 North, Range 9 West.

Dates and offices are documented in Section 9; H1–H2 are explained in the highlight source notes at the end.

Executive Summary

The surviving Hancock County tax receipt issued at Carthage in February 1844 is a unusually rich record of Davidson Hibbard's economic position at the height of the Nauvoo period. The printed form is headed "State of Illinois, Hancock County" and "Collector's Office, Carthage." It records payment by D. Hibbard of state and county taxes on substantial real estate for the 1843 tax year and a separate tax on personal property. The real-estate tax was $25.49; the personal-property tax was $5.29 on a stated personal-property valuation of $917.50; the manuscript total is $30.78. The collector signed both portions "Charles C Main," immediately before the printed designation "COLLECTOR, H. C." The receipt therefore supplies direct evidence that Main was functioning in Hancock County's tax-collection apparatus on the date of the document, even though the precise statutory or appointment basis of his office remains to be confirmed from county-board and bond records.

The document cannot be interpreted safely as a simple list of land that Hibbard still owned in fee on the day of payment. The surrounding deed and tax evidence shows why. Hibbard was a developer and subdivider whose additions to Nauvoo generated a fluid body of lots, contracts, deeds, assessments, and tax liabilities. A recorded deed of 6 July 1842 conveyed Lot 4, Block 12 of Hibbard's Addition to Benjamin Riter for $200. Yet Nauvoo's 1842 municipal delinquent-tax list later assessed that same parcel to "Benjamin Writer," together with Lot 2, Block 5, and the Nauvoo Municipal Court entered a tax judgment in February 1844. At the same time, a separate Hancock County/state tax-sale process operated through Carthage. A May 1845 notice states that Lot 4, Block 12 had been sold for taxes at Carthage in 1843 and that the redemption period was about to expire. These were distinct tax systems and must not be conflated.

The final online sweep corrected an earlier working inference. The 1845 county delinquent list for 1844 taxes does not, on careful re-reading, re-assess Lot 4, Block 12 to Hibbard. That correction weakens the earlier hypothesis of a broad county ownership-roll lag and leaves the 1843 Carthage sale as a more specific unresolved event. The surviving online notice establishes the parcel and the impending expiration of redemption, but not the name under which the county assessed it, the purchaser, the exact sale price, or the identity of the person who redeemed it, if redemption occurred. The surviving Hancock County Tax Sale Record, 1834-1848, held by the Western Illinois University IRAD depository, is therefore the decisive archival source.

The receipt also opens a broader biographical window. Hibbard was not a transient Nauvoo convert. Born in Vermont in 1788, he was in Illinois by the 1820s, served in the Illinois militia, became a justice of the peace, moved to Hancock County in 1829, and served as county coroner before joining the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1839. After baptism he participated in Nauvoo community projects, served as a trustee for a proposed stone schoolhouse, engaged in a sawmill enterprise, became a Nauvoo Mason, received an appointment as assistant inspector general in the Nauvoo Legion, and developed extensive additions on the city's southeast side. His children linked the Hibbard family to several important Nauvoo personalities, including Amos Davis, Milton M. Morrill, Hugh White, and Dr. John Fuller Weld.

This report concludes that the ordinary online phase of the project is substantially complete. Three archival questions remain material: (1) the purchaser and redemption entry for the 1843 Carthage tax sale; (2) the purchaser/redemption record, if any, arising from the February 1844 Nauvoo municipal tax judgment against Riter/Writer; and (3) the formal appointment, bond, or authority under which Charles C. Main acted as Hancock County collector. Those questions are now sufficiently narrow that a special request is justified.

Principal conclusions at a glance

- The artifact records payment of 1843 state and county taxes at Carthage in February 1844, not a Nauvoo municipal tax payment.
- The manuscript signature reads Charles C. Main; contemporary sources also use Maine as a variant, but Main is the preferred form.
- The receipt itself identifies Main in an official collector capacity; his exact appointment or legal status remains archival.

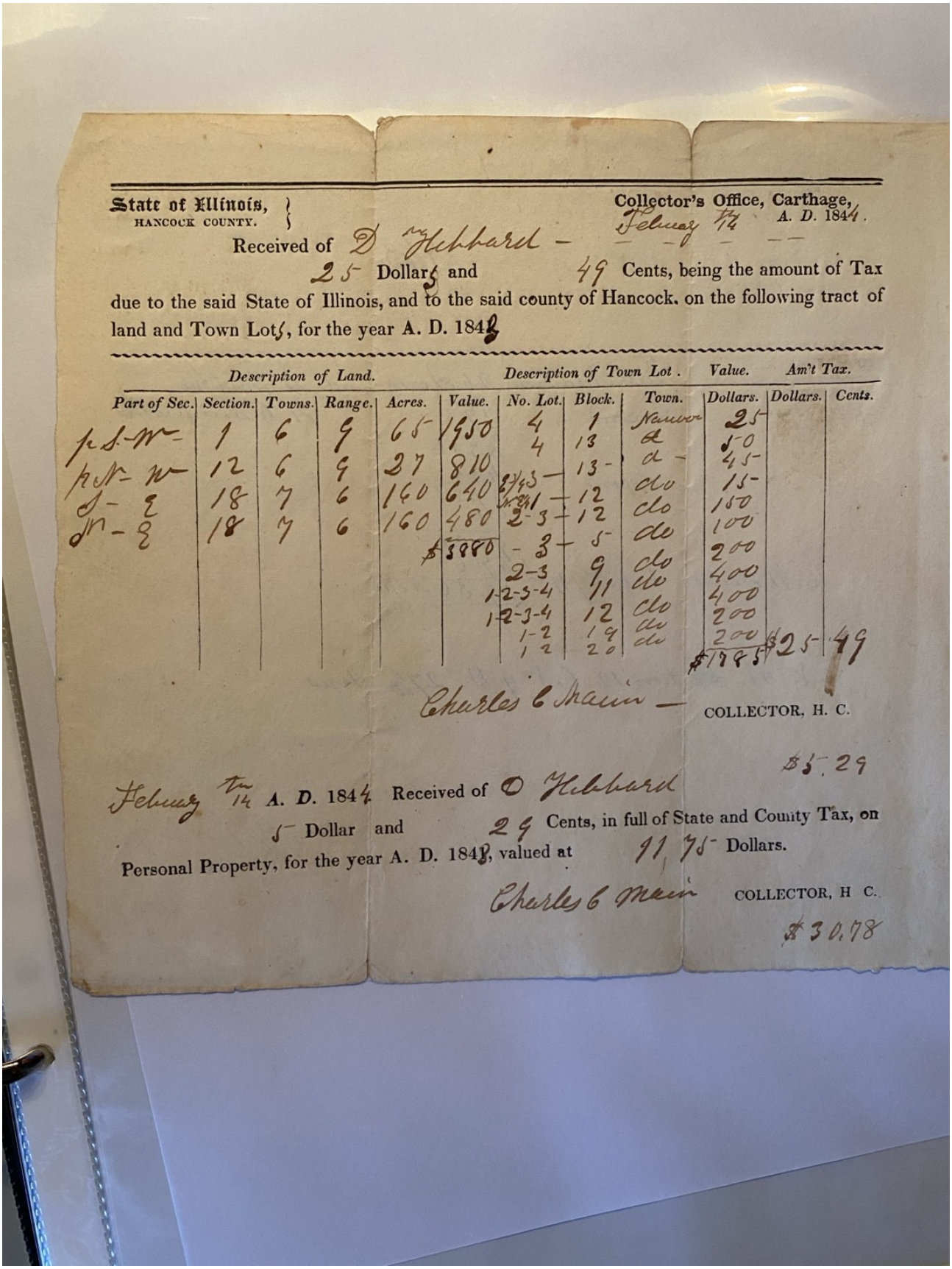
- Lot 4, Block 12 of Hibbard's Addition had been conveyed to Benjamin Riter on 6 July 1842 for $200.
- Nauvoo municipal records later assessed Lot 4, Block 12 and Lot 2, Block 5 to Benjamin 'Writer' for 1842 city taxes.
- The February 1844 municipal tax judgment was separate from the 1843 Carthage state/county tax sale.
- The May 1845 redemption notice strongly identifies a 1843 Carthage sale of Lot 4, Block 12, almost certainly for a prior-year state/county tax delinquency.
- A final recheck shows that the 1845 county delinquent list for 1844 taxes does not assess Lot 4, Block 12 to Hibbard; the earlier contrary reading should be discarded.
- The online biographical evidence is sufficient to treat Davidson Hibbard as a mature Hancock County civic figure who later became a Nauvoo Latter-day Saint land developer, rather than as a newcomer whose identity is defined only by the 1844 receipt.
- The Hibbard family network is sufficiently developed for this report; unresolved genealogy can be pursued separately without delaying the document study.

1. The Original Document

The original is a preprinted Hancock County tax-receipt form completed in brown ink. Its upper half records real property; its lower half records personal property. The piece has horizontal and vertical folds, edge wear, staining, and later calculations or survey-style annotations on the reverse. These physical features are consistent with a working financial paper that was folded and retained rather than a ceremonial record.

The header reads "State of Illinois, Hancock County" at left and "Collector's Office, Carthage" at right. The manuscript date is February 1844. The payor is written as D. Hibbard. The upper portion records twenty-five dollars and forty-nine cents in state and county tax on land and town lots for the year 1843. The lower portion records five dollars and twenty-nine cents in state and county tax on personal property for 1843, with a stated valuation of $917.50. A manuscript arithmetic total of $30.78 appears at the right.

Charles C. Main signed the real-estate portion and the personal-property portion. In both places his autograph sits immediately before the printed words "COLLECTOR, H. C." That placement is significant. Whatever later statutory complications may have existed in the transition between appointed collectors and sheriff-related collection, this specific artifact represents Main to the taxpayer as the Hancock County collector. The report therefore treats his tax-collection role as documented by the paper itself, while reserving the separate question of the precise legal appointment that placed him in that role.



State of Illinois, HANCOCK COUNTY.

Collector's Office, Carthage, Febuary 7th A. D. 1844.

Received of D Hibbard — 25 Dollars and 49 Cents, being the amount of Tax due to the said State of Illinois, and to the said county of Hancock, on the following tract of land and Town Lots, for the year A. D. 1843

Description of Land.						Description of Town Lot.			Value.	Am't Tax.	
Part of Sec.	Section.	Towns.	Range.	Acres.	Value.	No. Lot.	Block.	Town.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Cents.
pt S.W.	1	6	9	65	1950	4	1	Nauvoo	25-		
						4	13	do	5-0		
pt N.W.	12	6	9	27	810		13	do	45-		
S.E.	18	7	6	160	640	2 3		do	15-		
N.E.	18	7	6	160	480	2-3	12	do	150		
					$3880	3	5	do	100		
						2-3	9	do	200		
						1-2-3-4	11	do	400		
						1-2-3-4	12	do	400		
						1-2	19	do	200		
						1 2	20	do	200		
									$1985	$25-	49

Charles C Mann — COLLECTOR, H. C.

$5.29

Febuary 7th A. D. 1844 Received of D Hibbard 5- Dollar and 29 Cents, in full of State and County Tax, on Personal Property, for the year A. D. 1843, valued at 11,75- Dollars.

Charles C Mann COLLECTOR, H C.

$30.78

Figure 1. Front of the Davidson Hibbard Hancock County tax receipt, February 1844.

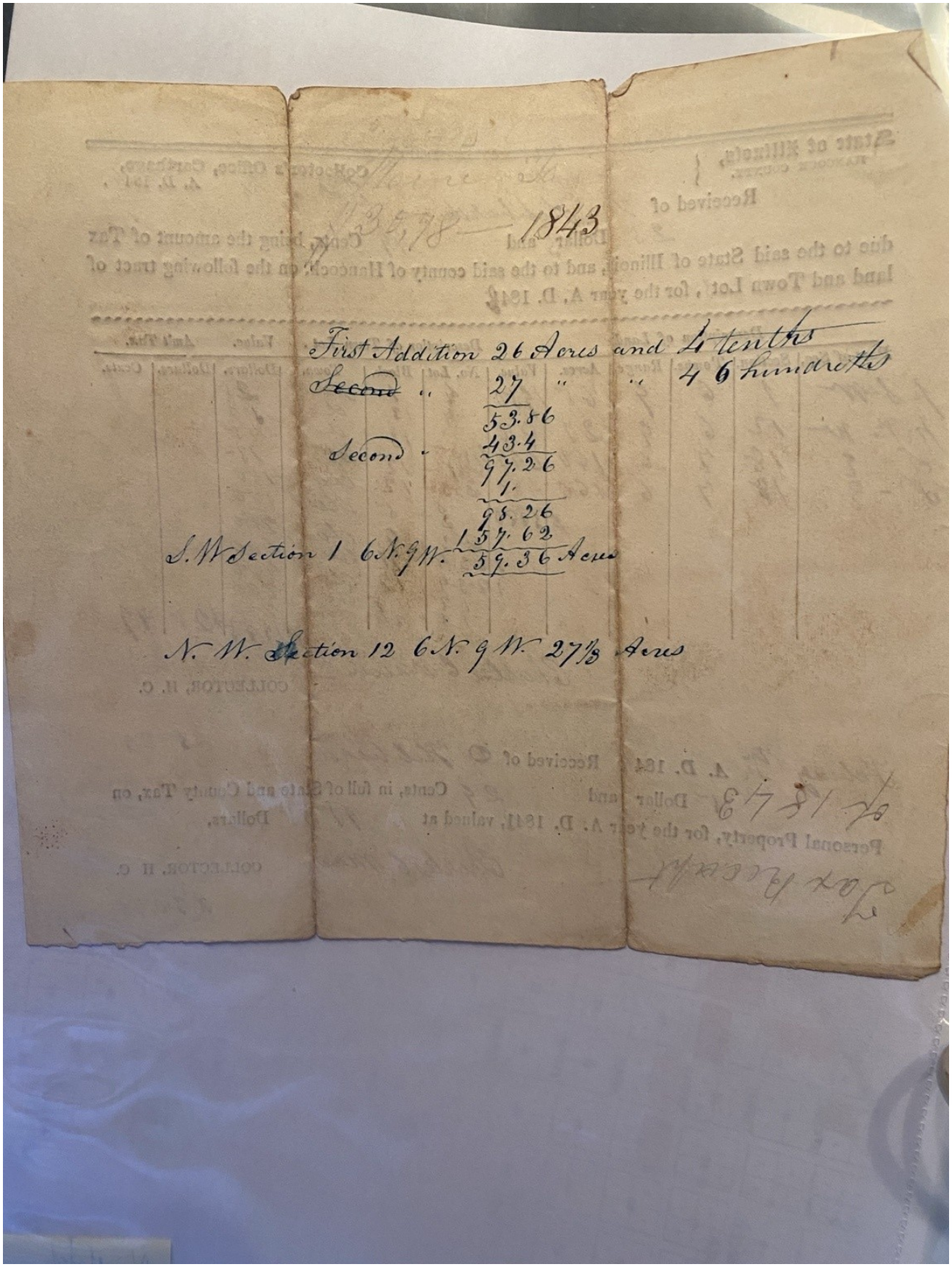


Figure 2. Reverse of the receipt, rotated for reading. Later notations appear to summarize acreage or survey/tax calculations. The reverse notations are not treated as part of the collector's original receipt text unless independently corroborated. Several numerals are difficult to read from the photograph.

2. Faithful Working Transcription

The following is a faithful working transcription of the legible language and figures. It preserves the printed categories and the principal manuscript entries but does not pretend certainty where the lot groupings or quarter-section abbreviations are overwritten. Square brackets mark supplied or uncertain readings. A publication-grade diplomatic transcription should be made from the original under magnification if every numeral must be certified.

2.1 Printed heading and payment language

State of Illinois, / HANCOCK COUNTY.

Collector's Office, Carthage. / February [7th], A. D. 1844.

Received of D Hibbard - / 25 Dollars and 49 Cents, being the amount of Tax / due to the said State of Illinois, and to the said county of Hancock, on the following tract of / land and Town Lots, for the year A. D. 1843.

2.2 Real-property table: secure and approximate readings

Type	Section / Lot	Town / Block	Range / Town	Acres	Value	Reading note
Land	Sec. 1	T. 6	R. 9	65	$1,950	Quarter/part abbreviation difficult; acreage and valuation clear.
Land	Sec. 12	T. 6	R. 9	37	$810	Quarter/part abbreviation difficult; acreage and valuation clear.
Land	Sec. 18	T. 7	R. 6	160	$640	Appears to be a quarter-section entry.
Land	Sec. 18	T. 7	R. 6	160	$480	Appears to be a second quarter-section entry.
Town lot	Lot 4	Block 1	Nauvoo		$25	Clear.
Town lot	Lot 4	Block 13	Nauvoo		$50	Clear.
Town lot	[overwritten]	Block 13	Nauvoo		$45	Lot numerals not secure.
Town lot	[grouped lots]	Block 12	Nauvoo		$15	Overwritten/ grouped lot notation.
Town lot	[grouped lots]	Block 12	Nauvoo		$150	Overwritten/ grouped lot notation.
Town lot	Lot 3	Block 5	Nauvoo		$100	Reasonably clear.
Town lot	Lot 3	Block 5	Nauvoo		$200	A second entry appears; exact lot notation should be checked against original.
Town lots	2-3	Block 9	Nauvoo		$400	Clear grouped entry.
Town lots	1-2-3-4	Block 11	Nauvoo		$400	Clear grouped entry.
Town lots	1-2-3-4	Block 12	Nauvoo		$200	Clear grouped entry; relevant to the Lot 4/Block 12 question.
Town lots	1-2	Block 19	Nauvoo		$200	Clear grouped entry.

Type	Section / Lot	Town / Block	Range / Town	Acres	Value	Reading note
Town lots	1-2	Block 20	Nauvoo		$200	Clear grouped entry.

The handwritten real-property values total approximately $7,765 on the face of the receipt. Several overwritten lot lines prevent a perfectly certain line-by-line reconstruction from the photograph alone.

Charles C Main - COLLECTOR, H. C.

2.3 Personal-property portion

February [7th] A. D. 1844. Received of D Hibbard

5 Dollar and 29 Cents, in full of State and County Tax, on

Personal Property, for the year A. D. 1843, valued at 917.50 Dollars.

Charles C Main COLLECTOR, H. C.

Manuscript total at right: $30.78

2.4 Reverse annotations

The reverse contains later dark-ink calculations referring to a "First Addition" and apparently a second addition, together with section-township-range style acreage notes. The handwriting is different in character from the collector's completion of the front, and the notes appear to have been made for later property accounting or survey reference. Because several numerals and words are indistinct and the annotations are not needed to identify the tax payment itself, they are retained as an evidentiary lead rather than forced into a definitive transcription.

3. What the Receipt Legally and Administratively Represents

The most important interpretive distinction is between state/county taxation and Nauvoo municipal taxation. The 1844 receipt belongs to the former system. It was issued from Carthage, the Hancock County seat, and expressly states that the money was tax due to the State of Illinois and Hancock County. Nauvoo separately assessed city taxes by ward and maintained its own assessor-and-collector records, municipal revenue docket, advertisements, sales, and redemption procedures. A parcel could therefore appear in both systems for the same general period without the records being duplicates.

This distinction resolves much of the apparent confusion surrounding Hibbard's Addition. A city delinquency under the 1842 Nauvoo municipal assessment did not itself establish a county delinquency, and a Carthage sale for state/county taxes did not necessarily extinguish a city-tax liability. Likewise, payment of Hibbard's 1843 state and county taxes in February 1844 did not settle any separate Nauvoo city taxes that might be charged to him or to a purchaser of one of his lots.

The receipt is also a snapshot of Hibbard's assessed property, not necessarily a complete title abstract. Tax rolls could reflect contracts, equitable interests, ownership as understood by assessors, or property still charged to a former owner while a transfer was being processed. For that reason, every disputed lot must be checked against the recorded deed chain and the particular tax system involved. This project has applied that rule most closely to Lot 4, Block 12 and Lot 2, Block 5 of Hibbard's Addition.

3.1 Amounts and economic scale

The real-property assessment shown on the receipt is substantial. Four rural tracts alone carry manuscript valuations totaling $3,880. The town-lot lines add thousands of dollars more in assessed value. The personal-property valuation of $917.50 is also significant. Even allowing for tax-assessment conventions that did not equal cash market value, the document places Hibbard among Hancock County residents with diversified real estate and movable property rather than among marginal householders.

That profile agrees with independent evidence. Hibbard had been in Illinois since the 1820s, held county and local offices before Nauvoo, participated in a sawmill enterprise, and created two named additions to the city. The tax receipt therefore fits the larger biography rather than standing as an isolated anomaly.

4. Hibbard's Addition, Title, and the Benjamin Riter/Writer Problem

The clearest deed in the title investigation is the conveyance to Benjamin Riter. On 6 July 1842 Davidson Hibbard and Sarah his wife conveyed Lot 4, Block 12 of Hibbard's Addition to Benjamin Riter for $200. The deed was recorded in the Nauvoo Registry of Deeds. The record is explicit as to the lot, block, addition, consideration, and grantee. Thus, by recorded deed, Riter had acquired the parcel well before the tax proceedings of 1843-1845.

The city tax record then introduces the spelling "Benjamin Writer." The Nauvoo delinquent-tax list for the 1842 tax year names Benjamin Writer for Lot 4, Block 12, valuation $55, tax 27 1/2 cents, and for Lot 2, Block 5, valuation $60, tax 30 cents, both in Hibbard's Addition. The spelling variant is important because a search restricted to Riter or Ritter can miss the tax record entirely. In this report, Riter is the preferred identity, with Writer treated as the contemporary municipal-tax spelling.

The Riter deed and the Writer assessment are mutually reinforcing. The city did not simply leave Lot 4, Block 12 under the subdivider's name; it charged the parcel to the purchaser. That substantially strengthens the identification of Writer with Riter and shows that Nauvoo's municipal assessors recognized the conveyance.

4.1 The February 1844 municipal judgment

Nauvoo advertised the delinquent 1842 city taxes in December 1843 and January 1844. The notice stated that the Municipal Court would be asked on the first Monday of February 1844 for judgment against the delinquent lots and that lots against which judgment was obtained would be exposed at public sale on 19 February 1844 at the Recorder's Office. The municipal revenue proceeding therefore reached a judicial stage; it was not merely a preliminary delinquency list.

The crucial legal point is that a judgment and order of sale do not prove that a particular lot was actually sold. Payment could intervene before the sale. If a sale occurred, the municipal system generated purchaser and redemption records. The online material examined thus far does not furnish a conclusive purchaser certificate for Riter's Lot 4, Block 12 or Lot 2, Block 5. Accordingly, the report distinguishes three propositions: delinquency is proved; municipal judgment is proved; completed municipal sale remains unresolved.

4.2 The 1843 city-tax year is different

The following year's municipal history provides a useful control. The same Riter-related parcels appeared in the delinquent process for the 1843 city tax, but the underlying assessment material later marks them paid, and the final municipal-court list of lots still unpaid did not carry them forward to sale. That pattern demonstrates why one cannot infer an actual sale merely from publication in a delinquent notice. It also shows that Riter or an interested party was capable of curing a delinquency before the judicial-sale process became final.

5. The 1843 Carthage Tax Sale and the 1845 Redemption Notice

A separate and more consequential clue appears in the Nauvoo press in May 1845. A notice identifies Lot 4, Block 12 of Hibbard's Addition among lands that had been sold for taxes at Carthage in 1843 and warns that the period for redemption was about to expire. Because Carthage was the county seat and the notice concerns a county tax sale, this is not the February 1844 Nauvoo municipal sale process. It belongs to the state/county tax system.

The timing strongly indicates that the 1843 Carthage sale involved a tax obligation from an earlier assessment year, rather than 1843 taxes that were still being collected into late 1843 and early 1844. The roughly two-year interval between the 1843 sale and the 1845 redemption deadline is also consistent with the period's statutory redemption framework. For purposes of the report, the safest formulation is that Lot 4, Block 12 was sold at a county tax sale in Carthage in 1843 and remained subject to redemption into 1845; the exact assessment year and purchaser should be taken from the tax-sale register rather than reconstructed solely from newspaper timing.

The May 1845 notice does not name the person against whom the county tax had been assessed. That omission is critical. It prevents us from saying whether the county treated Benjamin Riter, Davidson Hibbard, or another interest holder as the delinquent taxpayer. The notice proves the parcel's tax-sale status but not the ownership theory behind the assessment.

5.1 Correction of an earlier working hypothesis

During the research process, an earlier reading suggested that the 1845 county delinquent list for 1844 taxes again placed Lot 4, Block 12 in Hibbard's name. A final line-by-line review showed that this was incorrect. The list contains numerous Hibbard parcels, including lots in Block 12, but not Lot 4, Block 12 as previously thought. The earlier county-roll-lag theory therefore should not be carried into the final interpretation.

This correction improves rather than weakens the analysis. It shows that the county records could reflect prior conveyances and prevents the report from manufacturing a title conflict that the source does not actually contain. The true unresolved question is narrower: what exactly happened in the 1843 Carthage tax sale of Lot 4, Block 12, and who redeemed or failed to redeem the parcel by the 1845 deadline?

6. Lot 2, Block 5: A Second Assessment/Title Mismatch

Lot 2, Block 5 of Hibbard's Addition presents a different problem. The 1842 municipal delinquent list places the lot under Benjamin Writer/Riter. Yet the deed-book cross-check located a Hibbard conveyance of Lot 2, Block 5 to Robert D. Foster on 4 June 1842 for $300. This means the tax-list name cannot be treated automatically as a record-title statement.

Several explanations remain possible. Foster may have transferred an equitable or contractual interest to Riter without the corresponding deed yet appearing in the searched record; the city assessor may have relied on possession or a private transaction; a deed may have been recorded under a variant description; or the assessment may simply have been erroneous. The online evidence does not justify choosing among those possibilities.

The importance of Lot 2, Block 5 is methodological. It shows that even when the city correctly recognized Riter on Lot 4, Block 12, the same tax list can contain a name/title mismatch on another parcel. Consequently, the report treats tax assessment, title, sale, and redemption as related but distinct evidentiary categories.

7. Hibbard as a Redeemer of Tax-Sold Property in February 1845

Thomas Bullock's Church Historian's Office journal provides direct evidence that Davidson Hibbard personally participated in the redemption of tax-sold Nauvoo property. In February 1845 Bullock was engaged in city tax-sale work and purchaser certificates. On 17 February he recorded Davidson Hibbard and Daniel M. Repsher coming to redeem land sold for taxes; on 18 February he recorded Hibbard and Hewitt/Hewett in connection with redemption of lots.

Those entries do not identify the exact parcels. They therefore cannot be used to claim that Hibbard redeemed Lot 4, Block 12. But they are highly significant biographically and administratively. Hibbard understood and used the redemption machinery, and his name appears in the office precisely when Nauvoo was processing tax-sale certificates and redemptions.

The possible Hewitt/Hewett connection is also suggestive because Samuel Hewett appears on earlier delinquent lists for multiple parcels in Hibbard's Addition. The spelling is not sufficiently fixed to make the identity absolute, but the combination of names demonstrates that Hibbard continued to be actively involved with the fiscal cleanup of property in his additions.

8. Charles C. Main (also Maine): Collector and Carthage Figure

The original receipt settles one issue better than any secondary source: the signer is Charles C. Main. His autograph appears twice, and in both places the printed form identifies the signing office as "COLLECTOR, H. C." The preferred report spelling is therefore Main. At the same time, contemporary election material also printed the surname Maine, so that variant should be preserved in indexes and future searches rather than dismissed as an error.

Main was an early Carthage-area resident and was politically active. Contemporary election notices and returns show him as a Democratic candidate for Hancock County commissioner in 1843 and again in 1844. He did not win those contests. The geographic pattern of his votes and his identification among early Carthage residents place him in the county-seat community rather than in Nauvoo's municipal administration.

A later tax-administration notice adds an especially useful point. In 1845 Hancock County assessor John P. Haggard instructed taxpayers who had business at the county seat during his absence that property lists could be left with C. C. Main. That notice does not prove that Main held the same formal title in 1844, but it confirms that he remained a trusted participant in county tax administration at Carthage.

The unresolved question is the statutory basis of his 1844 authority. Illinois collection law changed during this period, and the county's board minutes, official bonds, and revenue settlements are the appropriate records for determining whether Main was appointed principal collector, acting under a holdover arrangement, serving by special appointment, or operating in another formally authorized capacity. The report deliberately stops short of a more specific title until those records are examined.

8.1 Recommended biographical wording

Charles C. Main (also rendered Maine) was an early Carthage resident and Democratic county-office candidate who, by February 1844, was acting in Hancock County's state-and-county tax-collection system. The Davidson Hibbard receipt bears Main's autograph twice immediately before the printed title 'COLLECTOR, H. C.' Contemporary sources later show him assisting the county assessor. The precise appointment or statutory basis of his collector authority remains to be confirmed from Hancock County board and bond records.

9. Davidson Hibbard: Biographical Profile

9.1 Origins and pre-Nauvoo public career

Davidson Hibbard was born 20 August 1788 at Brookfield, Vermont, a son of Roger Hibbard and Sarah Davidson. He married Sarah Tilton in 1816. By 1824 he was living in Illinois, and by 1829 he had moved into Hancock County. His public career preceded the Mormon settlement by many years: he was commissioned a captain in the Illinois militia in 1826, appointed justice of the peace in 1827, elected Hancock County coroner in 1832, and again served as a justice of the peace in 1835.

This chronology is essential to understanding the 1844 receipt. Hibbard was not a recent religious migrant learning county procedure for the first time. He had already accumulated years of familiarity with Illinois local government, militia organization, landholding, and legal process before Joseph Smith and the Latter-day Saints established themselves at Commerce.

9.2 Conversion and early Nauvoo integration

Hibbard was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on 11 August 1839 at Commerce. Joseph Smith's 1839 journal records a visit involving the Hibbard family and has been editorially identified as Davidson and Sarah with children William and Melvina. His conversion therefore occurred at the very beginning of the Nauvoo period, while the settlement was still being transformed from Commerce into the city that would receive the Nauvoo charter.

Within months he was participating in community projects. In October 1839 the Nauvoo High Council appointed Samuel Bent, Davidson Hibbard, and David Dort as trustees for a contemplated stone schoolhouse at Upper Commerce. The assignment is valuable evidence of trust: a recent convert with long local experience was immediately placed in a property-and-building role.

9.3 Business and development

An early-1840 reminiscence describes a sawmill enterprise undertaken in company with Brother D. Hibbard. Hibbard supplied funds and traveled to St. Louis for mill irons; the mill was operating by the April 1840 conference, and his partner later sold his interest to Hibbard. Although reminiscence requires the normal caution of retrospective sources, the account fits Hibbard's financial profile and his later extensive property holdings.

Land development became the most visible part of his Nauvoo-era economic identity. Contemporary plat and deed records preserve both Hibbard's Addition and Hibbard's Second Addition. City-council records describe him as owning substantial land along the southeast edge of Nauvoo, and in late 1843 the council negotiated for property in his second addition for public buildings. The council ultimately agreed to a $500 bond arrangement involving Lot 3, Block 4.

9.4 Masonry and Nauvoo Legion

Hibbard became a member of the Nauvoo Masonic Lodge and on 12 March 1842 was appointed assistant inspector general in the Nauvoo Legion. These affiliations placed him in two important male institutional networks of Nauvoo. They also help explain why his name occurs in a broad range of civic, financial, and legal records rather than only in ecclesiastical sources.

9.5 School lands and later community role

By early 1844 Hibbard also appears as a trustee of school lands for Township 6 North, Range 9 West. That role fits his earlier schoolhouse trusteeship and his long public-service background. Taken together, the evidence portrays him as a bridge figure between pre-Mormon Hancock County civic society and the institutional world of Nauvoo.

9.6 Temple and Church ordinance evidence

The available online Nauvoo endowment materials were searched under Hibbard, Hibard, Davidson, Davison, Sarah, and Tilton variants. No reliable entry has been identified showing Davidson or Sarah receiving a Nauvoo Temple endowment. The proper historical statement is therefore negative but limited: no Nauvoo Temple endowment for Davidson or Sarah Tilton Hibbard has been identified in the

online temple and biographical sources examined. This should not be inflated into proof that no ordinance ever occurred.

9.7 Death

Hibbard remained in the Nauvoo area and died there on 11 September 1854. His decision to remain in Hancock County differentiates him from many Latter-day Saint families who migrated west after 1846 and makes his later family connections particularly valuable for tracing the post-Nauvoo persistence of local networks.

10. Hibbard's Legal and Financial Experience

The tax receipt belongs to a larger documentary record in which Hibbard repeatedly appears as creditor, debtor, litigant, land seller, and public actor. In May 1840 George Miller and Joseph Smith executed an $85 promissory note payable to Hibbard. Hibbard transferred the note to Hungerford & Livingston, and litigation followed. The surviving docketing shows that he was comfortable using formal legal mechanisms to collect debts.

In December 1841 Hibbard himself became the defendant in the small but revealing Durfee/Durphy litigation arising from a promissory note. John C. Bennett, then mayor of Nauvoo, entered judgment against him for roughly $63.51 plus costs. Hibbard promptly appealed and posted a bond with Lewis Robison as surety. The Hancock County circuit proceedings continued into 1843.

These cases matter because they eliminate the possibility that the 1844 tax document belonged to a financially naive owner. Hibbard understood debt, judgments, bonds, county filings, municipal process, and the transfer of negotiable paper. His later appearance in tax-redemption work is therefore entirely consistent with his established legal competence.

10.1 Relationship to Amos Davis

The Hibbard-Davis relationship was both familial and commercial. Hibbard's daughter Elvira married Amos Davis in 1837. Hibbard later gave Davis a power of attorney to sell lots in Hibbard's Addition and publicly revoked that authority in 1843. The power-of-attorney relationship helps explain why title and assessment histories within the addition can be more complicated than a simple sequence of deeds signed personally by Hibbard.

Davis's own prominence in Nauvoo commerce, lodging, land transactions, and municipal litigation makes this family tie especially important. It also reinforces the broader conclusion that Hibbard's children married into networks of substantial Nauvoo actors rather than disappearing from the documentary record.

11. Hibbard Family Tree and Nauvoo Connections

For purposes of this document study, the Hibbard family tree is sufficiently developed to explain the principal social connections. The older genealogical compilation requires normal source criticism, but its child list aligns with independent Nauvoo evidence well enough to serve as a framework when corroborated relationship by relationship.

Child	Spouse / connection	Nauvoo significance	Status
William Tilton Hibbard	Later life not fully reconstructed	Identified in family sources; probably the William in the Hibbard family visit noted in Joseph Smith's 1839 journal.	Sufficient for this report; later biography remains open.
Frances Emeline / Emeline Hibbard	Hugh White; later Dr. John Fuller Weld	Links the family to Hugh White and to a Nauvoo physician, Legion surgeon, Mason, and later prospective juror in the 1845 murder trial.	Well supported; exact White-to-Weld chronology can be refined.
Caroline Hibbard	Wagoner (first name unresolved)	Nauvoo residence reported in older genealogy.	Identity of husband not securely established online.
Elvira M. Hibbard	Amos Davis	Direct tie to prominent Commerce/Nauvoo merchant, hotelkeeper, land actor, and Hibbard's authorized lot-selling agent.	Strongly supported.
Malvina / Melvina Hibbard	Milton M. Morrill	Links family to a long-term Nauvoo/Hancock civic figure.	Marriage framework supported; can be expanded in separate Morrill biography.

11.1 Emeline Hibbard, Hugh White, and John F. Weld

Emeline's marriage history is the richest family connection for this project. A local historical account remembers the marriage of Hugh White and Emeline Hibbard. The Joseph Smith Papers biography of Dr. John Fuller Weld states that Weld married Frances Emiline Hibbard White on 4 July 1845 at Nauvoo. The use of the surname White in Weld's marriage entry provides a coherent bridge between the two relationships rather than a contradiction.

Weld was born in Vermont, trained in medicine at Dartmouth and Castleton, settled in Hancock County before the Nauvoo period, and practiced as a physician and surgeon. He was reportedly friendly to the Latter-day Saints, but no baptism has been identified. He was appointed a surgeon in the Nauvoo Legion in March 1841 and was also a Nauvoo Mason.

Weld's medical role appears in Nauvoo legal records. In Dana v. Brink, a malpractice dispute involving Thomsonian medicine, Weld was called with other regular physicians as an expert witness. In May 1845 he was summoned and sworn as a prospective juror in the trial of Levi Williams and others for the murders of Joseph and Hyrum Smith. On voir dire he stated that he had formed and expressed an opinion many times and did not become a member of the final jury.

A family or local tradition has been associated with Weld and treatment of John Taylor after the Carthage shooting. The present online sweep did not locate sufficiently direct contemporary evidence to state that Weld personally removed Taylor's bullets as fact. That tradition should therefore remain a research note unless a diary, medical account, family letter, or other near-contemporary source can be produced.

11.2 Elvira Hibbard and Amos Davis

Elvira Hibbard's marriage to Amos Davis placed the family at the center of another important Nauvoo network. Davis had commercial interests in the Commerce/Nauvoo area, kept accounts, dealt in land, and was repeatedly involved in municipal and legal disputes. His role as Hibbard's attorney-in-fact for lot sales gives the marriage immediate relevance to the interpretation of deeds and assessment discrepancies in Hibbard's Addition.

11.3 Melvina Hibbard and Milton M. Morrill

Melvina's later marriage to Milton M. Morrill connected the Hibbards to a man who remained active in Nauvoo civic life well after the principal Latter-day Saint exodus. The connection is useful because it helps explain the family's continued Hancock County presence and provides a bridge between the Mormon Nauvoo period and the post-1846 civic community.

12. Reconstructing the Tax and Title Chronology

Date	Event
1816	Davidson Hibbard marries Sarah Tilton.
1824-1835	Hibbard is established in Illinois and Hancock County civic life; militia and county/local offices precede his Latter-day Saint conversion.
11 Aug. 1839	Hibbard is baptized at Commerce.
Oct. 1839	Appointed one of the trustees for the contemplated Upper Commerce stone schoolhouse.
1840	Associated with a sawmill enterprise; also appears in promissory-note litigation.
1841	Durfee/Durphy v. Hibbard produces a Nauvoo judgment and Hancock County appeal.
12 Mar. 1842	Appointed assistant inspector general in the Nauvoo Legion.
4 June 1842	Deed-book research shows Hibbard and wife conveying Lot 2, Block 5 of Hibbard's Addition to Robert D. Foster for $300.
6 July 1842	Hibbard and wife convey Lot 4, Block 12 of Hibbard's Addition to Benjamin Riter for $200.
1842 tax year	Nauvoo municipal assessment later carries Lot 4, Block 12 and Lot 2, Block 5 under Benjamin 'Writer.'
1843	Lot 4, Block 12 is later reported as having been sold for taxes at Carthage; exact county assessment and purchaser remain unknown.
Dec. 1843-Jan. 1844	Nauvoo advertises delinquent 1842 city taxes, including Benjamin Writer's two Hibbard's Addition lots.
Feb. 1844	Municipal Court revenue proceeding enters judgment/order of sale for delinquent 1842 city taxes; advertised sale date 19 Feb. 1844.
Feb. 1844	The surviving Carthage receipt records D. Hibbard's payment of 1843 state/county taxes and personal-property tax to Charles C. Main.
1844 tax year / 1845 publication	Final recheck shows the county delinquent list does not re-assess Lot 4, Block 12 to Hibbard.
17-18 Feb. 1845	Bullock journal records Davidson Hibbard participating in redemption of tax-sold land/lots.
May 1845	Notice warns that redemption on Lot 4, Block 12, sold at Carthage in 1843, is about to expire.
4 July 1845	Dr. John Fuller Weld marries Frances Emiline Hibbard White at Nauvoo.
11 Sept. 1854	Davidson Hibbard dies at Nauvoo.

12.1 Evidence grades

Grade	Meaning
Documented	Directly shown by the original receipt, a recorded deed, court/tax record, contemporary newspaper, or institutional biographical source.
Strongly supported	Supported by multiple independent sources or a later source that fits the contemporary record closely.
Probable	Best explanation of the present evidence but not stated directly in a surviving record.
Unresolved	A question for which the decisive record has been identified but not yet accessed.

13. Parcel Evidence Matrix

The following matrix keeps deed evidence, municipal tax evidence, county tax-sale evidence, and the 1844 receipt separate. This is the safest way to avoid converting an assessment into a deed or a sale notice into proof of forfeiture.

Parcel	Deed evidence	Nauvoo municipal tax	County/state tax	1844 receipt	Unresolved
Hibbard's Addition, Lot 4 Block 12	Hibbard & wife -> Benjamin Riter, 6 Jul. 1842, $200	1842 city delinquency under Benjamin 'Writer'; judgment/order of sale in Feb. 1844	Reported sold at Carthage in 1843; redemption expiring in 1845	Receipt contains grouped Block 12 entries; exact relationship of line-item to this parcel requires original-level reading	County tax-sale purchaser/redemption entry
Hibbard's Addition, Lot 2 Block 5	Hibbard & wife -> Robert D. Foster, 4 Jun. 1842, $300	1842 city delinquency under Benjamin 'Writer'	No decisive county-sale evidence located in online sweep	Receipt has Block 5 entries, but exact line-to-parcel attribution should not be forced	Explain Writer/Riter assessment after Foster deed
Hibbard's Second Addition, selected lots	Numerous Hibbard conveyances; Levi E. Riter received Lot 3 Block 6 in 1843	Varies by ward/year	1844/45 county lists recognize at least some prior transfers	Several grouped Nauvoo lot entries appear on receipt	Only targeted archival follow-up if needed

13.1 Why the systems must remain separate

The project began with an understandable temptation to build one continuous 'tax-sale' narrative. The sources instead reveal overlapping systems. Nauvoo city taxes were assessed and enforced under municipal ordinances and ward collectors; state and Hancock County taxes were collected through Carthage and enforced under state law. A lot could be current in one system and delinquent in the other. The most reliable final report therefore presents parallel chronologies and identifies the point at which each system produced a sale, judgment, redemption, or payment.

14. What Remains to Be Done by Special Request

The open-access phase is substantially exhausted. Further general searching is unlikely to improve the core conclusions. The remaining questions are now tied to specific surviving record series and can be pursued efficiently by targeted archival request.

14.1 Hancock County Tax Sale Record, 1834-1848

The Illinois State Archives/IRAD holdings database identifies a Hancock County Clerk Tax Sale Record covering 1834-1848, accession 2/0061/52, at the Western Illinois University depository. This is the single most important outstanding source. The request should ask specifically for the 1843 entry for Hibbard's Addition, Lot 4, Block 12, and any associated purchaser, amount, certificate, redemption, or forfeiture notation.

14.2 Hancock County Board/Commissioner minutes and bonds

The county board minutes for 1829-1847 survive in IRAD. A narrow search for Charles C. Main/Main(e), February 1844, collector appointments, official bonds, revenue settlements, and any deputy or special collector authority should establish the legal basis of Main's signature. The request should also check the transition from Ellis Hughes or other prior collectors to Main.

14.3 Nauvoo municipal sale and redemption records

The municipal revenue docket proves the delinquency/judgment process, but a purchaser certificate or redemption entry is still needed to determine whether Benjamin Riter/Writer's 1842 city-tax delinquency on Lot 4, Block 12 and Lot 2, Block 5 proceeded to completed sale. The request should ask for the 19 February 1844 sale list, recorder register, certificates, and later redemption entries.

14.4 Suggested archival request language

Please examine Hancock County records for 1843-1845 for Hibbard's Addition to Nauvoo, especially Lot 4, Block 12, and provide images or a transcript of any tax-sale, purchaser, redemption, or forfeiture entry. Please also search county-board minutes, collector bonds, and revenue settlements for Charles C. Main (also Maine) around February 1844 and identify the authority under which he signed Hancock County state-and-county tax receipts as 'Collector, H.C.'

15. Final Historical Assessment

The Davidson Hibbard receipt is more than a routine tax voucher. It is a compact record of the economic world in which Nauvoo land development, Hancock County administration, and private family networks intersected. On its face, it shows a substantial taxpayer settling state and county obligations at Carthage. In context, it opens a chain of evidence that reaches from deeds and municipal assessments to tax judgments, county sales, redemption, political officeholding, and the Hibbard family's connections to prominent Nauvoo residents.

The strongest title conclusion is straightforward: Hibbard conveyed Lot 4, Block 12 to Benjamin Riter in July 1842. The strongest municipal-tax conclusion is equally clear: the city later assessed that parcel to Benjamin 'Writer' for the 1842 city tax and took the delinquency into the municipal revenue process. The strongest county-tax conclusion is that the same parcel was sold at Carthage in 1843 and remained redeemable into 1845. What the online record does not establish is the county's named taxpayer, the purchaser, and the final redemption outcome.

The project also clarified the role of source correction. A preliminary reading that appeared to place Lot 4, Block 12 back under Hibbard in a later county list was disproved by a final line-by-line check. That correction prevents an artificial title conflict and is retained in this report because documenting the discarded hypothesis is useful for future researchers who encounter the same dense tax lists.

Charles C. Main should remain in the report with a concise but firm profile. The original artifact itself calls him, functionally and typographically, the Hancock County collector. Contemporary political and tax-administration sources place him at Carthage and in county public life. The missing piece is not whether he participated in tax administration, but the exact appointment or statutory mechanism by which he held authority in February 1844.

Finally, Hibbard's biography is now sufficiently mature for reuse. He was a pre-Nauvoo Hancock County officeholder who converted in 1839, became integrated into Nauvoo civic, military, Masonic, educational, industrial, and land-development activity, and remained in the area after the exodus. His children's marriages extended his network to Amos Davis, Milton M. Morrill, Hugh White, and Dr. John Fuller Weld. That family context turns the receipt from an isolated financial paper into a document embedded in the social history of Nauvoo and Hancock County.

Subject to the three archival checks identified above, the online research phase of the Davidson Hibbard tax-sale/redemption project is complete.

Source Notes and Selected Bibliography

Original Davidson Hibbard Hancock County tax receipt, February 1844, privately held; photographs supplied for this project. Front bears two signatures of Charles C. Main and printed designation 'COLLECTOR, H. C.'

Joseph Smith Papers, 'Hibbard (Hibard), Davidson (Davison),' biographical entry: https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/person/davidson-davison-hibbard-hibard

Joseph Smith Papers, Nauvoo Registry of Deeds, Deed Record Book A, p. 36/41, deed of Davidson and Sarah Hibbard to Benjamin Riter, 6 July 1842, Lot 4 Block 12, Hibbard's Addition: https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/nauvoo-registry-of-deeds-deed-record-book-a-1840-1843/42

Joseph Smith Papers, Nauvoo Registry of Deeds, Deed Record Book A, 1840-1843, entry of 4 June 1842, Hibbard and wife to Robert D. Foster, Lot 2 Block 5, Hibbard's Addition.

Joseph Smith Papers, 'List of Delinquent Taxes for 1842, circa 27 December 1843': https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/list-of-delinquent-taxes-for-1842-circa-27-december-1843/1

Nauvoo Neighbor, 24 January 1844, delinquent 1842 city taxes, Hibbard's Addition; Benjamin Writer, Lot 4 Block 12 and Lot 2 Block 5: https://byustudies.byu.edu/online-book/nauvoo-neighbor/january-24-1844-volume-1-number-39-144

Joseph Smith Papers, 'Docket of the Municipal Court of the City of Nauvoo on Revenue, 5 February 1844-5 May 1845': https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/docket-of-the-municipal-court-of-the-city-of-nauvoo-on-revenue-5-february-1844-5-may-1845/1

Joseph Smith Papers, 'List of Delinquent Taxes for 1843-A, 4 December 1844': https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/list-of-delinquent-taxes-for-1843-a-4-december-1844/1

Nauvoo Neighbor, 21 May 1845, notice of lands sold for taxes at Carthage in 1843 and approaching redemption expiration, including Hibbard's Addition Lot 4 Block 12.

Church Historian's Office Journal, Thomas Bullock, February 1845 entries concerning tax sales, purchaser certificates, and Davidson Hibbard redemptions; online transcription hosted by Wilford Woodruff Papers: https://wilfordwoodruffpapers.org/documents/aa380070-cd66-4cbe-8c22-721893ec817d/transcript

Joseph Smith Papers, Minutes, 21 December 1843, editorial notes on Hibbard's Second Addition and city public-building negotiations: https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/minutes-21-december-1843/1

Joseph Smith Papers, Journal, 1839, p. 11, editorial identification of Davidson and Sarah Hibbard family: https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/journal-1839/13

Joseph Smith Papers, 'John Fuller Weld' biographical entry: https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/person/john-fuller-weld

Joseph Smith Papers, shorthand account of the May 1845 trial of Levi Williams et al., voir dire of John F. Weld: https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/bc-jsp/content/jsp/images/content/library/pdf/comparison-shorthand-trial-account.pdf

Illinois State Archives, Local Governmental Records Holdings Database, Hancock County; Tax Sale Record, 1834-1848, accession 2/0061/52: https://apps.ilsos.gov/isa/localGovRecordsSearch.do?county=HANCOCK

Illinois State Archives, IRAD county listing, Hancock County, Western Illinois University depository: https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/archives/IRAD/irad.pdf

Thomas Gregg, History of Hancock County, Illinois (Chicago: Charles C. Chapman, 1880), used through digitized/indexed excerpts for early Carthage and Hancock context.

Warsaw Message and Nauvoo Neighbor election/tax notices, 1843-1845, for Charles C. Main/Main(e) and Hancock County tax administration.

Older Hibbard family genealogy used as a framework for the child list, with relationships independently corroborated where possible; uncertain items are expressly identified as such.

Research cautions

- Do not merge Nauvoo municipal tax proceedings with Hancock County/state tax proceedings.
- Do not use an assessor's name entry as automatic proof of record title.
- Do not state that municipal judgment necessarily resulted in completed sale unless a purchaser record is located.
- Do not state that Davidson Hibbard redeemed Lot 4, Block 12 merely because Bullock records Hibbard redeeming tax-sold land in February 1845; the parcel is not named.
- Do not state that John F. Weld removed bullets from John Taylor without a direct or near-contemporary source.
- Preserve Main/Maine and Riter/Writer as documented spelling variants in searching and indexing.

Appendix A. Research Questions Resolved and Unresolved

Question	Finding	Status
Who paid the 1844 receipt?	Davidson/Davison Hibbard, written 'D Hibbard.'	Resolved.
What tax year?	1843 state/county real-property and personal-property taxes, paid in February 1844.	Resolved.
How much?	$25.49 real-property tax + $5.29 personal-property tax = $30.78.	Resolved.
Who signed as collector?	Charles C. Main; Maine is a contemporary variant.	Resolved as identity; exact appointment unresolved.
Was Lot 4 Block 12 sold by Hibbard?	Yes, by recorded deed to Benjamin Riter on 6 July 1842 for $200.	Resolved.
Why does Benjamin 'Writer' appear?	Municipal tax records use Writer for Riter and charge him with Lot 4 Block 12 and Lot 2 Block 5.	Strongly resolved.
Did the 1842 city tax go to judgment?	Yes.	Resolved.
Did the city actually sell Riter's two lots in Feb. 1844?	Not yet proved from an online purchaser record.	Unresolved.
Was Lot 4 Block 12 sold at Carthage?	A May 1845 notice says it had been sold for taxes at Carthage in 1843.	Resolved as sale notice; purchaser/outcome unresolved.
Did Hibbard redeem tax-sold property?	Yes, Bullock records him doing so in Feb. 1845, but the lots are not identified.	Resolved generally; parcel-specific link unresolved.
Did later county lists put Lot 4 Block 12 back in Hibbard's name?	No; final recheck corrected that earlier reading.	Resolved correction.
Was Hibbard endowed in the Nauvoo Temple?	No online endowment record identified for Davidson or Sarah.	Negative search result only.
Did John F. Weld join the Church?	No baptism has been identified; JSP describes him as friendly to the Saints.	Current best conclusion.

Appendix B. Recommended Master-Biography Entries

Davidson Hibbard (1788-1854): Vermont-born Illinois pioneer and Hancock County civic official; militia captain, justice of the peace, coroner; baptized at Commerce in 1839; trustee for Upper Commerce stone-schoolhouse project; sawmill investor; Nauvoo land developer; Nauvoo Mason; assistant inspector general in Nauvoo Legion; school-lands trustee; participant in promissory-note litigation and tax-redemption activity; creator of Hibbard's Addition and Hibbard's Second Addition; father of William Tilton, Emeline, Caroline, Elvira, and Malvina/Melvina; family links to Amos Davis, Milton M. Morrill, Hugh White, and Dr. John Fuller Weld; died at Nauvoo in 1854.

Dr. John Fuller Weld (1808/1809-1892): Vermont-born physician and surgeon, medically trained at Dartmouth and Castleton; Hancock County resident before Nauvoo; reportedly friendly to Latter-day Saints but no baptism identified; Nauvoo Legion surgeon and Nauvoo Mason; expert witness in Dana v. Brink; married Frances Emiline Hibbard White on 4 July 1845; summoned and sworn as a prospective juror in the 1845 Joseph and Hyrum Smith murder trial but did not sit on the final jury after acknowledging prior opinions. Birth-year discrepancy should be retained: JSP gives 1809, while an 1892 obituary tradition supports 1808.

Appendix C. Dr. John Fuller Weld - Expanded Biographical Note

John Fuller Weld deserves a separate note because his marriage to Frances Emiline Hibbard White created one of the strongest later connections in the Hibbard family network. He was born in Vermont on 11 December; the year is not perfectly settled in the available secondary record. The Joseph Smith Papers biography gives 1809, while later obituary-derived material gives 1808. Because the discrepancy is only one year and both traditions agree on the day and month, the report preserves it rather than forcing a false precision.

Weld was the son of Daniel Weld and Lydia Fuller. The family moved to Cornish, New Hampshire, and John later came west to Hancock County, Illinois, by the late 1820s. He pursued formal medical training, attending Dartmouth Medical School and Castleton Medical College. That background placed him among the conventionally trained or 'regular' physicians of the region rather than among the botanical or Thomsonian practitioners who were common on the frontier.

By 1837 Weld was living in the St. Mary's area of Hancock County, and he later moved into Nauvoo. The Joseph Smith Papers describes him as friendly toward the Latter-day Saints but notes no record of his baptism. That distinction is important. Weld was close enough to Nauvoo institutions to serve in them, but the available record does not justify counting him as a Church member.

C.1 Nauvoo Legion and Masonic associations

Weld was appointed a surgeon in the Nauvoo Legion in March 1841. His medical office therefore had a military as well as a civilian dimension. He also became associated with the Nauvoo Masonic Lodge. These affiliations placed him in overlapping professional and fraternal networks that included many of the city's leading men.

The combination of physician, Legion surgeon, and Mason helps explain why Weld appears in legal and civic records even though he was not a prominent ecclesiastical officeholder. He was part of the Nauvoo institutional world without being defined by Church membership.

C.2 Dana v. Brink and the medical culture of Nauvoo

Weld's most revealing professional appearance is in Dana v. Brink, the 1843 malpractice litigation tried before Joseph Smith. Brink practiced Thomsonian or botanical medicine, and the litigation brought competing medical systems into the courtroom. Weld, Robert D. Foster, and Samuel Bennett were among the regular physicians called as expert witnesses. Brink's attorneys objected to testimony from physicians aligned with the conventional medical school, illustrating that the trial was not merely about one patient's treatment but also about professional authority.

For Weld's biography this episode is particularly valuable because it proves active medical practice in Nauvoo and places him among physicians whose opinions were considered sufficiently authoritative to be summoned in a contested malpractice case. It also provides a rare documentary glimpse of medical pluralism in the city.

C.3 Marriage to Frances Emiline Hibbard White

The Joseph Smith Papers biography records Weld's marriage on 4 July 1845 at Nauvoo to Frances Emiline Hibbard White. The form of the bride's name is significant: it preserves both her Hibbard family identity and her prior White surname. This confirms that the Hugh White and John F. Weld traditions belong to the same woman's marital history rather than to two different Emelines.

For Davidson Hibbard's biography, the marriage connects the family to a physician who was already established in Hancock County before the great Mormon migration to Commerce. Weld therefore resembles Hibbard himself in one important respect: both were older Hancock County residents who became closely interwoven with Nauvoo institutions without beginning their Illinois lives as Mormon migrants.

C.4 The 1845 murder trial

Weld's appearance during jury selection in the May 1845 trial of Levi Williams and the other defendants accused of murdering Joseph and Hyrum Smith is one of the most important additions to his

biography. The shorthand trial account records Weld among the men summoned and sworn for voir dire. When questioned, he said that he had formed and expressed an opinion many times. He was therefore not a neutral blank slate, and he did not become a member of the final jury.

This evidence should be used carefully. It proves that Weld had discussed and formed views about the accused or the murders; it does not establish what his opinion was or which side he favored. Still, it places him directly inside the legal aftermath of Carthage and shows that county officials regarded him as a qualified prospective juror.

C.5 John Taylor treatment tradition

A recurring family or local tradition associates Weld with treatment of John Taylor after Taylor was shot in Carthage Jail. The present final online sweep did not locate a direct contemporary source naming Weld as the physician who removed Taylor's bullets. Because several physicians and attendants were involved in Taylor's treatment over time, and because later memory can compress distinct episodes, the claim should remain qualified.

The appropriate master-biography wording is that Weld has been associated by tradition with Taylor's post-Carthage medical care, but the specific bullet-removal claim has not yet been established by a near-contemporary record. If future family letters, medical notes, diaries, or a reliable early reminiscence surface, that conclusion can be revisited.

C.6 Later life

Weld later married Elizabeth Rowe on 7 April 1855 in Hancock County. By 1880 he was again in Sonora Township, and he died there on 28 July 1892. His long residence in Hancock County means that his life spans the pre-Nauvoo settlement era, the Mormon city, the violence and trials of the mid-1840s, and the county's later nineteenth-century development.

For future projects, Weld should be retained in the Nauvoo-Hancock master biographical library as a physician, Legion surgeon, Mason, expert medical witness, Hibbard son-in-law, and prospective juror in the 1845 murder trial.

Appendix D. Charles C. Main/Main(e) - Focused Biographical Note

Charles C. Main remains a comparatively thin biography, but the available evidence is now sufficient to establish a useful profile without speculation. The Hibbard receipt is the central source: Main signs twice, each time in the collector position of the Hancock County form. The preferred surname spelling is Main because that is how the autograph appears and how several contemporary notices print the name.

The variant Maine is nevertheless historically real. An 1844 official election return used that spelling. Future searches should therefore use Main, Maine, and C. C. Main(e), particularly in handwritten county records where the terminal e may be ambiguous.

D.1 Political activity

Year	Office sought	Recorded name	Result / evidence
1843	Hancock County commissioner	C. C. Main / Chas. C. Main	Contemporary notice and official return; approximately 485 votes; marked as Democratic in the published return.
1844	Hancock County commissioner	Charles C. Main / Maine	Contemporary announcement and official return; approximately 76 votes; again identified with the Democratic ticket.

The election evidence places Main squarely in Hancock County public life and, more specifically, in the Carthage-centered political world. The dramatic fall in his recorded vote between 1843 and 1844 is interesting but should not be overinterpreted without a full precinct-level and factional study.

D.2 Tax administration

The tax receipt proves direct collection activity in February 1844. A separate 1845 notice by Hancock County assessor John P. Haggard instructed taxpayers who needed to leave property lists at the county seat during Haggard's absence that they could leave them with C. C. Main. That notice independently confirms that Main continued to be trusted with county tax-administration business.

The remaining issue is formal title, not function. Surviving county-board minutes and bond records should reveal whether Main was appointed collector in his own right, was serving under a transitional statutory arrangement, or was acting through another form of authorization. Until that source is checked, the report should avoid adding a title more specific than the one printed on his own receipt.

D.3 Recommended master-biography entry

Charles C. Main (also Maine): early Carthage resident; Democratic Hancock County commissioner candidate in 1843 and 1844; functioning in the county tax-collection system by February 1844, when he signed Davidson Hibbard's state-and-county tax receipt twice as 'Collector, H.C.'; later entrusted to receive taxpayer property lists for county assessor John P. Haggard. Exact collector appointment, bond, and statutory authority remain to be verified from Hancock County board and revenue records.

Source notes for the life highlights

H1 The Keokuk connection

Florence Ourth's published interview recounts a local tradition that Chief Black Hawk and Chief Keokuk attended the wedding of Hibbard's daughter to Captain James White's son. The reported wedding connection reasonably suggests friendly relations between Hibbard and Keokuk, the basis for describing their association in the highlights. The extent of that relationship and any regular trading between them remain undocumented. Source: "Florence Ourth," in Modern Perspectives on Nauvoo and the Mormons, BYU Religious Studies Center. https://rsc.byu.edu/modern-perspectives-nauvoo-mormons/florence-ourth

H2 Land sales and the growth of Nauvoo

Andrew Jenson's historical account identifies Davidson Hibbard among the landowners from whom the Church made additional purchases after obtaining the first Hugh White and Isaac Galland farms. It also names him among those whose additions extended Nauvoo. This passage does not specify the date or acreage of his sale. Source: Andrew Jenson, "Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois," The Historical Record (March 1889), pp. 743–843. https://storage.googleapis.com/scripturecentral-prod-strapi-uploads/voo_hancock_county_illinois_march_1889_743_843_2d6ec90f68/voo_hancock_county_illinois_march_1889_743_843_2d6ec90f68.pdf

Educational offices

The schoolhouse trusteeship and school-land trusteeship are distinct roles, documented in Sections 9.2 and 9.5. A university regency is not established by either appointment. The original university regent list does not include Hibbard; a later appointment would require separate evidence. See Hubert Howe Bancroft, History of Utah, 1540–1886 (1889), chapter 6, note 6; and Susan Easton Black, "The University of Nauvoo, 1841–45," Religious Educator 10, no. 3 (2009). https://rsc.byu.edu/vol-10-no-3-2009/university-nauvoo-1841-45

Public service and Church membership

The Joseph Smith Papers biographical entry supplies the militia commission of January 12, 1826; justice-of-the-peace service in 1827 and 1835; Hancock County arrival in 1829; coroner election in 1832; baptism at Commerce on August 11, 1839; Nauvoo Masonic membership; and appointment as assistant inspector general on March 12, 1842. https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/person/davidson-davison-hibbard-hibard