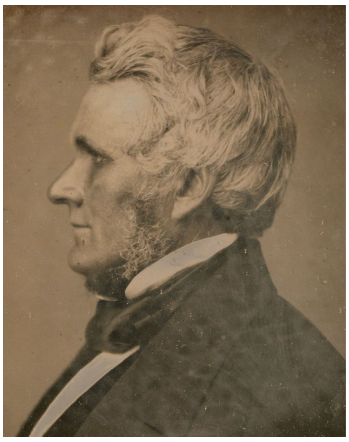
John Taylor and the Unfinished Business of Nauvoo

Hiram Kimball and the attachment case of April 1846



John Taylor, circa 1852, photograph likely by Marsena Cannon. Church History Library, reproduced by the Joseph Smith Papers. [2]

John Taylor at a glance

1808 Born in Milnthorpe, England; later a Methodist preacher.

1836 Baptized in Upper Canada by Parley P. Pratt.

1838 Ordained an apostle; later serves a mission in Britain.

1844 Survives the attack that kills Joseph and Hyrum Smith.

1846 Leaves Nauvoo; becomes defendant in Kimball's attachment case.

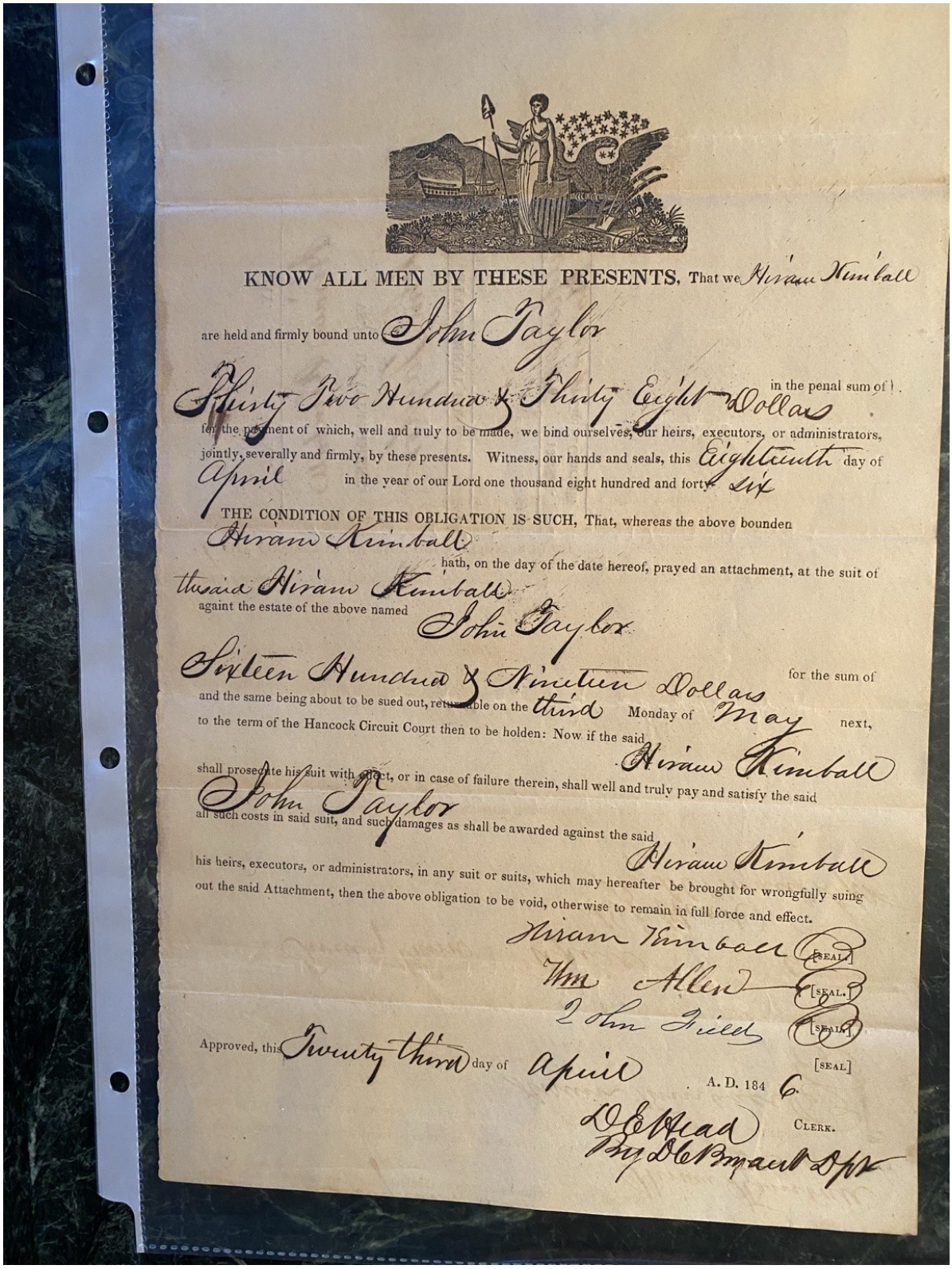
1880 to 1887 Serves as the Church's third president. [1] [2]

A city left behind

John Taylor survived Carthage. Less than two years later, he was leaving Nauvoo with his family. Behind him stood the brick home beside his printing office, a city shaped by years of work, and financial affairs that a river crossing could not settle. In April 1846, Hiram Kimball sought an attachment against Taylor's property. [1] [3]

The paper leads back into a community where the same people could share a Christmas table, help organize the Relief Society, visit prisoners at Carthage, and later meet on opposite sides of a lawsuit. Taylor remains at the center of this story, but the Kimballs and the men who signed the bond make its circumstances understandable.

The original attachment bond



KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That we Hiram Kimball

are held and firmly bound unto John Taylor

Thirty Two Hundred & Thirty Eight Dollars in the penal sum of

for the payment of which, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, or administrators, jointly, severally and firmly, by these presents. Witness, our hands and seals, this Eighteenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty six

THE CONDITION OF THIS OBLIGATION IS SUCH, That, whereas the above bounden Hiram Kimball hath, on the day of the date hereof, prayed an attachment, at the suit of the said Hiram Kimball against the estate of the above named John Taylor

Sixteen Hundred & Ninety Dollars for the sum of

and the same being about to be sued out, returnable on the third Monday of May next, to the term of the Hancock Circuit Court then to be holden: Now if the said Hiram Kimball shall prosecute his suit with effect, or in case of failure therein, shall well and truly pay and satisfy the said John Taylor all such costs in said suit, and such damages as shall be awarded against the said Hiram Kimball his heirs, executors, or administrators, in any suit or suits, which may hereafter be brought for wrongfully suing out the said Attachment, then the above obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

Hiram Kimball [SEAL]

Wm Allen [SEAL.]

2 John Field [SEAL]

Approved, this Twenty third day of April A. D. 184 6. [SEAL]

D. E. Mead CLERK.

By D. E. Mead Dpt

Front of the owner’s original document, rotated upright without retouching the handwriting. The form is dated April 18, approved April 23, and docketed on the reverse April 25, 1846. [1]

Transcript of the front

Printed words appear in regular type; handwritten entries appear in italics. Original wording and line groups are retained, with spacing approximated where writing crosses the printed lines. Editorial brackets mark uncertainty. The emblem is not transcribed. [1]

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That we *Hiram Kimball*

are held and firmly bound unto *John Taylor*
in the penal sum of
Thirty Two Hundred & Thirty Eight Dollars
for the payment of which, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, or administrators, jointly, severally and firmly, by these presents. Witness, our hands and seals, this *Eighteenth* day of *April* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty *six*

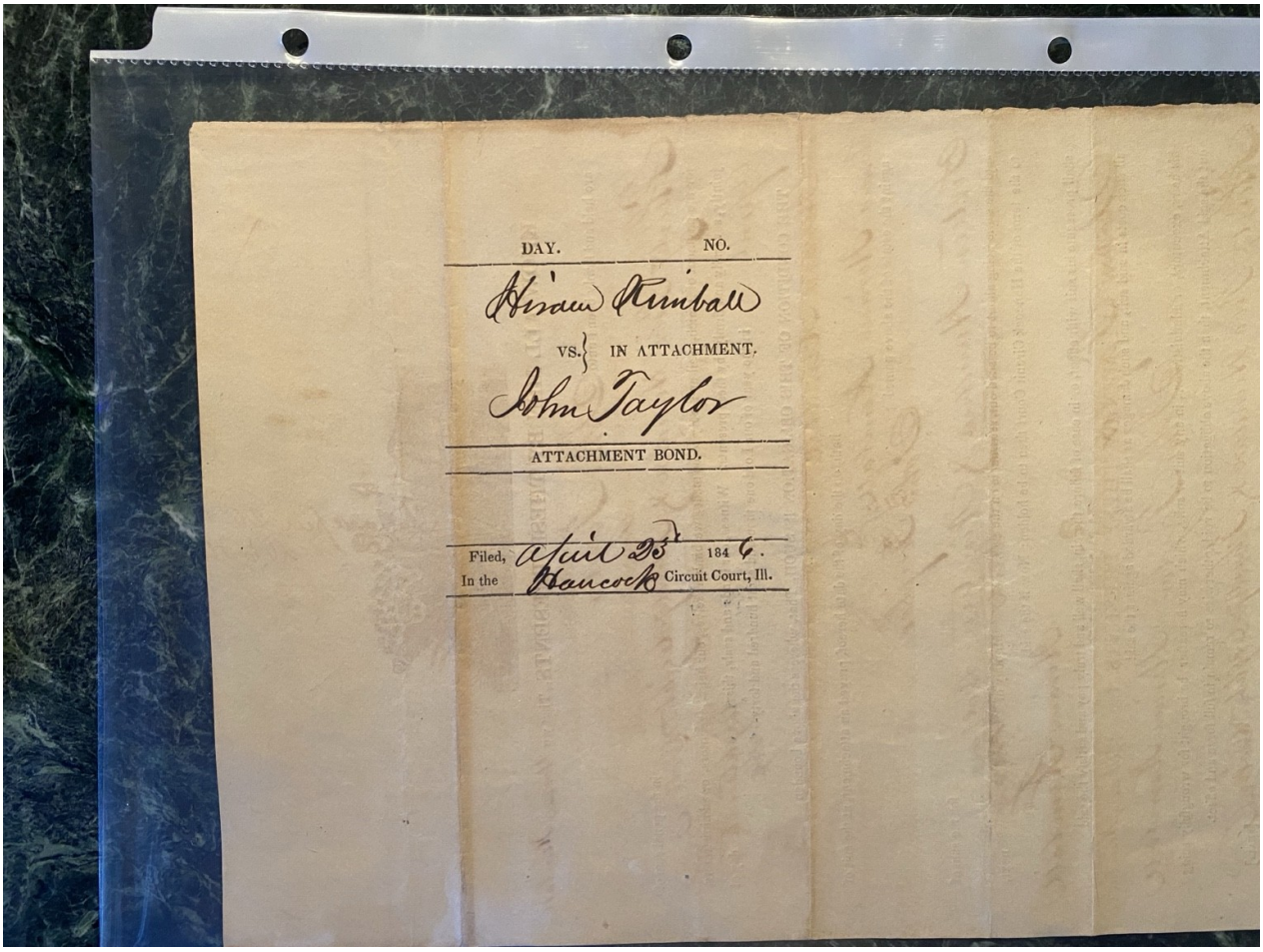
THE CONDITION OF THIS OBLIGATION IS SUCH, That, whereas the above bounden
Hiram Kimball
hath, on the day of the date hereof, prayed an attachment, at the suit of
the said Hiram Kimball
against the estate of the above named
John Taylor
for the sum of
Sixteen Hundred & Nineteen Dollars
and the same being about to be sued out, returnable on the *third* Monday of *May* next,
to the term of the Hancock Circuit Court then to be holden: Now if the said
Hiram Kimball
shall prosecute his suit with effect, or in case of failure therein, shall well and truly pay and satisfy the said *John Taylor*
all such costs in said suit, and such damages as shall be awarded against the said,
Hiram Kimball
his heirs, executors, or administrators, in any suit or suits, which may hereafter be brought for wrongfully suing out the said Attachment, then the above obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

Hiram Kimball [SEAL]
Wm Allen [SEAL]
John Field [SEAL]
[SEAL]

Approved, this *Twenty third* day of *April*
A. D. 184*6.*
D E Head CLERK.
By [deputy signature unclear] Dpty

The sums read $3,238 and $1,619. Their two-to-one relationship agrees with the 1845 statute, but the handwriting itself is the basis of the reading. “D E Head” is followed by a deputy notation; it should not be treated as an authenticated autograph of Head. [1] [4]

The reverse and its filing record



Reverse of the same sheet. The docket names the parties, identifies the attachment bond, and records filing on April 25, 1846. [1]

Transcript of the reverse

DAY. NO.

Hiram Kimball

VS. } IN ATTACHMENT.

John Taylor

ATTACHMENT BOND.

Filed, April 25 1846

In the Hancock Circuit Court, Ill.

The day and number fields at the top are blank. In the filing line, “Filed,” and “184” are printed; “April 25” and the final “6” are handwritten. “Hancock” is also handwritten. The pale writing elsewhere is show-through from the front.

Reading the claim and the bond

The most useful way to read this document is to begin with the two amounts. Kimball's stated claim against Taylor was $1,619. The larger sum, $3,238, was the bond's penalty: the amount of the formal security Kimball and his sureties undertook in connection with obtaining the attachment. It was not a second debt added to the first. [1] [4]

An attachment allowed a creditor, after the required sworn statement and bond, to have property brought under the court's control while the claim was pursued. Illinois law specified grounds such as nonresidence or departure with an intention to remove effects. Taylor's westward departure makes the timing understandable, but this bond does not say which ground Kimball alleged. That belongs in the missing affidavit. [4]

Date or amount	What the document records
April 18 1846	The date in the obligation's witness clause.
April 23 1846	Approval recorded at the foot of the front.
April 25 1846	Filing date written on the reverse.
Third Monday of May	The stated return term; May 18 in 1846.
$1,619	The amount for which attachment was requested.
$3,238	The bond penalty, twice the claimed sum.

The bond ran to John Taylor. Its condition required Kimball to prosecute the suit successfully or meet the specified costs and damages if the attachment proved wrongful. William Allen and John Field signed as additional obligors. Their signatures supplied financial backing to that promise. [1]

These are the roles of the people on the paper: Kimball sought attachment; Taylor was the defendant and the person protected by the bond; Allen and Field stood behind the obligation; the clerk's office approved and filed it. Sarah Kimball does not appear as a party or signer. Her place in this report comes from the family and religious history surrounding the litigants.

The paper records a claim and a procedural safeguard. It does not show a judgment against Taylor, identify property actually seized, or establish that the claim was ultimately paid. Those distinctions matter because the story continues beyond what this single sheet can tell us.

Taylor after Carthage

When John Taylor entered Carthage Jail with Joseph and Hyrum Smith in June 1844, he was already an apostle and a public voice of Nauvoo. He had preached in Britain and edited newspapers in Illinois. The attack on June 27 left the Smith brothers dead and Taylor seriously wounded. His later account remembered both the violence and the loneliness that followed it. [2] [5]

His survival gave him responsibilities as a witness. Life also continued in the household and at the press. In 1845, John and Leonora Taylor moved into a brick house on Main Street beside the printing office. The home, printing establishment, and post office formed a compact group of buildings where family affairs and public work were close together. [6]

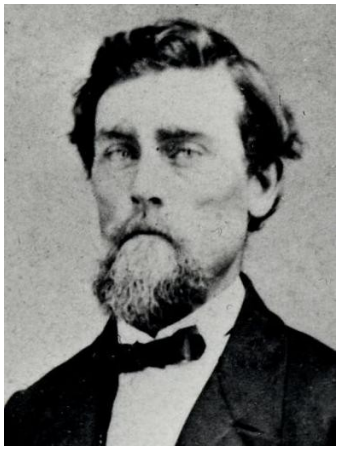


Modern view of the restored Main Street complex. The printing office is at left, the John and Leonora Taylor home in the middle, and the post office at right. Church historic-sites program. [6]

James Ivins had built the house and adjoining store. After the Church acquired the property in 1845, the Times and Seasons moved there, and Taylor's family followed. Elias Smith, the print-shop foreman and postmaster, also lived in the house. News and correspondence passed through this small cluster of rooms and doors while the Saints prepared for an uncertain future. [6]

For Taylor, leaving Nauvoo meant leaving both a home and a workplace. He had a family to move and an editorial life rooted in the city. The court claim of spring 1846 followed him into a journey already burdened with the practical work of moving a household.

Christmas with the Kimballs



Hiram S. Kimball, from the Church History Biographical Database. The photograph's date is not specified. [7]

Hiram Kimball knew the place before it was Nauvoo. He had come to Commerce in 1833 and built a business life around stores and property. When the Saints arrived, newcomers needed land, houses, goods, and credit. Kimball's holdings and experience gave him a substantial place in that growing town. [8]

A Christmas entry in Wilford Woodruff's journal supplies an unusually vivid glimpse of the relationship. On December 25, 1841, Woodruff carried members of the apostles' families by sleigh to supper at Kimball's home. Among those present were John Taylor and his wife. The gathering included Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Orson Pratt, Willard Richards, and Woodruff. [9]

At that Christmas table, Taylor and Kimball were guests and host, years before their names appeared on opposite sides of a lawsuit. Hiram was not yet baptized when he entertained the group; he joined the Church in July 1843. His social and business connections with the Saints had developed earlier. [7] [9]

Their paths crossed again in a much darker setting. Taylor named Hiram Kimball among the friends who visited the prisoners at Carthage. The account does not establish every detail of Kimball's visit, but it places him within that circle during Joseph and Hyrum's final imprisonment. [5]

By April 1846, Kimball was seeking legal security against Taylor's property. The earlier encounters help us resist an easy explanation based solely on personal hostility. They had a shared history; the surviving bond does not tell us how they spoke about this claim or what private arrangements may have preceded it.

Sarah Kimball and the work of relief



Sarah Melissa Granger Kimball in later life. Church History Library photograph, reproduced by the Church Historian’s Press. [12]

Sarah Melissa Granger was twenty-one when she married Hiram in September 1840. Her father, Oliver Granger, had worked on Joseph Smith’s difficult financial affairs in Kirtland. The marriage joined Sarah’s church connections to Hiram’s established business world in Illinois. [10] [11]

In Sarah’s later recollection, the immediate beginning of the Relief Society was a practical conversation about helping temple workers. Margaret Cook offered her needlework; Sarah offered material. They discussed bringing other women together, and a proposed sewing society began to take shape. Sarah’s home supplied a place to meet and organize. [12]

Eliza R. Snow prepared a constitution and bylaws. When the proposal reached Joseph Smith, he envisioned a more formal church organization. On March 17, 1842, women gathered upstairs in his store. Emma Smith was elected president and chose Sarah M. Cleveland and Elizabeth Ann Whitney as counselors. Sarah Kimball was among the founding members. [12] [13]

John Taylor was there as well. Joseph called him to the chair, and Taylor later set apart Emma’s counselors. Leonora Taylor’s name appears among the women attending. The meeting connects the Taylor household, Sarah Kimball, Emma, and Joseph through a common undertaking recorded in the society’s minutes. [13]

An offer of cloth and needlework had brought these households together in a new way. Sarah’s initiative reached beyond her own home, drawing women into organized service. Four years before Hiram’s bond named Taylor as defendant, the two families had helped give the Relief Society its beginning.

The home where the women gathered



Modern photograph of the Hiram and Sarah Granger Kimball home in Nauvoo. The restored house is associated with the sewing-society discussions that preceded the Relief Society. Church historic-sites program. [14]

Inside the Kimball household, a merchant's resources and a young woman's organizing ability helped support the needs of a religious community. Across Nauvoo, the Taylors' home stood next to a press that carried that community's news. The legal document emerged from this same town of households and working relationships.

Hiram's dealings with Church leaders could be forceful. He had his own interests to protect, including real estate and financial claims. The earlier research traces disagreements involving property and steamboat affairs, alongside civic service and continuing Church participation. A lawsuit should be understood within that complicated record. [11]

Sarah's part in Nauvoo continued beyond the society's beginning. The project's earlier research identifies her temple endowment experience and the use of plants from the Kimball home in preparations for the temple's attic rooms. Those details connect the home to the community's final period of temple activity; the underlying register and journal references remain part of the supporting research. [11] [15]

The Kimballs did not follow Taylor out of Nauvoo in February 1846. Their later migration belongs to a different chronology. Sarah reached the Salt Lake Valley in 1851. Published summaries differ about Hiram's movements, a detail treated in the biographical notes at the back. [10] [14]

Across the Mississippi



C. C. A. Christensen, Crossing the Mississippi on the Ice, circa 1878. Tempera on muslin; Brigham Young University Museum of Art, gift of the artist's grandchildren. A later historical painting of the February 1846 exodus, not an eyewitness image of Taylor's crossing. [16]

B. H. Roberts's biography dates the Taylor family's crossing to February 16, 1846. It describes eight wagons and a carriage for his family and others who had lived with him. Once across, thawing weather made travel difficult. Leaving the Illinois shore was only the beginning of the journey. [3]

The frozen Mississippi belongs in the wider story of that month. The Church History Museum dates the first crossings over the ice to February 25. Other departures took place by boat. Christensen's painting captures the later remembered scene of wagons on the frozen river; Taylor's earlier departure should not be assigned to those ice crossings. [17]

At the same time, business continued in Nauvoo. Property had to be sold or entrusted to someone else. Accounts remained open, and creditors faced the prospect of pursuing people who were no longer nearby. In April, Kimball's bond sought the security of legal process while Taylor was already west of the river. [1] [11]

That is the tension the document preserves. A journey could begin on a particular day. Settling the affairs of a household, a business, and a city could take much longer.

The men who stood behind Kimball

Kimball did not make his promise alone. Beneath his signature, William Allen and John Field signed the bond and accepted its obligations. Each brought a history of financial dealings in Nauvoo to this new undertaking. [1]

William Allen and available money

William Allen was a merchant who could lend money when others needed it. Joseph Smith's history records borrowing from him on May 1, 1843, for a Nauvoo House payment. Allen also appears in commercial paper and property records. These were practical signs of resources that could support a legal guarantee. [11] [18]

Other records place Allen within Nauvoo's public and church-associated life. He contributed tithing in kind and signed the 1843 memorial seeking federal redress. Those actions show involvement with the community, although a baptismal record or priesthood office has not been securely identified in this project. [11]

John Field and property in Nauvoo

Field's Church status is clearer. The General Church Recorder recorded an elder's license for him on February 14, 1845. The research also traces a tithing note, a signature on the redress memorial, and a February 1846 agreement with Joseph L. Heywood. A July 1846 deed records John and Lucy A. Field conveying part of a Nauvoo lot to Daniel Brown. [11] [19]

These details give the names a setting. Allen had lending and commercial experience; Field had property and documented financial dealings. Their usefulness as sureties probably rested on financial standing, though no surviving statement explains why Kimball selected these particular men. Friendship may have mattered, but the bond does not measure it.

The clerk's office

At the bottom appears "D E Head," followed by a "By" notation and a deputy signature that remains unclear in the supplied photograph. David E. Head belongs to the court's administrative history, but this endorsement needs to be read as an act of the clerk's office. The deputy line is a reason to avoid presenting it as Head's personal autograph. [1] [20]

The reverse supplies a final small act of administration: the bond was filed on April 25. With that notation, the names of a departing apostle, a local creditor, two sureties, and the clerk's office became part of one court record.

Obligations that outlasted Nauvoo

There is another documented financial connection between Taylor and Kimball. Both signed an October 1844 note associated with settlement of claims over the destruction of the Nauvoo Expositor. Subsequent litigation put them on the same side as defendants. An attachment in that separate proceeding reached Kimball's property. It shows how civic decisions could leave personal financial obligations after Joseph Smith's death. [21]

The April 1846 Kimball v. Taylor bond belongs to its own case. The surviving evidence does not establish that its $1,619 claim arose from the Expositor settlement. The parallel is useful because it shows a shared financial predicament; it cannot supply the missing origin of this debt. [1] [21]

A later meeting of their lives

The relationship did not end with the names set opposite each other on this sheet. In 1863, Hiram Kimball received a mission call to the Sandwich Islands, now Hawaii. The Church History Biographical Database identifies John Taylor as the man who set him apart on March 1. [7]

Less than two months later, Hiram died in the explosion of the small steamer Ada Hancock in San Pedro Harbor while on his way to that mission. The record of Taylor's participation gives the earlier lawsuit a later human context. It establishes another connection between the two men, even though it does not tell us how the 1846 case ended. [7]

Sarah carried on for decades after Hiram's death. In Utah she led the Fifteenth Ward Relief Society for more than forty years and participated in wider Relief Society and woman-suffrage work. The young organizer in Nauvoo became a leader whose service extended far beyond the town where she had proposed a sewing society. [10]

Taylor's own path led back to missionary work, to the Salt Lake Valley in 1847, and eventually to the Church presidency in 1880. He died in 1887. [2]

The surviving bond leaves the disposition of Kimball's claim open. What it preserves is the moment when Taylor's new journey and Nauvoo's unfinished financial affairs overlapped. The man who had welcomed Taylor to Christmas supper became his creditor in court; years later, Taylor helped send him on a mission. Their lives held all of those encounters, and the lawsuit was one chapter among them.

Hiram Kimball in the supporting records

Business and civic life

Hiram S. Kimball was born May 31, 1806, in West Fairlee, Vermont, a son of Phineas Kimball and Abigail Colton. He settled in Commerce before the main Latter-day Saint migration of 1839. His work included mercantile business, land development, an iron foundry, and mail carrying. Kimball additions became part of Nauvoo's physical and legal geography. [7] [8] [11]

His civic and military associations preceded his baptism. He served as an alderman, belonged to the Nauvoo Masonic Lodge, and became assistant adjutant general in the Nauvoo Legion. The Joseph Smith Papers dates his baptism by Eli Maginn to July 20, 1843, and places his high-priest ordination by January 17, 1846. Its biography also records his being wounded in the September 1846 Battle of Nauvoo. [8]

Sarah and Oliver Granger

Sarah was the daughter of Oliver Granger and Lydia Dibble. Oliver's work resolving Church debts in Kirtland supplies a family connection to the financial papers later preserved in the Hiram Kimball Collection. The earlier master study twice called Oliver Sarah's brother. Those statements are corrected here. The relationship itself does not establish the legal chain of any particular debt or mortgage. [10] [11]

The marriage is dated September 22, 1840, in the Church History Biographical Database and the Church Historian's Press account, which cites a marriage record; the Joseph Smith Papers biography gives September 23. This edition uses September 22 while retaining the discrepancy for future record comparison. [7] [8] [10]

The Kirtland Temple claim

The earlier research cites Anderson and Bergera's Joseph Smith's Quorum of the Anointed, page 83 note 49, for Newel K. Whitney's reported statement that Kimball held a mortgage on the Kirtland Temple of approximately four or five thousand dollars against the Church. This concerns Kirtland, not the building of the Nauvoo Temple. The precise assignment or ownership chain remains unresolved. [15]

Possible routes include an assignment, purchase, estate transfer, or representation of a Granger family interest. These remain hypotheses. The existence of Kirtland financial papers in a later collection cannot by itself prove which route occurred, and that mortgage should not be presented as the source of Taylor's $1,619 claim. [11]

Migration and continuing Church affiliation

Published migration summaries differ: the Joseph Smith Papers gives 1850, the historic-home account gives 1851, and the Church History Biographical Database associates Hiram with an 1852 company. Sarah's arrival is recorded in September 1851. The difference may reflect distinct journeys or a catalog problem; the present evidence does not resolve it. His documented 1863 mission call establishes his later Church participation without requiring an invented reconciliation story. [7] [8] [10] [14]

William Allen in the supporting records

The working identification is the Nauvoo merchant and creditor William Allen. The earlier project identifies his store south of the temple and connects him with property assessments, commercial notes, tithing in kind, petitions, and the April 1846 bond. These associations give a firmer identity than the signature alone, although some family details remain probable rather than certain. [11] [18]

A merchant who lent to Joseph Smith

On May 1, 1843, Joseph Smith's history records a loan from Allen for a Nauvoo House payment. The earlier research gives the amount as $200. Allen also appears in an August 25, 1841, note involving E. Evens & Co.; a related claim was later allowed against Joseph Smith's estate. These findings identify a man with access to cash and commercial credit. [11] [18]

Allen signed the 1843 federal redress memorial and a later civic petition. His tithing participation supports a relationship with the Latter-day Saint community. It should not be converted into a securely established baptism, priesthood ordination, or temple endowment when the corresponding record has not been identified. [11]

Property and the Kimball additions

The 1842 assessment places Allen in the northeast quarter of Lot 2, Block 71, in the original Nauvoo grid. A later burial and estate compilation associates a William Allen with "Kimball Block 23-2." The earlier study interprets that notation as probably Lot 2, Block 23 in a Kimball addition. The exact addition and deed chain still need confirmation. [11] [22]

Another acquisition associated with the Oakley property is placed only days before the April bond in the earlier research. Together, the parcel and lending evidence explain why Allen could offer useful security. They do not yet establish a direct purchase from Hiram rather than Ethan Kimball, or prove a particular personal reason for joining the bond. [11]

The William Allen who died in July 1846

Janet Lisonbee's compilation records a William Allen who died at Nauvoo in July 1846, leaving a wife, Isabella, and two children. It lists cattle valued at $40, wagons at $30, and $400 in money loaned, together with the Kimball property notation. The lending profile fits the merchant especially well. [22]

The master study classifies this identity as strongly probable. The missing bridge is an original probate, marriage, deed, or comparable contemporary record explicitly tying Isabella and that July estate to the merchant who signed the bond. The family should remain provisionally attached to his biography until that bridge is supplied. [11]

The original probate packet could also reveal debtors, an administrator, a more exact property description, and surviving family members. Those details would deepen the human story while testing the identification already developed.

John Field in the supporting records

John Field is well placed in Nauvoo's records, but his earlier family and later western identity are less secure. Keeping those two levels separate preserves the strongest part of the research: a church elder and property holder stood behind Kimball's bond. [11] [19]

The records in Nauvoo

The General Church Recorder's license book records an elder's license dated February 14, 1845. Financial records connect Field with a $25.10 tithing note, and his name appears on the 1843 redress memorial. These are separate pieces of evidence for his place in the community. [11] [19]

A cataloged agreement between Field and Joseph L. Heywood is dated February 20, 1846, in the Newel Kimball Whitney papers at BYU. The public catalog description does not supply its terms. Its date and parties establish a legal or financial connection shortly before the bond, but the agreement should not be described more specifically without its text. [23]

The July 9, 1846, deed from John and Lucy A. Field to Daniel Brown concerns part of Lot 2, Block 141, beginning at the northwest corner. The earlier research cites Hancock County Deed Record Q, page 200. It is the key property and family association used in this study. It places John and Lucy in a transaction after Taylor's departure and after the bond's filing. [11] [19]

The Field and Lavender lead

A BYU archival item dated February 25, 1845, is titled "John Field and James Lavender." The earlier research compares it with Willard Richards's British mission history, which records a John Field baptized at New Mile End on December 14, 1837, and James Lavender eleven days later. Lavender subsequently held responsibility in the Bedford-area branch. [11] [23]

The paired names are a promising connection, but recurrence is not conclusive identity evidence. Signatures, household records, or a migration record would need to connect the British convert to the Nauvoo elder, Lucy A. Field, and the bond. The original agreements are especially useful candidates for handwriting comparison.

A later pioneer with the same name

A Utah pioneer John Field born in 1808 has also been considered. The institutional profile alone does not bridge the needed records. His birth family, spouse, migration, and later life should not be imported into this biography simply because the name fits. John Field remains a documented Nauvoo elder, property owner, and surety whose wider identity is open. [11]

People and places in the evidence

The original Nauvoo grid and the separately platted additions must be kept distinct when locating property. A block number in a Kimball addition cannot safely be plotted as the same number in the original city. The following anchors preserve the master study's geographic findings. [11]

Person	Property or place	Present assessment
John Taylor	Main Street home beside the printing office	Identified historic complex; no evidence here that it was seized in this case.
Hiram and Sarah Kimball	Home on Commerce Street; Hiram's wider landholdings	The home is a documented setting for the Relief Society's beginnings.
William Allen	NE quarter of Lot 2, Block 71	Assessment-based location carried forward from the master study.
William Allen	"Kimball Block 23-2"	Probable Lot 2, Block 23 of a Kimball addition; exact deed chain unresolved.
John and Lucy A. Field	Part of Lot 2, Block 141	July 9, 1846, conveyance to Daniel Brown cited in the prior research.

What is established and what remains open

Finding	Assessment
Kimball sought attachment against Taylor	Directly documented by the original bond.
The handwritten claim and penalty read $1,619 and $3,238	Reexamined photograph; the statutory ratio supports the readings.
Allen and Field signed as additional obligors	Directly documented; their financial suitability is an interpretation supported by other records.
Allen's July 1846 death and Isabella connection	Strongly probable; original probate bridge remains missing.
Field's British and later Utah identity	Unresolved; the Lavender connection is a research lead.
Origin, attached property, and outcome of this claim	Not established by the surviving bond.

Research notes and remaining questions

The case file that would complete the legal story

The priority is the 1846 Hancock County Circuit Court file and docket: complaint or declaration, attachment affidavit, writ, sheriff's return, later orders, and judgment or dismissal. These could identify the transaction, the stated ground for attachment, attorneys, property reached, and final result. The bond's May return term supplies a specific starting point. [1] [11]

The Illinois Regional Archives Depository at Western Illinois University is an institutional lead for surviving Hancock County material. BYU's John Taylor legal papers, 1844–1846, MSS SC 634, are another: the catalog lists attachment-related papers, a declaration, an affidavit, a precipe, and an exemplification of record. That collection has not been matched conclusively to this Kimball case. [24]

Biographical records most likely to help

Allen: obtain the Hancock County probate packet, identify Isabella and the children, and trace the "Kimball Block 23-2" conveyances.

Field: inspect the 1845 Field–Lavender and 1846 Field–Heywood agreements; compare their signatures with the bond; trace John and Lucy's Block 141 acquisition and sale.

Temple and priesthood records: inspect the original Nauvoo Temple and Seventies registers for William and Isabella Allen, John and Lucy Field, and the precise Kimball entries.

Kirtland: trace the claimed mortgage through Oliver Granger's estate and the Hiram Kimball Collection rather than assuming an assignment from kinship.

Court handwriting: identify the deputy below Head's name and compare the notation with authenticated papers.

Revisions supported by this edition

The rotated front distinguishes the April 18 obligation date from the April 23 approval. It supports the two monetary readings previously left unresolved. The 1845 statute has now been consulted, replacing reliance on a modern attachment-law analogy. Sarah's parentage is corrected, and the source "Road to Martyrdom" is attributed to Joseph I. Bentley rather than the incorrect attribution in the earlier master study. [1] [4] [10] [21]

The original photographs remain the authority for the transcript. Capitalization and wording are retained; placement of handwriting is approximated. The deputy signature is openly unresolved. No original pleading, sheriff's return, or final disposition has been added to the project by this revision.

Sources for the narrative and document

Numbered references are linked from the text. The original attachment-bond report and the master study remain the foundation of the project; new readings and verified additions are identified below. Online sources checked October 2, 2026.

1. Original attachment bond, Hiram Kimball v. John Taylor, Hancock County Circuit Court, April 1846. Owner-supplied photographs embedded in Hiram_Kimball_v_John_Taylor_1846_Attachment_Bond_Report.pdf and the later master study. Obligation dated April 18; approval April 23; reverse filing April 25. Both sides reexamined for this edition. Images reproduced without handwriting retouching.

2. Joseph Smith Papers, “Taylor, John.” Biographical chronology and early portrait caption: circa 1852, photograph likely by Marsena Cannon, Church History Library. A pre-1850 date for this photograph was not established. Open source

3. B. H. Roberts, The Life of John Taylor (1892), chapter on the Nauvoo exodus. Dates the family crossing February 16, 1846, and describes its wagons, carriage, and travel conditions. Its wider frozen-river chronology should be read alongside the museum source in note 17. Open source

4. Revised Statutes of the State of Illinois (Springfield, 1845), chapter IX, “Attachments in Circuit Courts,” sections 1–5, pp. 63–64. Section 4 requires security in double the sum sworn due; section 5 gives the bond condition. Digitized volume and searchable text consulted. Open source

5. John Taylor, account of the Carthage imprisonment and martyrdom, History of the Church 7:99–108, reproduced in the BYU Mormon Literature Sampler. Names Hiram Kimball among the visitors; retrospective eyewitness testimony. Open source

6. Church historic-sites program, “Taylor Home, Print Shop, and Post Office.” Building history and modern exterior photograph of all three adjoining structures. Photograph date and photographer are not supplied on the page. Open source

7. Church History Biographical Database, “Hiram S. Kimball.” Identified portrait; marriage, baptism, migration entry, and mission record. The March 1, 1863, setting-apart entry names John Taylor and cites missionary registers. It records Hiram’s April 27 death in the Ada Hancock explosion. Photograph date unspecified. Open source

8. Joseph Smith Papers, “Kimball, Hiram S.” Civic, military, commercial, and Church chronology. Its marriage and migration dates differ from the other institutional summaries as explained in the biography. Open source

Sources for the Kimballs and the exodus

9. Wilford Woodruff, journal entry for December 25, 1841, excerpted in “Remembering Christmas Past,” BYU Studies. Records supper at Hiram Kimball’s and lists the apostles and wives attending, including Taylor. Open source

10. Church Historian’s Press, “Sarah Melissa Granger.” Identifies Oliver Granger and Lydia Dibble as her parents, cites the September 22, 1840, marriage record, and summarizes her 1851 migration and later Relief Society and suffrage service. Open source

11. The Men Behind the Bond, Master_Study_Hiram_Kimball_William_Allen_John_Field_1846.docx and PDF, August 2026. Earlier consolidated project research. Its biographical findings, property anchors, identity qualifications, temple and mortgage leads, and archival questions are retained here; documented corrections are explained in the research notes.

12. Sarah M. Kimball, reminiscence, March 17, 1882, in The First Fifty Years of Relief Society, Church Historian’s Press. A later recollection of the 1842 sewing-society initiative and its development; also the source of the Sarah Kimball portrait reproduced here. Open source

13. Nauvoo Relief Society Minute Book, March 17, 1842, in The First Fifty Years of Relief Society. Lists Sarah Kimball and Leonora Taylor, records Emma’s election, and describes John Taylor’s chairing and setting apart the counselors. Open source

14. Church historic-sites program, “Hiram and Sarah Granger Kimball Home.” Source of the modern house photograph previously used in the Kimball–Weld project; household and sewing-society history. Photograph date and photographer unspecified. Open source

15. Devery S. Anderson and Gary James Bergera, eds., Joseph Smith’s Quorum of the Anointed, 1842–1845: A Documentary History, p. 83 n. 49, and temple-register scholarship cited in the earlier master study. The Kirtland mortgage statement, plants, and temple participation are retained research findings; the assignment chain and original register entries remain targets for direct examination.

16. C. C. A. Christensen, Crossing the Mississippi on the Ice, circa 1878, tempera on muslin. BYU Museum of Art, accession 830026605, gift of the artist’s grandchildren. Public-domain reproduction via Wikimedia Commons. This is the panorama image, not the distinct circa-1886 painting titled Crossing the Mississippi Feb: 1846. Open source

17. Church History Museum, “A Test of Faith and Ice,” explanatory text accompanying Larry Winborg’s 2002 painting. Dates the beginning of crossings on the ice February 25, 1846. Winborg’s painting is not reproduced here. Open source

Sources for the supporting research

18. William Allen record group, as assembled in the master study: Joseph Smith Papers biography and linked property, financial, tithing, and petition records; History, 1838–1856, volume D-1, May 1, 1843; Promissory Note to E. Evens & Co., August 25, 1841; and related estate documentation. The identification and qualifications are carried forward from that research.

19. John Field record group, as assembled in the master study: General Church Recorder License Record Book, February 14, 1845; Book of the Law of the Lord and trustee-in-trust financial records; redress memorial; and John and Lucy A. Field to Daniel Brown, July 9, 1846, Hancock County Deed Record Q, p. 200. The cited originals were not newly retrieved for this edition.

20. Joseph Smith Papers, legal case documentation for C. A. Foster v. Joseph Smith and Joseph W. Coolidge, cited in the initial attachment-bond report for examples of David E. Head's handwriting and the court's archival setting. Comparative handwriting remains a research task; the present endorsement includes a deputy line.

21. Joseph I. Bentley, "Road to Martyrdom: Joseph Smith's Last Legal Cases," BYU Studies. The Expositor civil-litigation discussion traces the October 1844 note signed by both Taylor and Kimball and the separate later attachment against Kimball's property. It does not identify that debt with the present $1,619 claim. Open source

22. Janet Lisonbee, Mormon Nauvoo Area Burials of the 1840s (2011), William Allen entry, as cited and analyzed in the master study. July 1846 death; Isabella and two children; cattle $40, wagons $30, money loaned $400; "Kimball Block 23-2." The original probate bridge remains unverified.

23. L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Brigham Young University: cataloged John Field and Joseph L. Heywood agreement, February 20, 1846, Newel Kimball Whitney papers; and John Field and James Lavender item, February 25, 1845. Catalog leads preserved from the master study; document contents and signatures require examination.

24. John Taylor legal papers, 1844–1846, MSS SC 634, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Brigham Young University; Illinois Regional Archives Depository, Western Illinois University. Archival leads identified in the original report. Neither is represented here as a retrieved complete case file.

Finding material in this edition

Original document
Faithful transcript
Reading the claim and bond
Taylor's story
Sarah and the Relief Society
Departure across the Mississippi
Expanded biographical research
Evidence and places
Remaining research questions

Narrative and illustrated edition prepared October 2, 2026. Original document photographs and the earlier research are preserved within the continuing project.