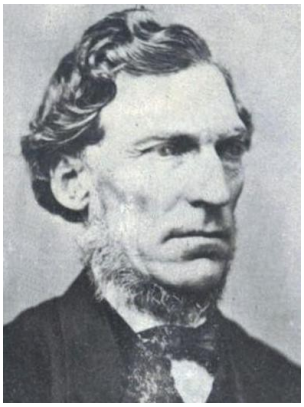
John Davis Parker and the Four Dollar Claim

An illustrated life story through a Nauvoo document



John Davis Parker 1799–1891. Portrait identified by the Church History Biographical Database; photographer and date unspecified. [18]

Life highlights

1799 and the early years Born in Saratoga, New York; became a farmer and wagon maker. Later pension evidence records youthful War of 1812 teamster service.

1832 to 1837 Joined the Latter-day Saints, traveled with Zion's Camp, became a seventy, and subscribed for Kirtland Safety Society stock.

1839 to 1844 Made his home in Nauvoo; served a New Orleans mission and held church, military, and civil responsibilities.

The autumn of 1844 Worked as a constable during the Hancock court term and signed the four-dollar claim at the center of this story.

1846 to 1852 Joined the exodus, lived in the Missouri River settlements, and traveled to Utah with the Isaac M. Stewart Company.

1866 to 1891 Settled at Kanarra and lived to ninety-one. Sources differ by one day on his February 1891 death date.

A small paper in a long life

By the autumn of 1844, Parker had followed Joseph Smith through years of religious and civic change. Now Smith was dead, Hancock County's courts were handling the aftermath, and Parker was seeking payment for his own work. His signed request for four dollars gives us a way into that larger life. [1] [2]

Read the story • Compare the manuscript • Sources and image credits

From Saratoga to Kirtland

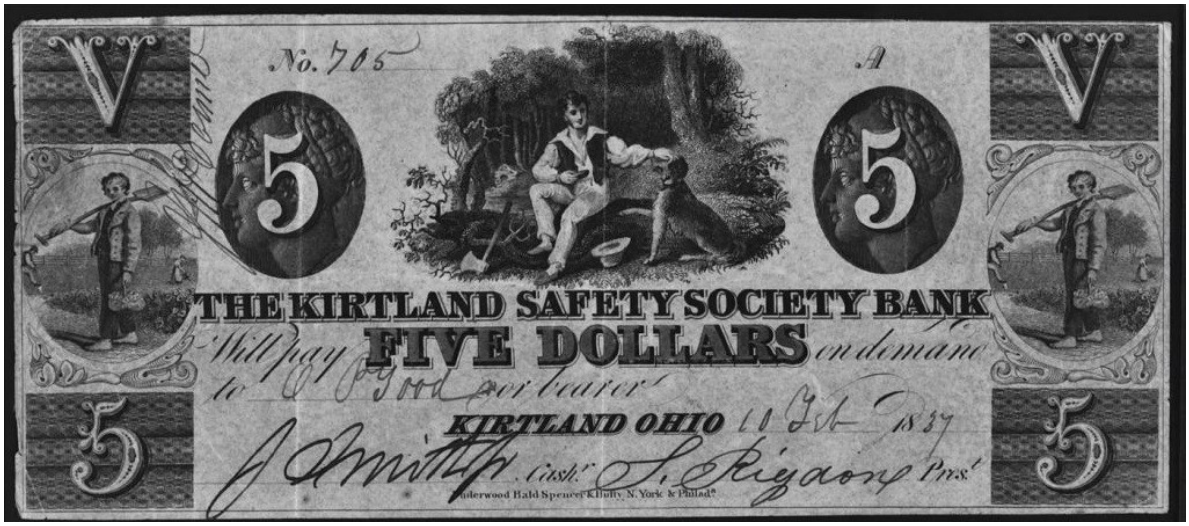
Parker's working life began far from Nauvoo. He was born on 22 November 1799 in Saratoga, New York, to Abel Parker and Mary Davies, also recorded as Davis. Later pension evidence associates him with teamster service in General John E. Wool's company during 1813–1814. He was still a boy in those years. His later occupations, farmer and wainwright, point to the practical work of raising crops and building or repairing wagons. [2] [17]

He married Harriet Sherwood and was living at Galway in Saratoga County by 1830. The surviving research establishes those early ties more securely than it establishes the details of their marriage or children. In May 1832, according to the Joseph Smith Papers biography, Stephen Burnett baptized him into the young Latter-day Saint church. That decision would carry him into a succession of new communities. A different baptism year appears in the Church History database; the date variance is recorded in the evidence notes. [2] [12]

In 1834 Parker joined Zion's Camp, the expedition to Missouri led by Joseph Smith. Later accounts associate him with practical support and care for others in the camp. The institutional record then brings him into clear view at Kirtland: Smith ordained him a seventy on 28 February 1835, and a blessing in his name was recorded the following day. [2] [7]

His name in the stock ledger

Parker also participated in Kirtland's financial experiment. His Safety Society account lists twenty shares with a nominal value of $1,000 and a $5 cash entry dated 14 February 1837. The published transcript additionally preserves an inserted "0.25" beneath the entry. These figures establish a subscription and a small payment record; they do not establish payment of the full $1,000 or a management role. [19]



Kirtland Safety Society five-dollar note, 1837. L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Brigham Young University, via Wikimedia Commons. This is an illustrative example; it is not identified as a note owned by Parker. [20]

The note gives a visible form to the institution in which he invested. By 1839 his story had moved on to Commerce, the Illinois settlement that became Nauvoo. [2]

A household and a public life in Nauvoo

Nauvoo brought Parker into a close web of religious, civic, and family relationships. His New Orleans mission ran from 7 October 1841 to 15 October 1842. The assignment took him to a port important to the movement of converts as well as to missionary work. The surviving summary fixes the beginning and end of that service, although it does not supply a daily itinerary or one securely identified companion for the entire mission. [12]

Harriet's name enters the Nauvoo record through property. On 2 May 1842 Joseph Smith, acting as the church's trustee, conveyed to her the east half of Lot 4 in Block 106, for a stated consideration of $600. She appears in that deed as a property holder in her own right. The instrument does not tell us whether the money came from her separate resources, the household, or another arrangement within Smith's land business. [25]

The later story of their marriage is less secure. Genealogical accounts report a divorce and children who died young, but the underlying decree and a fully documented child list remain unresolved in the project evidence. Nor has a parcel-level link been established between Harriet's property and the proposed Stillman Pond deeds. A suggested sibling relationship between Harriet and Henry Garlick Sherwood likewise lacks proof. These gaps leave part of the household story open; they do not erase Harriet's documented ownership.

A constable among religious associates

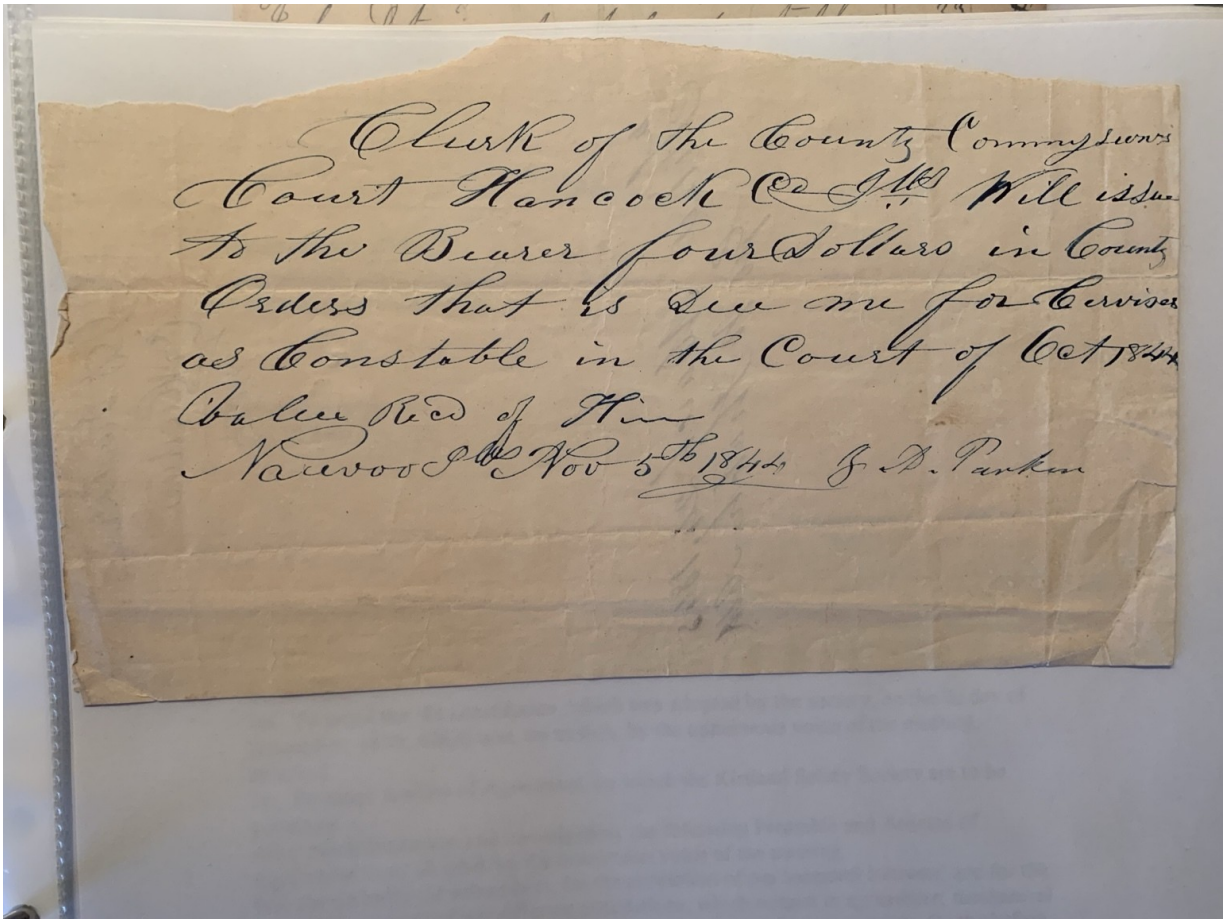
The city council elected Parker a constable on 11 February 1843, and he was sworn on 25 February. By that year he also acted as a Hancock County deputy sheriff. Those offices placed him between the city and county systems of law. In May 1844 he executed county process in Francis M. Higbee's litigation involving Joseph Smith. A sworn officer could serve a writ on a religious associate without becoming that associate's political opponent. [5] [21]

Parker's other affiliations make that relationship especially revealing. He belonged to the Nauvoo Masonic Lodge, with evidence of service as senior warden, and to the Nauvoo Legion. A historical entry describes him accompanying Smith "as guard." He became a high priest and entered the Council of Fifty on 19 March 1844. The council brought him into confidential discussions of government and the community's future. [2] [8]

Joseph and Hyrum Smith were killed at Carthage on 27 June 1844. Parker remained in civic office that autumn. On 12 October the council chose him to replace Charles Warner as city auctioneer; his oath and bond followed on 1 November. Only days later, on the probable date of 5 November, he signed the small county claim reproduced next. [6]

The document enters the story

Parker addressed the clerk of the Hancock County Commissioners Court from Nauvoo. He wanted four dollars in county orders issued to the bearer for his service as a constable in the October court. His signature joins the public officer to the man whose life we have been following. [1]



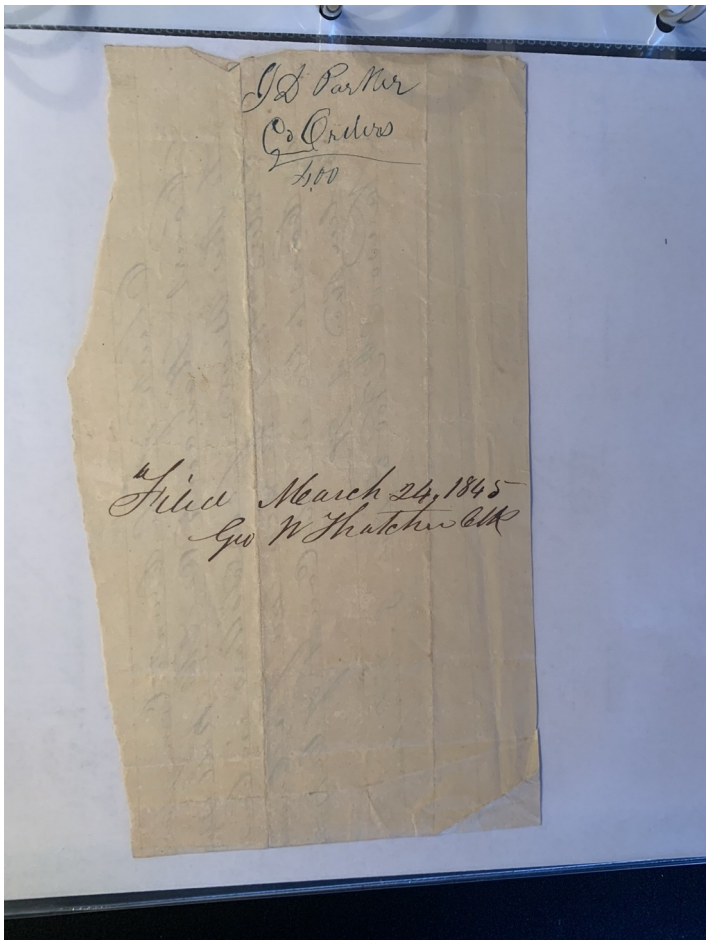
Recto of the privately held original. Photograph supplied by the owner. The face date is best read as 5 November 1844. [1]

Faithful transcript of the recto

Clerk of the County Commissioners
Court Hancock Co Ill will issue
to the Bearer four Dollars in County
Orders that is Due me for Services
as Constable in the Court of Oct 1844
Value Recd of Him
Nauvoo Ill Nov 5th 1844 J. D. Parker

Transcription follows the photograph’s line breaks, spelling, abbreviations, and apparent capitalization. Raised letters are placed on the baseline; spacing is regularized and ornamental strokes are omitted. The day numeral is a probable reading. The “Ill” after Nauvoo is retained here. Compare the image for letter forms and punctuation.

The paper reaches the county clerk



Verso of the original, with county docket and filing notation. Photograph supplied by the owner. [1]

Faithful transcript of the verso

J D Parker
Co Order
4,00

Filed March 24, 1845
Geo W Thatcher Clk

The amount is transcribed as written, “4,00,” rather than silently modernized to “$4.00.” “Geo” and “Clk” abbreviate George and clerk. The filing day is best read as 24; faint show-through from the recto is not part of the docket.

George W. Thatcher’s notation records the claim’s arrival in county paperwork, probably on 24 March 1845. It does not by itself prove that the county issued an order, that the bearer collected cash, or that the obligation was finally redeemed. The months between signing and filing may reflect transfer, delayed presentation, or ordinary bookkeeping; the paper leaves that explanation unstated. [1]

What four dollars could represent

Parker's request was for compensation from Hancock County. The county commissioners court was the administrative body responsible for such matters as county revenue, roads, licenses, buildings, elections, and claims on the treasury. Its clerk could receive the authorization and record or issue the county order under the county's allowance process. The October service, however, is best understood as service at the circuit court. [1] [3] [4]

A county order was a direction or warrant against county funds; it did not necessarily put coins into a claimant's hand immediately. Parker's instruction to pay the bearer, together with "Value Recd of Him," strongly suggests that someone had given him value in exchange for the claim, or was being authorized to receive it. That person's name is absent. The surviving paper is therefore a transferable county claim, distinct from a private debt or Nauvoo city scrip.

The statutory clue

The Illinois fee schedule published in 1839 allowed a constable one dollar for "Each day's attendance on the circuit court, when required to be paid out of the county treasury." The 1845 revision retained that allowance. At this rate, four dollars would pay for four days. [3] [4]

Service	Statutory amount
Serve and return warrant or summons	$0.25
Serve and return subpoena	$0.125
Serve and return execution	$0.50
Attend justice jury trial	$0.25
Serve jury warrant	$0.50
Attend circuit court when paid by county	$1.00 per day
Civil mileage	$0.05 per mile

Four days of attendance is the strongest interpretation of the amount. It fits the exact total and Parker's collective description of court service. A mixture of other fees could also reach four dollars, so the missing attendance or allowance ledger still matters. The document alone does not prove which dates were credited.

The path of the claim

Stage	Evidence	Assessment
Court service	Parker states service as constable in October 1844	Certain as his claim
Claim prepared	Nauvoo, probably 5 November 1844	Probable date
Transfer	Payable to bearer; value received	Strong inference
County filing	Thatcher notation, 24 March 1845	Probable reading
Order issuance or redemption	No matching ledger found online	Unresolved

The court after Joseph Smith

The October term opened on Monday, 21 October 1844, and surviving records show activity through at least Saturday the 26th. The legal consequences of Joseph Smith's death were working their way through that week's business. Parker's claim belongs to this courthouse setting, although it does not identify a particular case that he handled. [9] [10] [11]

Amos Davis's action against Smith and others was dismissed on the 21st. The Law brothers' dispute continued against Emma Smith as administratrix of her husband's estate, bringing an earlier controversy into a new legal form. A continuance, a motion, and a dismissal appear in the records of 22, about 24, and 25 October. On the 26th, the Ivins chancery proceedings involving Emma Smith and others supplied another part of the estate's legal aftermath.

At the same term, indictments were returned against alleged participants in the killings of Joseph and Hyrum Smith. Everyday civil business and the response to the murders occupied the same county court calendar. This context explains why an otherwise ordinary constable's claim belongs in the history of an extraordinary autumn.

Date	Proceeding	Significance
21 October	Amos Davis v Joseph Smith et al dismissed after Smith's death	Opening-day civil context
21 October	State prosecution of Joseph Smith for adultery and fornication terminated by death	Criminal docket context
22 October	William and Wilson Law v Emma Smith administratrix continued	Estate litigation begins in term
About 24 October	Motion in the Law brothers' action	Continuing proceedings
25 October	Law brothers' action dismissed; other estate and criminal business	Late-week activity
25–26 October	Murder indictments returned against alleged participants in deaths of Joseph and Hyrum Smith	Exceptional political context
26 October	Ivins v Emma Smith et al chancery documents entered	Proves term continued through Saturday

The distinction is essential: these are proceedings of the term for which Parker claimed payment, not a list of cases proved to have been assigned to him. No case-specific return, summons, subpoena, or fee bill in the project evidence links his four-dollar claim to the Davis or Law proceedings. His separate, documented May service in the Higbee litigation does not establish an October assignment.

Nor should four dollars be converted into a four-day term. The documented term spans at least six calendar dates. Choosing the 21st, 22nd, 24th, and 25th as Parker's days would give false precision; proceedings also survive for the 26th, and the court may have sat on the 23rd.

Wagons and the road west

After the county claim came the final months of Parker's Nauvoo life. He received his temple endowment on 16 December 1845. Temple records associate his marriages or sealings to Almeda Sophia Roundy and Samantha Roundy with 3 February 1846, as the community prepared to leave. The Roundy sisters joined his story at the threshold of another migration. [12] [15]

Parker left Nauvoo in the 1846 exodus and reached the Missouri River settlements. At Winter Quarters, the reconstructed Fifth Ward record places him as a wagon maker and assistant to Shadrach Roundy, his father-in-law. A trade already useful in settled communities had an obvious place among families preparing to move west. [14]



Entrance to Kanesville, the settlement now known as Council Bluffs. Reproduction of Frederick Piercy's 1853 view, made for Route from Liverpool to Great Salt Lake Valley, published in 1855. Council Bluffs Public Library Special Collections, Mormons E587c. The view dates to the year after Parker's departure for Utah. [22]

The family spent several years in the Missouri River region. Parker briefly returned to county law enforcement in Pottawattamie County in August 1848. The evidence supports a provisional or short period of sheriff's service, rather than the two-year term sometimes repeated in later accounts.

In 1852 he traveled with the Isaac M. Stewart Company. The Church History database gives the company's span as 19 June to 28 August, and a September Deseret News list provides a contemporary anchor for the migration. At fifty-two, Parker was making another major move, this time toward a home in Utah. [12]

A long life in Utah

Parker settled at Centerville in Davis County after the 1852 crossing. His later residences included Morgan and other Utah communities before he moved to Kanarra in 1866. The familiar occupations and responsibilities continued: farming, wagon work, settlement, guard service, and civic activity appear in accounts of his Utah years. [2] [15] [16]

Family records make those movements personal. The Roundy compilation attributes ten children to Parker and Almeda Sophia, with birthplaces extending from Kanesville through Centerville, Morgan, Chicken Creek, and Kanarra. Esshom's 1913 biography names the children as Jared Curtis, John Davis Jr., Malinda, Charles, Mary Ellen, Betsy Jane, Otho, Lauraette, Almeda Sophia, and Samantha. Such compilations preserve valuable family testimony, while individual dates and a complete family register still call for comparison with original records. [15] [23]

Esshom also describes Parker as a legislator, assessor, and collector. The entry gives no dates or jurisdictions for those offices. It is useful evidence of how the family and community remembered him, but those titles should be tied to specific governmental records before being added as fully established appointments. [23]

The last date and a surviving record trail

Parker died at Kanarra at the age of ninety-one. The Joseph Smith Papers gives 26 February 1891; the Church History Biographical Database, Esshom, and family accounts give 27 February. Both readings are retained here because a contemporary death, burial, or newspaper record is still needed to resolve the difference. [2] [12] [23]

Almeda Sophia later applied for a War of 1812 widow's pension. Application 45,224 in Record Group 15 at the National Archives offers a possible route back to the earliest part of Parker's life. Pension files of this kind may preserve sworn evidence about service, marriages, residences, death, and witnesses. The cited file has not been examined in full for this project, so none of those possible contents is treated as an established fact. [17]

Returning to the four dollar claim

The signature at the foot of the Nauvoo paper belongs to a man who lived from the closing years of the eighteenth century into the 1890s. Its few lines catch him midway through that life: an experienced convert and public officer, still working in Hancock County after the deaths of the Smith brothers, not yet embarked on the long journey to Utah.

The claim preserves a modest, concrete transaction. Parker had performed work, believed the county owed him four dollars, and directed that another person receive the county orders. Around those facts his wider story comes into focus: the craft that traveled with him, the family ties that changed, and the offices that connected him to the communities where he lived. The unnamed bearer remains outside our view. Parker himself no longer has to be only a signature.

Document record and public offices

The identification of the signer as John Davis Parker is strong: his name, Nauvoo residence, constable and deputy-sheriff service, contemporary returns, and abbreviated signature converge. No competing Hancock County officer of the same name has emerged in the project research.

Field	Description
Creator	John Davis Parker
Place	Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois
Probable face date	5 November 1844
Administrative filing	Probably 24 March 1845
Recipient	Clerk of the Hancock County Commissioners Court
Amount	$4.00 in county orders
Capacity	Constable
Related term	October 1844 Hancock Circuit Court
Docketing clerk	George W. Thatcher
Present status	Privately held original; photographs supplied by owner

Offices established in the research

Office or role	Date	Evidence level
Nauvoo constable	Elected 11 February; sworn 25 February 1843	Primary municipal record
Hancock deputy sheriff	By 1843; documented May 1844	Primary legal returns
Council of Fifty member	19 March 1844	Council minutes and roll
Nauvoo city auctioneer	Elected 12 October; qualified 1 November 1844	Primary municipal record
Pottawattamie sheriff	Brief or provisional service, August 1848	Local governmental evidence; not a two-year term

The original as an object

The surviving manuscript is a small authorization on one side with a county docket on the other. No dimensions have been inferred from the photographs. It supplies no case caption, order number, daily attendance list, or bearer’s name. The docket documents filing, not necessarily payment.

The original is privately held. For preservation, retain it unfolded in an inert archival enclosure without pressure-sensitive tape. Further handwriting examination should use high-resolution photographs, a color target, and indirect raking light, without chemical enhancement.

Chronology

The dates below bring the life and the manuscript together. Reported or uncertain details remain identified as such.

Date	Event
22 November 1799	Born in Saratoga County, New York
1813–1814	War of 1812 teamster service reported in pension evidence
By 1830	Living at Galway, New York; married Harriet Sherwood
May 1832	Baptized by Stephen Burnett according to JSP; Church History database gives May 1834
1834	Participated in Zion’s Camp
28 February 1835	Ordained a seventy
1 March 1835	Received recorded blessing
1837	Kirtland Safety Society stockholder
1839	Moved to Commerce or Nauvoo
1841	Nauvoo Legion member; began New Orleans mission
15 October 1842	Mission concluded
February 1843	Elected and sworn Nauvoo constable
By 1843	Serving as Hancock County deputy sheriff
19 March 1844	Admitted to Council of Fifty
June 1844	No documented Carthage role found
12 October 1844	Elected Nauvoo city auctioneer
21–26 October 1844	Hancock Circuit Court term documented
1 November 1844	Auctioneer oath and bond
Probably 5 November 1844	Signed bearer authorization for $4 county claim
Probably 24 March 1845	Receipt filed by George W. Thatcher
16 December 1845	Received Nauvoo Temple endowment
3 February 1846	Marriages or sealings to Almeda Sophia and Samantha Roundy
1846	Moved to Council Bluffs region
August 1848	Brief or provisional Pottawattamie sheriff service
1852	Migrated to Utah; settled at Centerville
1866	Moved to Kanarra
26 or 27 February 1891	Died at Kanarra

Evidence and disputed details

Claim	Assessment	Basis
Signer is John Davis Parker	High confidence	Matching name, office, place, dates, and legal handwriting record
$4 equals four attendance days	High confidence interpretation	Exact statutory rate of $1 per day
Face date is 5 November 1844	Probable	Photographic reading of numeral
Filed 24 March 1845	Probable to high	Reverse docket reading
Parker attended named Davis or Law cases	Not established	No return or case-specific entry naming him
Parker was Joseph Smith’s guard	Established for a specific episode	Contemporary historical wording
Permanent personal bodyguard title	Not established	Later expansion beyond source wording
Lieutenant colonel	Not established	Reviewed rolls do not supply rank
Crane operator	Unsupported and excluded	No primary evidence
Harriet was Henry G Sherwood’s sister	Unsupported and excluded	No genealogical proof
Harriet divorced Parker	Reported but unverified	No decree located online
Stillman Pond deed connection	Not established	No parcel-level link
Death on 26 February	Authoritative edited source	Joseph Smith Papers biography
Death on 27 February	Several biographical and family sources	Church History database; Esshom; family accounts
Exact death day	Unresolved	Contemporary record still needed

Two dating cautions

Baptism: the narrative follows the Joseph Smith Papers in giving May 1832 and naming Stephen Burnett. The Church History Biographical Database displays May 1834. These are competing published entries, and the discrepancy should remain visible until the underlying evidence is reconciled. [2] [12]

Kirtland payment: the earlier edition reported the ledger’s $5 entry. The current Joseph Smith Papers transcript also shows an inserted “0.25.” This edition preserves both details without treating the insertion as a separately dated payment or silently rounding away the difference. [19]

The portrait search and the remaining records

Distinguishing men with the same name

Frank Esshom's Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah contains John Davis Parker's biography on page 1086. The portrait indexed as "John Parker" on page 338 belongs to a man born on 17 August 1775 in England. Its printed caption identifies a different person; it is not used for John Davis Parker. [23]

Searches of the digitized text and Parker index entries in all four volumes of Andrew Jenson's Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia did not locate a securely identified biography or portrait of John Davis Parker. This is a search finding, not proof that every incidental reference is absent. The Church History database's citation to "Jenson's MSS Biography" refers to manuscript biographical material and should not be mistaken for a volume-and-page citation to the printed encyclopedia. [12] [24]

The portrait on page one follows the identification in the Church History Biographical Database; the Wilford Woodruff Papers subject page supplies a corroborating identification. Neither source supplies a photographer or a secure date for the image. It should not be labeled an 1844 portrait. [13] [18]

Records that could extend the story

The following record groups could answer specific questions left open by the manuscript and the existing research:

- Hancock County Commissioners Court minutes, claim books, county-order registers, and canceled warrants for November 1844–March 1845: the bearer, allowance, order number, and payment history.
- Hancock Circuit Court daily minutes for 21–26 October 1844, especially attendance and fee allowances: which days or services made up Parker's four dollars.
- Hancock deed indexes and recorded instruments: the title chain after Harriet's 2 May 1842 deed to the east half of Lot 4, Block 106.
- Divorce dockets, petitions, decrees, notices, and family vital records: the reported separation of John and Harriet and the children of that marriage.
- Almeda Sophia Parker's War of 1812 widow's pension application 45,224, RG 15, National Archives: the actual evidence submitted in her claim.
- Original Nauvoo Temple registers and associated family records: the precise wording and grouping of the December 1845 and February 1846 entries.
- Contemporary Kanarra burial, death, probate, or newspaper records: the disputed February 1891 death day.

These questions concern missing administrative links and finer biographical detail. They do not unsettle the identification of Parker as the signer or the strong four-day interpretation of his claim.

Sources and image credits

Numbered references connect the narrative to the manuscript, the retained project research, and the added illustrations. The added image and biographical reference checks are dated 2 October 2026. The original photographs and faithful transcript appear together for direct comparison.

1. Original county authorization, John D. Parker, Nauvoo, probably 5 November 1844; docket probably 24 March 1845. Privately held original and owner-supplied recto and verso photographs. Photographs are the controlling source for the transcript.

2. Joseph Smith Papers, “Parker, John Davis,” biographical directory. For Harriet’s property, see the separate deed citation in note 25. Open source

3. Illinois, The Public and General Statute Laws of the State of Illinois, compiled by J. Young Scammon (1839), pp. 288–298, especially “Constables’ Fees in Civil Cases,” p. 298. Historical fee schedule used to interpret the 1844 claim.

4. Illinois, Revised Statutes of the State of Illinois (1845), p. 247. Continuation of the one-dollar circuit-court attendance allowance.

5. Joseph Smith Papers, “Nauvoo City Officers, 1841–1844,” constable and auctioneer entries; city council minutes of 11 and 25 February 1843. Open source

6. Joseph Smith Papers, “Minutes, 12 October 1844,” Nauvoo City Council Rough Minute Book, pp. 49–50; auctioneer election and qualification. Open source

7. Joseph Smith Papers, “Blessing to John D. Parker, 1 March 1835,” p. 178, and associated ordination records. Open source

8. Joseph Smith Papers, “Rank Roll of the Nauvoo Legion, circa 1842,” related returns and historical entries. The documented guard episode is kept distinct from an unproved permanent title. Open source

9. Joseph Smith Papers, Davis v. Joseph Smith et al., docket and motion records, 1844; October term context. The retained research also records termination of the adultery-and-fornication prosecution after Smith’s death.

10. Joseph Smith Papers, William and Wilson Law v. Emma Smith, Administratrix, motion and docket entries, October 1844. The court calendar also includes the Joseph and Hyrum Smith murder indictments; no personal assignment of Parker is inferred.

11. Joseph Smith Papers, Ivins v. Emma Smith et al., docket and copied documents, 26 October 1844; evidence that the term continued through Saturday.

12. Church History Biographical Database, “John Davis Parker.” Mission dates, temple marriages, Isaac M. Stewart Company travel, contemporary Deseret News reference of 18 September 1852, p. 2, and biographical date variants. Open source

13. Wilford Woodruff Papers, “John Davis Parker,” subject entry and identified portrait. Open source

14. Winter Quarters Project, Fifth Ward reconstruction, John D. Parker and Shadrach Roundy; retained project source for occupation and ward service.

15. Roundy Family Association, The Roundy Family in America, Almeda Sophia Roundy Parker family entries. Used as family compilation evidence, not a substitute for original vital and legal records.

16. Janet Burton Seegmiller, A History of Iron County Community Above Self (1998), p. 174; retained source for the later Utah setting.

17. National Archives, Record Group 15, Almeda Sophia Parker, War of 1812 widow's pension application 45,224, cited in the Joseph Smith Papers biography. The full pension file has not been consulted for this project.

18. Portrait on page one: John Davis Parker image displayed by the Church History Biographical Database. Photographer and date unspecified; identification follows the repository. The image is not sourced to Esshom or to a printed Jenson volume. Open source

19. Joseph Smith Papers, Kirtland Safety Society Bank Stock Ledger, 18 October 1836–12 June 1837, pp. 203–204, John D. Parker account. Chicago History Museum. Twenty shares at $50, nominal $1,000; $5 cash entry dated 14 February 1837, with inserted "0.25" preserved in the published transcript. Open source

20. Kirtland note illustration: "Kirtland Safety Society bank note 2.jpg," 1837 five-dollar note, L. Tom Perry Special Collections Blog, Brigham Young University, reproduced through Wikimedia Commons. Commons marks the historical work public domain. Open source

21. Joseph Smith Papers, "Capias ad Respondendum, 1 May 1844," F. M. Higbee v. JS–A, and associated May proceedings; evidence of Parker's county process service. Open source

22. Council Bluffs illustration: "Entrance to Kanesville, 1853," Council Bluffs Public Library Special Collections, identifier Mormons E587c. Reproduction of an engraving after Frederick Piercy's on-site drawing for Route from Liverpool to Great Salt Lake Valley (1855). The library permits educational use; its reproduction is used here for historical study. Open source

23. Frank Esshom, Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah (1913), p. 1086, "Parker, John Davis"; compare portrait caption on p. 338 for the different John Parker born in 1775. University of California copy digitized by Internet Archive. Open source

24. Andrew Jenson, Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia, vols. 1–4 (1901–1936). Digitized text and Parker index entries searched for John Davis Parker and name variants; no securely identified biography or portrait located. Internet Archive copies listed below.

25. Joseph Smith Papers, Deed to Harriet Sherwood Parker, 2 May 1842, Nauvoo Registry of Deeds, Record of Deeds, book B, pp. 65–66; copy recorded 31 January 1844. Joseph Smith acted as trustee-in-trust for the church. Open source

Jenson volume 1

Jenson volume 2

Jenson volume 3

Jenson volume 4