At the Courthouse Door

A Carthage Lot, a Seven-Year Paper Trail, and the Men Around Nauvoo

John P. Haggard and Michael Barnes v. Andrew B. Welch

Final illustrated narrative edition • October 2026 • Prepared for David Larsen



The Hancock County courthouse in Andreas's 1874 atlas, p. 10. This later view includes changes made after the 1843 sale; it is not an exact depiction of the building on auction day. [26]

Highlights

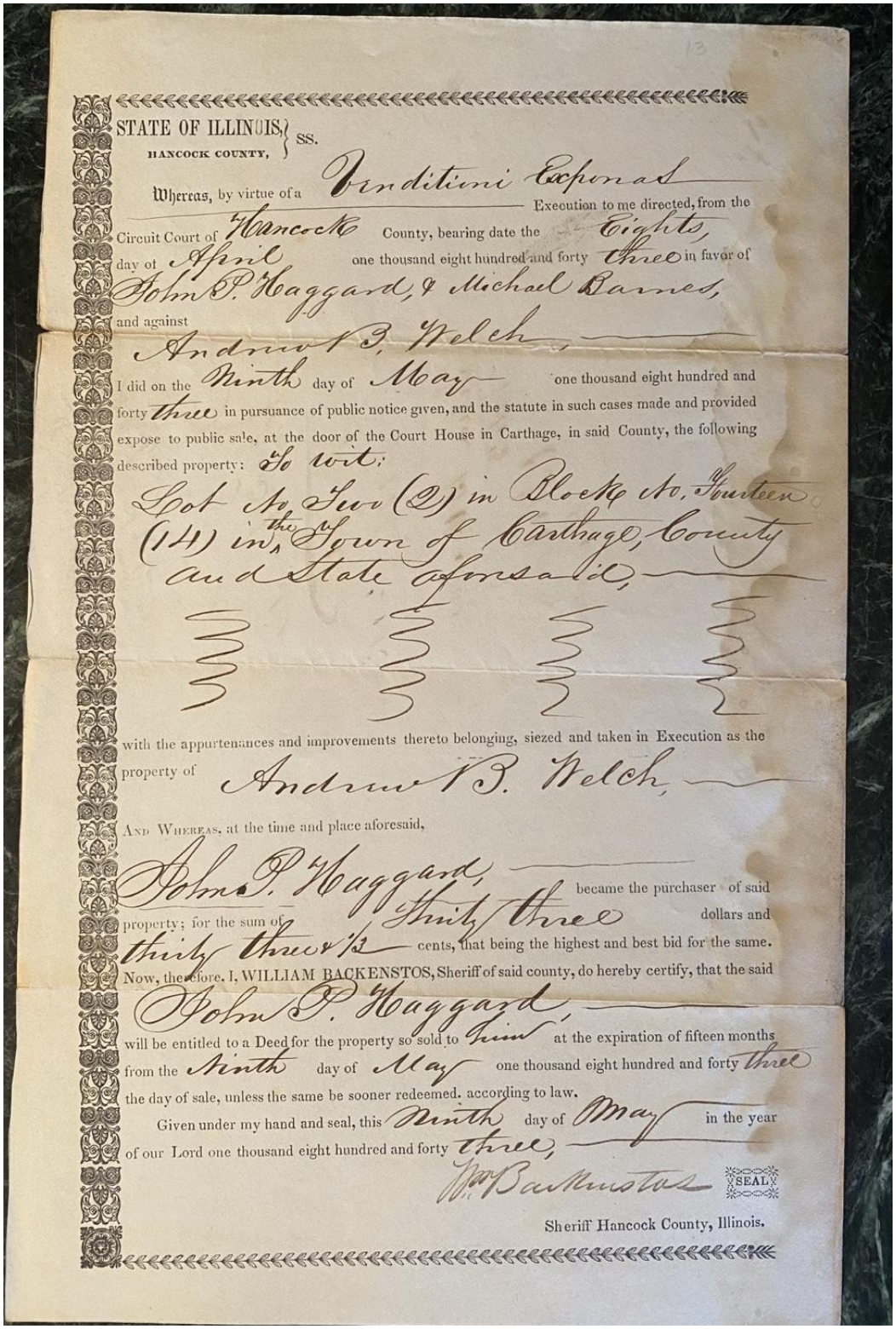
A lot sold, but not yet deeded. On May 9, 1843, Sheriff William Backenstos sold Andrew B. Welch's Lot 2, Block 14, in Carthage. The execution favored Haggard and Barnes, but Haggard alone bought the property. An endorsement records a deed to Haggard's assignee, Lucius Parker, on April 12, 1850. [1]

The purchaser's household comes into view. The Haggard family's 1899 history supplies John's life and Martha's memories of frightened neighbors, supper guests, and county money hidden beneath a quilt. Her late recollections are distinguished from verified events. [2, 23]

Emma Smith's family and Barnes's own words. William Backenstos married Emma's niece, Clara Wasson, before Joseph Smith. Barnes's published affidavit supports Jackson's hostile account; two named deponents later accused Michael Barnes of arson. Haggard appeared in murder-trial jury selection but was not selected. [4, 31–33]

The last signature opens another chapter. John Carlin's 1850 deed notation follows his civil leadership in the 1846 force against Nauvoo. Robison, the earlier recorder, was himself reported driven from office and home during the 1845 violence. [1, 16–17, 33]

The original certificate



STATE OF ILLINOIS, } SS.
HANCOCK COUNTY,

Whereas, by virtue of a Venditioni Exponas Execution to me directed, from the Circuit Court of Hancock County, bearing date the Eighth, day of April one thousand eight hundred and forty three in favor of John P. Haggard, & Michael Barnes, and against Andrew B. Welch,

I did on the Ninth day of May one thousand eight hundred and forty three in pursuance of public notice given, and the statute in such cases made and provided expose to public sale, at the door of the Court House in Carthage, in said County, the following described property: To wit:

Lot No. Two (2) in Block No. Fourteen (14) in the Town of Carthage, County and State aforesaid,

with the appurtenances and improvements thereto belonging, siezed and taken in Execution as the property of Andrew B. Welch,

And Whereas, at the time and place aforesaid,

John P. Haggard, became the purchaser of said property; for the sum of Sixty three dollars and thirty three 1/2 cents, that being the highest and best bid for the same.

Now, therefore, I, WILLIAM BACKENSTOS, Sheriff of said county, do hereby certify, that the said John P. Haggard, will be entitled to a Deed for the property so sold to him at the expiration of fifteen months from the Ninth day of May one thousand eight hundred and forty three the day of sale, unless the same be sooner redeemed, according to law.

Given under my hand and seal, this Ninth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty three,

Wm Backenstos SEAL

Sheriff Hancock County, Illinois.

Figure 1. The original sheriff's certificate, dated May 9, 1843. Photograph IMG_3669.jpeg supplied by David Larsen, rotated upright and cropped around the paper. No handwriting has been reconstructed. [1]

The record on the reverse

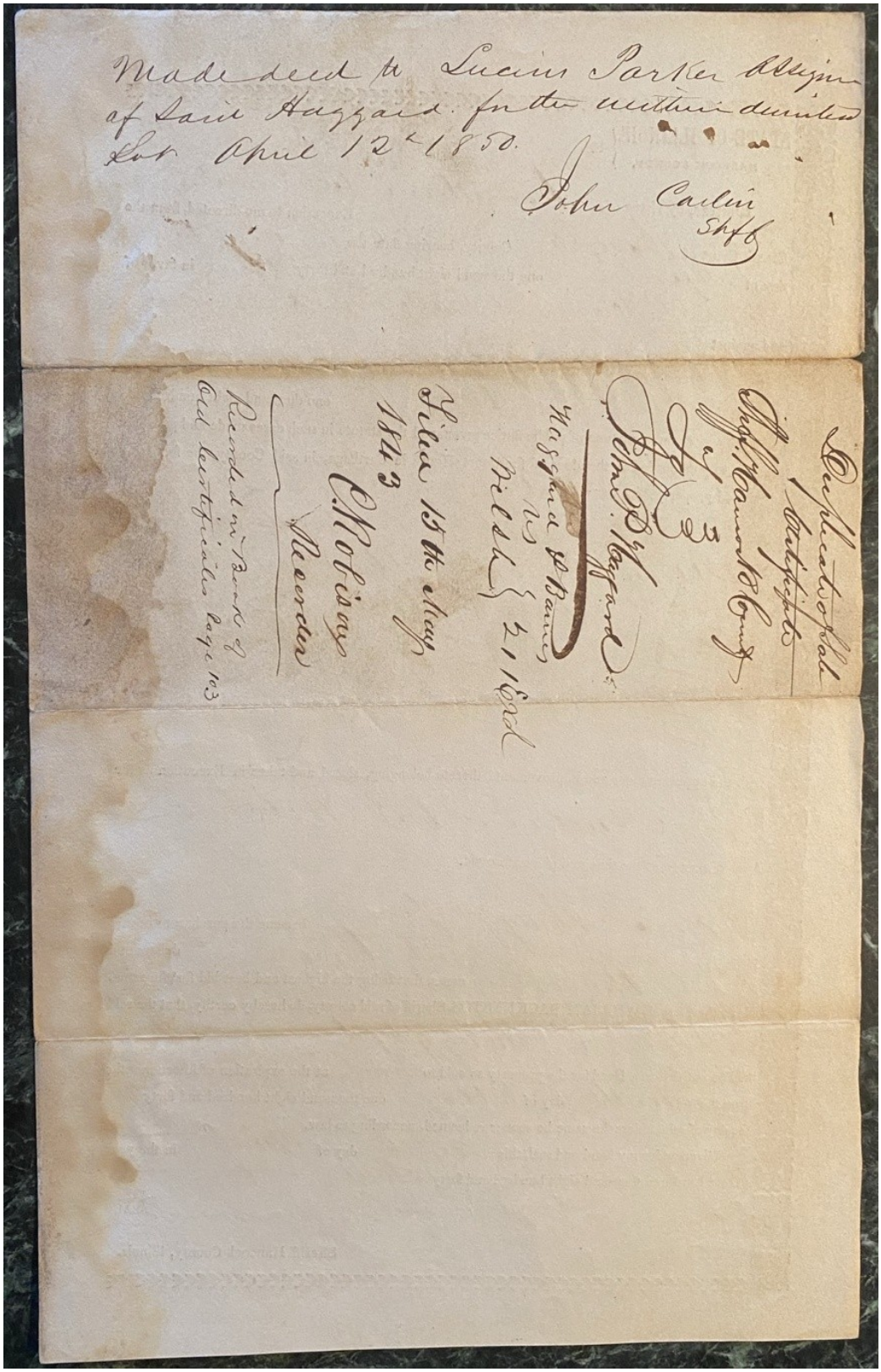


Figure 2. Reverse of the certificate, IMG_3670.jpeg. The upper endorsement records the 1850 deed; the center panel records the certificate's filing and recording in 1843. The two orientations are retained here. [1]

Faithful transcription

Printed and handwritten wording are integrated below. Capitalization and prominent spelling are retained where practicable; ornamental strokes and exact line endings are not reproduced. Brackets mark uncertain readings or editorial explanation. The photographs, rather than automated image descriptions, control this transcription. [1]

Front

STATE OF ILLINOIS, } SS.
HANCOCK COUNTY, }

Whereas, by virtue of a Venditioni Exponas Execution to me directed, from the Circuit Court of Hancock County, bearing date the Eighth day of April one thousand eight hundred and forty three in favor of John P. Haggard & Michael Barnes, and against Andrew B. Welch

I did on the Ninth day of May one thousand eight hundred and forty three in pursuance of public notice given, and the statute in such cases made and provided expose to public sale, at the door of the Court House in Carthage, in said County, the following described property: To wit:

Lot No. Two (2) in Block No. Fourteen (14) in the Town of Carthage, County and State aforesaid,

with the appurtenances and improvements thereto belonging, seized, and taken in Execution as the property of Andrew B. Welch.

And Whereas, at the time and place aforesaid,

John P. Haggard became the purchaser of said property; for the sum of Thirty three dollars and thirty three & [1/3?] cents, that being the highest and best bid for the same.

Now, therefore, I, WILLIAM BACKENSTOS, Sheriff of said county, do hereby certify, that the said John P. Haggard will be entitled to a Deed for the property so sold to him at the expiration of fifteen months from the Ninth day of May one thousand eight hundred and forty three the day of sale, unless the same be sooner redeemed, according to law.

Given under my hand and seal, this Ninth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty three.

[Signature] Wm Backenstos [SEAL]
Sheriff Hancock County, Illinois.

A note on the price

The amount is thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents, with an additional fractional-cent mark that appears to be one-third. That fraction remains provisional. It is the winning bid, not a statement of the original judgment, Welch’s total indebtedness, or the lot’s market value. The document contains no measured description of a building. Its printed reference to improvements must not be turned into a house or shop that has not been independently identified. [1]

What the back adds

Reverse: the recording panel

Duplicate of Sale
Certificate
Wm Backenstos
Shff
To
John P Haggard

Haggard & Barnes
vs
Welch } [21?] [additional notation unclear]

Filed 15th May
1843
C. Robison
Recorder

Recorded in Book of
Old Certificates page 103

The small notation beside the case caption is retained as uncertain; it is not adopted as a confirmed case number. “Duplicate” is the document’s docket description, not evidence that the paper is a modern reproduction. [1]

Reverse: the later deed

Made deed to Lucius Parker Assignee
of said Haggard for the within described
Lot April 12th 1850

John Carlin
Shff

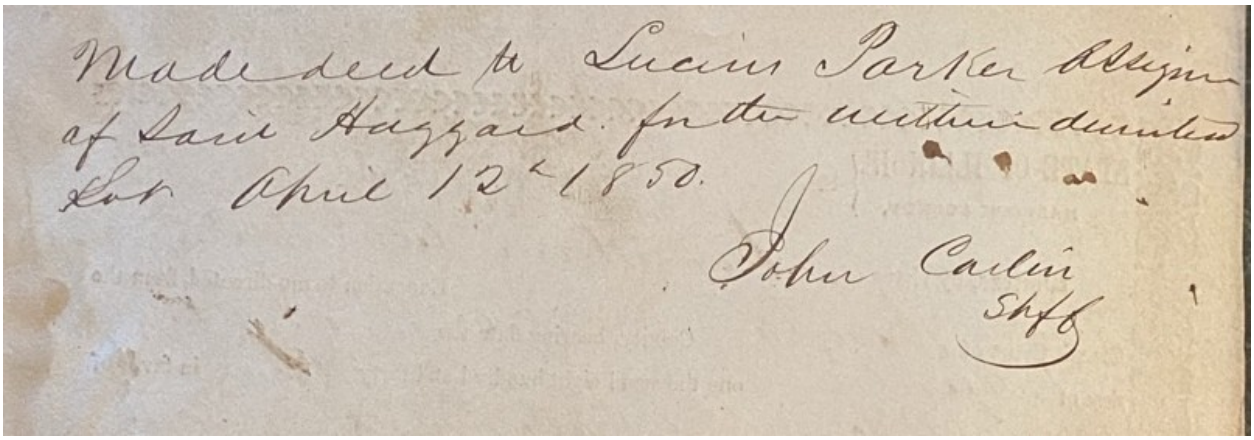


Figure 3. The April 12, 1850 endorsement, enlarged from the reverse. Carlin records making a deed to Lucius Parker as Haggard’s assignee. This notation is not the deed itself. [1]

A sale certificate, not a tax certificate

The paper follows a court execution against Welch. The added Latin term, venditioni exponas, identifies a writ directing sale of property already taken in execution. It belongs to enforcement of a judgment, not collection of delinquent taxes. The complaint, judgment amount, original levy, and April 8 writ have not been recovered with this certificate. [1, 24]

The fifteen-month provision points to August 9, 1844 as the stated earliest deed-entitlement date, assuming no redemption or other legal impediment. It does not record an automatic transfer on that day. Carlin's much later notation gives an actual deed-making date, but leaves the date and terms of Haggard's assignment unstated. Nothing on the paper explains the interval or attributes it to the Mormon conflict. [1]

The lot and the lives around it

A purchaser at the courthouse door

John P. Haggard's name appears twice in the business of the sale. First he stands beside Michael Barnes as one of the men in whose favor the court process issued. Then he appears alone as the highest bidder. On May 9, 1843, the county's legal machinery brought an interest in Andrew B. Welch's Carthage lot into Haggard's hands. William Backenstos certified the result; six days later Chauncey Robison recorded the paper. [1]

The certificate gives no description of the gathering, but it preserves the exact lot, creditor and purchaser, sheriff, and conditions of the sale. Those details—not an imagined auction crowd—are the starting point. [1]

The purchaser was not a stranger to Carthage's public life. Family testimony identifies him as a merchant, and contemporary newspaper evidence establishes his work as county assessor. Barnes, if the strong local identification is correct, was an officer accustomed to serving legal process himself. Here he stood on the private creditor's side. Public responsibilities and private claims met in the same small circle of men. [2–3, 8]

The joint claim leaves a useful question: what had Haggard and Barnes done together that made Welch answerable to both? The certificate does not supply the original bargain. A store account, shared note, or assigned claim remains a possibility rather than an established cause of action. [1]

A piece of property, not yet a place we can picture

Lot 2 in Block 14 is specific enough to lead into the Carthage plat and deed books. It is not yet specific enough to put a modern address beneath a photograph. No verified parcel map or title chain in this edition identifies its exact street position, its buildings, or Welch's use of it. The later courthouse view illustrates the named place of sale, not the land being sold. [1]

The connection to Nauvoo comes through the men, not the lot's location. This was Carthage property, and no evidence identifies the execution as a religiously motivated seizure. [1]

Their other records reveal marriages, tax rounds, arrests, fraternal encounters, and violence. The same men moved between private obligation and public authority, sometimes helping church members and sometimes confronting them.

The sentence written seven years later

The ending is waiting on the back. On April 12, 1850, Sheriff John Carlin recorded that he had made a deed to Lucius Parker, Haggard's assignee. Haggard's right had become something another man could acquire. The reverse supplies no assignment price and does not say whether Parker had occupied the lot before the deed. [1]

Family history dates Haggard's death to June 26, 1851. On that chronology, the deed to Parker was made during Haggard's lifetime, not as a consequence of his death or his estate's later administration. That is an important limit on the story we can tell. The surviving chain is Welch's property at execution, Haggard's purchase right, and Parker's entitlement through assignment—not an established probate transfer. [1–2]

Between the two dates on the certificate came the murders of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, the subsequent prosecution, the violent struggles of 1845, and the surrender of Nauvoo in 1846. Those events altered the lives surrounding the paper. They are not, without further evidence, the explanation for its long interval. [4, 11–12, 17]

John P. Haggard

Merchant, assessor, creditor, and husband

The family's 1899 history provides a substantial beginning for Haggard's biography. David D. Haggard identified him as the oldest son of Samuel Haggard and Elizabeth Peterson, born in Montgomery County, Tennessee, on December 27, 1806. The account places his move to Hancock County with his parents in 1832. It dates his marriage to Martha A. Kington of Plymouth to January 7, 1836 and says the couple subsequently settled at Carthage, where he entered mercantile business. [2, p. 112]

This is late family testimony rather than a newly examined birth or marriage register. It is, however, a closely identified family account: it names the wife, the county offices, the town of business, the children, and the later migration of the surviving household. Those details fit the local purchaser far better than a matching surname found at a distant location. The reported birth date would make him thirty-six when he bought Welch's lot. [1–2]

The family had more than one connection to county government. John's brother Edmond Gibson Haggard was remembered as an earlier sheriff who later died of cholera on the California journey in 1849. The book's exact election chronology needs comparison with county returns. Its description of John as elected sheriff in 1841 but prevented by illness from serving is likewise retained as a family claim, not inserted into an official list of sheriffs. [2, pp. 110–112]

These qualifications do not leave John without a livelihood. The merchant's career and the execution certificate point to a man involved in property and obligations as well as public work. A store could generate credit relationships, but there is no account book tying this particular Welch judgment to goods bought from Haggard. His occupation makes the question plausible; it does not supply the missing cause of action. [1–2]

The assessor announced his route

In spring 1845, Haggard spoke to county residents in his official capacity. His assessor's notice, dated March 18 and published in the April 2 Nauvoo Neighbor, set out the days on which he expected to receive taxable-property lists. Commerce and Nauvoo were not omitted: he advertised April appointments there before moving through other county precincts. Carthage appointments followed in May. [3]

The notice puts him into direct administrative contact with the Saints' community after Joseph Smith's death. It also gives his work a practical shape. Taxpayers needed to know when to find him, what business he was receiving, and where to leave information during his absence. He directed people with county-seat business to leave their lists with C. C. Main. It is a small glimpse of cooperation among men who handled the county's revenue affairs. [3]

An announced itinerary is not a diary proving that he completed every stop. Still less does publication in a Mormon newspaper prove that he supported the church. What it establishes is that he addressed its readers as county taxpayers and made provision for their business. In the middle of a history often told through public threats, this routine obligation deserves a place. [3]

The 1899 family book identifies him as both treasurer and assessor and supplies election years that are not fully reconciled with other county chronologies. The contemporary assessor notice is the firmest source for his specific function in this edition. His wife's later account of protecting county money adds another kind of evidence: a household recollection of what an official's responsibility could mean when the household itself felt insecure. [2–3]

Called during the murder prosecution

On May 23, 1845, the circuit court was still completing its jury in the prosecution of Levi Williams and other men charged in connection with Joseph Smith's murder. The court ordered another group of prospective jurors brought in. John P. Haggard appears among the men returned, and the docket records that the candidates answered when called, apart from one man excused because of age. [4, p. 274]

The following page is essential: it identifies the completed twelve, and Haggard is not one of them. He was summoned and appeared during selection; he did not become a member of the jury that tried the case. No individual explanation for his nonselection or statement of his opinion is supplied by this entry. [4, p. 275]

Haggard's assessor notice and his appearance during jury selection belong to the same spring. Both place him in the county's working institutions after the murders, without making him responsible for the trial jury's verdict. [3–4]

A family that continued after him

The family history places Haggard's death at Carthage on June 26, 1851. It says that Martha and the family returned to Plymouth and, after the Civil War, moved to White Cloud, Kansas. The book names nine children and follows several into military service, marriage, and work. Its individual dates and some initials need original-record comparison before they are treated as a fully verified genealogical register. [2, pp. 112–116]

Mary E. Haggard Davis supplies a particularly distinctive later strand. The account remembers her millinery and dressmaking at White Cloud and her work as a taxidermist. Other children's lives carried the family into the Civil War and farther west. Those later occupations should not be made the explanation for an 1843 purchase, but they prevent Haggard's household from disappearing the moment his public career ends. [2, pp. 112–116]

No verified Masonic membership, anti-Masonic campaign, militia commission, or personal confession of anti-Mormon violence has been established for John P. Haggard in the sources assembled here. His wife's hostile recollections cannot simply be assigned to him. The evidence gives us a merchant, a public official, a creditor and purchaser, and a man whose family preserved a vigorous—sometimes inaccurate—memory of Carthage's crisis. [1–4]

Martha Haggard's Carthage

The voice the sale certificate leaves out

Martha did not sign the certificate. Her connection is through the purchaser's household, and her account opens an unusually personal window onto the years between sale and deed. The family history identifies her as Martha A. Kington Haggard, born in Henry County, Virginia, on April 30, 1815. By the time it printed her reminiscences in 1899, she was about eighty-four. [2, p. 119]

Her voice is not mild. She remembered frightened neighbors, armed men, threats at the house, food packed for flight, and money hidden from danger. The narrative portrays a woman who resisted being intimidated and laughed at some of the fears of people around her. It also reveals her own hostility toward people she called Mormons. These are her reported words and recollections, not a neutral account of every participant's conduct. [2, pp. 120–122]

The most arresting assertion is her statement that she saw Joseph Smith leap from the jail window. It must immediately be accompanied by a warning about the account's reliability. In the same passage she says the Mormons had killed Missouri's governor and identifies the attackers' leader through that supposed killing. The governor-killing premise is false: Lilburn W. Boggs survived the 1842 attempt on

his life and lived until 1860. The account's exact dialogue, number of bullets, and identification of an assailant have not been independently corroborated. [2, p. 120; 23]

Her account is valuable as the memory of a Carthage household, not a secure reconstruction of the killing. The later domestic episodes are told below as her recollections.

A neighbor brought across the street

Martha's account moves from the deaths to an alarm "some time after" them. She describes armed Mormons entering Carthage, townspeople leaving, and men being gathered at the courthouse. Her chronology does not securely identify the occasion. It may compress distinct episodes, and this edition does not place every incident on June 27, 1844 or automatically transfer it to the 1846 battle. [2, pp. 120–122]

Within that uncertain sequence is a more intimate scene. A woman whom she calls Mrs. Smith lived across the street and, she said, was terrified. Martha invited her to stay at the Haggard house. The relationship she assigns this neighbor to the Mormon Smiths is unverified; no first name is supplied. The meaningful point is the action Martha remembered: going out to bring a frightened neighbor inside. [2, pp. 120–121]

She then described a confrontation with a mounted guard, a threat, and her own defiance. Later, in her telling, John brought several men home for supper because the hotels were closed. One was the guard with whom she had quarreled. When he spoke to her familiarly, she raised a chair; John restrained her and told the man to leave. The episode survives only in this late family account. It should be narrated as Martha's recollection, not staged as a verified conversation. [2, p. 121]

In Martha's telling, John initially brought the men home to be fed; only after the quarrel did he send the offending guest away. The household's response was more complicated than a simple refusal to deal with any Mormon. [2, p. 121]

The county's money beneath a quilt

Her next recollection joins the domestic and official worlds. John, she said, had a substantial amount of county money in the house. He packed it in a box, covered it with a quilt, and sent it with his young brother and sister to his father's home at Plymouth. A separate box of money was buried in the garden and later recovered. The amount, exact date, identities of the carriers, and ownership of the second box are not supplied. [2, p. 121]

In her recollection, protecting public money became a family undertaking: relatives, a covered box, and a journey to Plymouth. The official and domestic worlds were not separate when the household felt threatened. [2, p. 121]

Martha also recalled preparations to leave, hospitality in the countryside, and panic that sometimes mistook neighbors for enemies. The last page of the available machine-readable text is especially poor; its exact wording should be checked against a clearer page before a complete transcript is attempted. This edition paraphrases only the recoverable outline and does not supply missing dialogue. [2, p. 122]

The house and garden have not been connected to Welch's lot. Martha enlarges the purchaser's story, but does not identify his use of this particular purchase. [1–2]

The work she would not stop doing

The same book introduces Martha through needlework rather than conflict. She recalled a neighbor making light of her starting a quilt at fifty-three, predicting that she would not live to finish it. She answered by keeping a record of decades of further work. The list included 112 pieced scrap quilts as well as other sewing, knitting, rugs, and household textiles. This was her reported inventory, not an independently counted collection. [2, p. 119]

A surviving museum object gives that later activity a material counterpart. The Spencer Museum of Art catalogs a Wonder quilt, a variation of the Carpenter's Star pattern, dated 1895–1897, under the artist name Martha A. Kinsgston Haggard, 1815–1899. The catalog's unusual spelling is preserved in the source note; the family book supplies Kington. The record is a strong match to the elderly White Cloud quilt maker. A full provenance file has not been examined here. [22]

The museum quilt belongs to Martha's much later life, not to the episode of the hidden money. Her work supplies a different ending to a biography otherwise dominated by fear: she kept making things long after the Carthage years. The family book gives her this reply to the doubts of an earlier neighbor. [2, p. 119; 22]

> "I am not through with my work yet."
> Martha A. Haggard, as quoted in the 1899 family history, p. 119. Modern typeset excerpt; spacing normalized from the searchable transcription. [2]

Michael Barnes

A private claim beside a public office

The certificate names Michael Barnes without "Junior." The strongest local identification is Michael Barnes Jr., the Carthage deputy sheriff and constable. The name, place, and date fit, although the certificate supplies neither his office nor his family. The biography follows that strong identification while leaving his parentage and full life dates unresolved. [1, 8]

His deputy's return in the 1841 suit against John P. Greene and Jonathan Taylor records service on June 14. That was ordinary civil process involving Latter-day Saints. Two years later, Barnes appears on the other side of the machinery: he and Haggard benefited from the execution against Welch, while William Backenstos conducted the sale. The papers do not identify Barnes and Haggard as business partners or say why they held the claim together. [1, 8]

The Carthage Greys and the murder proceedings

A roster in Jacob B. Backenstos's later letter places M. Barnes Jr. among the Carthage Greys' officers; the earlier biographical research identifies him as a lieutenant. The letter's jail-guard list is separate. Military office is established in that record, but a particular guard assignment, shot, or place in the attack is not. The accusatory letter postdates the violence of 1845 despite its placement in a printed narrative of June 1844. [8–9]

A prosecution subpoena dated May 22, 1845 independently names Michael Barnes among the men required to appear in the murder case. No examination or account of his testimony has been recovered with it. His summons belongs beside Haggard's later appearance during jury selection: two men on the property certificate encountered the criminal proceedings in different capacities. [4, 10]

Barnes puts his name behind Jackson's account

Barnes's own sworn statement provides a different kind of voice. On August 13, 1844, he appeared before Robert F. Smith, a Hancock justice of the peace, and made an affidavit concerning Joseph H. Jackson. It was printed at the end of Jackson's sharply anti-Mormon Narrative, published at the Warsaw Signal office that year. The statement carries the name MICHAEL BARNES, JR.; the printed name is not an autograph image. [32]

> Barnes's affidavit says Jackson was going to Nauvoo "to ferret out the iniquity of Joe Smith" and was "determined to have revenge."
> Modern extract from the published affidavit, August 13, 1844. The intention described is Jackson's, as reported by Barnes—not a confession of Barnes's own intention. [32]

The statement looks backward to winter or spring 1843. Barnes said Jackson believed Smith had caused him to be shot at. It does not establish who actually arranged or carried out that shooting. What it does

establish is Barnes's named, sworn contribution to the case Jackson presented against Smith after the murders. This is a concrete connection to the hostile publication, stronger than an inference from neighborhood or militia membership. Separate statements by Thomas L. Barnes and Alexander W. Barnes follow in the pamphlet; their words are not Michael's. [32]

Treason writs in Nauvoo

In September 1845, the church's compiled history places Barnes in active enforcement against church leaders. George Miller reported that Barnes arrested him while he was doing business at the county clerk's office in Carthage and took him before Robert F. Smith on a treason accusation. Miller resisted confinement and was allowed, in that account, to give a verbal undertaking to return. [11, pp. 442–443]

On September 15 Barnes and an unnamed brother came to Nauvoo with writs for leading church men. The reported allegations involved Joseph Smith's supposed treasonable plans, the Nauvoo Legion, cannon, an arsenal, a private council, and correspondence with Indigenous people. The account says the constable did not wish to see William Smith but was anxious for the others. It also records proposed meetings, first at the Masonic Hall and later outside Carthage. These are attributed accounts of the officer's choices and demands, not adjudicated treason findings or evidence that Barnes belonged to a lodge. [11, pp. 444–445]

John Taylor's contemporary journal gives the visit a domestic consequence. On September 15 he learned that an officer had writs for him and others, moved between friends' houses, and did not return home until he heard that the officer had left. He explained the avoidance as a policy intended to prevent a confrontation over the writs. The edition's note identifies the officers as Barnes and his brother. The entry lets us see how the officer's presence affected a person being sought. [33]

Two named deponents accuse Michael Barnes of arson

Taylor's journal then copies declarations sworn before Daniel H. Wells. William H. Fellows's statement, dated September 16, 1845, describes armed men removing furniture, ordering the family from the house, and burning the residence and barns on the preceding night. He names Michael Barnes and Thomas L. Barnes among those concerned. Sarah Ann Everts, whose copied signature is rendered Evarts, made a second declaration on September 17. She describes being ill with ague and fever when men arrived about midnight on the fifteenth, forced her household out, and burned the house, barn, and grain. She specifically names Michael Barnes. [33]

> "she could not safely get up and go out"
> Sarah Ann Everts's reported protest, in her declaration of September 17, 1845, copied into John Taylor's journal. She accused Michael Barnes of involvement in the burning that followed. Modern typeset excerpt, not an image of her signed affidavit. [33]

These are more specific than the newspaper label "burner." They identify deponents, sworn dates, a magistrate, described losses, and the man accused. They remain allegations preserved as copies in Taylor's journal, largely written by George Q. Cannon—not a court judgment or a claim that Taylor witnessed the fires. The accounts do not securely establish two distinct properties; the differing wheat estimates must not be added into one calculated loss. The original signed affidavits and a resulting verdict have not been recovered here. [33]

The contrast with the 1843 certificate is stark. There, property changed hands through a writ, an auction, recording, and a right of redemption. Here, the deponents described being put outside while buildings and provisions burned. The connection is the named creditor, not a claim that Welch's Carthage lot was one of the burned properties. [1, 33]

Barnes challenges the jury that might accuse him

The October 29, 1845 Nauvoo Neighbor preserves another action under Barnes's own name. Its court report says Michael Barnes Jr. swore that the county commissioners were prejudiced against him and

had selected the grand jury to obtain his indictment. The paper reports that the court set aside the array. This is his stated procedural position as conveyed by a hostile newspaper; the original affidavit and court order remain unlocated. It was not an acquittal on a charge of murder or arson. [12]

The newspaper's surrounding language calls him a participant in the Smith murders and a house and grain burner. Those charges should be kept distinct from the words it attributes to his affidavit. The newly recovered September declarations add named accusers to the arson record, but they do not establish what evidence caused the particular grand-jury dispute. Barnes's public actions and the accusations against him can now be described separately rather than collapsed into a single hostile epithet. [12, 33]

A committee record belongs to Thomas, not Michael

The search for meeting records produced an instructive distinction. A November 18, 1845 Carthage meeting adopted resolutions condemning recent violence while continuing to support the planned removal of the Saints. The published document names Thomas L. Barnes as secretary. It does not name Michael in that capacity. Likewise, Thomas's later letters about treating the wounded John Taylor are not Michael's reminiscences. The committee record broadens the surrounding picture but cannot supply Michael with a speech, a conciliatory action, or a medical role. [34]

No securely attributed committee speech, Masonic membership, or separate anti-Masonic campaign by Michael was recovered in this finishing pass. His own published affidavit, the reported decisions in serving writs, and the grand-jury objection are the clearest accounts of his actions; the September declarations supply named accusations of violence. His precise conduct at the jail and his complete personal chronology remain unresolved. [9–12, 32–34]

William Backenstos

The sheriff who married Emma Smith's niece

William Backenstos is the officer named in print and signing in ink on the certificate. He must remain distinct from his brother Jacob B. Backenstos, the sheriff more prominently associated with the 1845 struggle to suppress violence against the Saints. William's official act here belongs to May 1843. [1, 5]

The Joseph Smith Papers biography dates William's life to August 29, 1813–July 11, 1875 and identifies his birthplace as Lower Paxton, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. His parents were Jacob Backenstos and Margaretha Theis. An infant baptism in the Lutheran Reformed Church belongs to his early family history; it is not evidence of a later baptism into the Latter-day Saint church. [5]

William reached Hancock County by 1842, was elected sheriff that year, and was at Carthage by 1843. Less than five months after selling Welch's lot, he married Clara M. Wasson at Nauvoo on October 3, 1843. Joseph Smith performed the ceremony. Clara was Emma Smith's niece, the daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth Hale Wasson. The sheriff had married into Emma's family. [5–6, 31]

The day also celebrated the opening of the Nauvoo Mansion. The journal kept for Joseph by Willard Richards describes a dinner of about one hundred couples, then a wedding at the Mansion that evening before a select party. The large dinner and the smaller wedding must remain separate gatherings. For William, Joseph was more than an officiant from another town: he was the husband of Clara's aunt. [31]

> Emma Hale Smith and Elizabeth Hale Wasson were sisters. Elizabeth and Benjamin Wasson's daughter Clara married William Backenstos; Emma's husband Joseph performed their wedding. [31]

This relationship brings the certificate closer to the Smith household without turning kinship into a declaration of faith. It helps explain why the Carthage sheriff's later familiarity with people in Nauvoo is worth following. [5–6, 31]

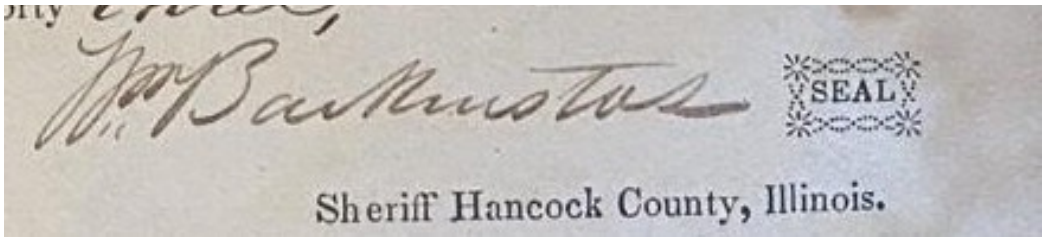


Figure 4. William Backenstos's signature and printed office on the owner's certificate. This is William, not Jacob B. Backenstos. [1]

A judgment passed from Smith's estate

After Joseph Smith's death, William appears in the same world of transferable claims that ultimately brought Welch's lot to Lucius Parker. On March 29, 1845, Joseph W. Coolidge, administrator of Smith's estate, assigned to William the judgment and interest in the case against Joseph H. Reynolds and Harmon T. Wilson. The document authorized him to control the judgment for his own benefit. [7]

That separate proceeding arose from Smith's earlier legal struggle with the men involved in his 1843 arrest. It is not the Haggard–Barnes judgment. Its relevance here is the documented mechanism: a successful litigant's claim could pass to a new holder. William was not merely administering other people's claims as sheriff; he also acquired a claim in his own capacity. [7, 29]

The assignment records a transfer for value. It places William in the same wider economy of transferable judgments and purchase rights that carried Haggard's interest to Parker, while leaving the two cases entirely separate. [1, 7]

"Not Brigham Young"

A more personal episode appears in the church's history under December 23, 1845. Federal officers seeking Brigham Young arrested William Miller after he came out of the temple wearing Young's cap and Heber C. Kimball's cloak. They took him to Carthage, where the discovery that he was not Young became a source of embarrassment and amusement in the account. [28]

William Backenstos identified the prisoner as William Miller, not Brigham Young, and the account records the marshal acknowledging the mistake. His knowledge of the church community was useful to a man detained under the wrong identity. Jacob Backenstos's subsequent provision of lodging was a separate act by William's brother. [28]

The scene provides a quieter counterpoint to the treason writs and accusations elsewhere in this story: recognition helped expose a mistaken arrest. The record does not make William the organizer of Miller's disguise. [28]

A life beyond Hancock County

The published biography follows William to Nauvoo by late 1844, to Amboy in Lee County by 1850, then to Wisconsin and Iowa. He was at Iowa City by 1860 and died in Iowa in 1875. Sheriff, merchant, and painter are among the occupations assigned to him in that registry. Those later movements should not be transferred to Jacob or treated as evidence that William joined the westward Mormon migration. [5]

No specific Masonic degree, militia commission, anti-Masonic activity, or personal involvement in the Carthage killings has been established for William by the sources used here. His documented connections—sale, marriage, estate assignment, and correction of Miller's identity—are substantial without supplying missing affiliations.

Chauncey Robison

The recorder whose work crossed the county's divisions

The reverse's "C. Robison, Recorder" belongs to an official whose biography was developed in the preceding Matthews–Robison project. Born in Oneida County, New York, on March 27, 1805, Chauncey Robison came to Hancock County in 1829 and lived at Carthage from 1837. He served as county recorder from 1839 to 1847. His entry on this certificate therefore fits an established term of office. [1, 13]

On May 15, 1843, he received and recorded a sheriff's certificate concerning a Carthage lot. That act preserved information other people might later need when claiming a deed, making an assignment, or contesting a title. It did not make him a party to Haggard's purchase. The recorder's public role here and the separate Matthews–Robison note's private obligation must retain their different meanings. [1, 30]

The lodge and a legal act for Smith

Robison's strongest specific Masonic encounter is recorded in the Nauvoo lodge minute for April 13, 1842. Hyrum Smith presided pro tempore, Joseph Smith was present, and Robison was initiated an Entered Apprentice alongside J. B. Backenstos and the man written as George W. Stiles, whom the editors identify as George P. Stiles. This is an initiation, not proof that he received a higher degree on the adjacent page. [14]

The published biographical registry also identifies Robison as secretary of Hancock Lodge at Carthage in 1843. Those affiliations help explain how a county officer could encounter church members through a fraternal institution. They do not establish a baptism or a common political program. Nor does the record support an anti-Masonic campaign by him. [13–14]

In December 1842 he acted on Joseph Smith's habeas corpus petition as master in chancery. His December 27 endorsement directed the circuit clerk to issue the writ. Because the clerk was absent, the party did not obtain it there before continuing toward Springfield. Robison's action authorized process; it did not itself decide the extradition case or discharge Smith. [15]

His help in the extradition proceedings did not shield him from the county's later violence. In the same September 1845 journal passage that preserves the arson declarations, Taylor reports that "Chancy Robinson," Carthage's postmaster and county recorder, had been forcibly driven from office and home. The name and offices identify Chauncey Robison. The report does not identify Michael Barnes as the person who expelled him. [13, 33]

In the city after the departure

Robison moved to Nauvoo in 1847 and served as mayor in 1849–1850. He later lived in Appanoose Township and moved to Topeka in 1888, dying there on November 4, 1891. His life extended well beyond the interval covered by the certificate. [13]

The 1850 deed notation therefore dates from a period in which the former recorder had himself become part of post-exodus Nauvoo's government. He did not make Parker's deed; John Carlin did. The distinction lets us follow both men into their later offices without turning a sequence of signatures into a single official acting across seven years. [1, 13]

John Carlin

From the Nauvoo surrender to Parker's deed

Carlin's endorsement is economical: deed made, assignee named, lot identified by reference, date entered, sheriff's title appended. Four years earlier, his name had appeared on a much more consequential instrument—the terms that ended resistance at Nauvoo in September 1846. [1, 17]

The final agreement distinguishes the roles. Thomas S. Brockman was commander of the force. John Carlin was special constable and its civil head. He was not simply a military general under a different title. The force claimed authority through civil process, while its demands and actions came to encompass the removal of a population. [16–17]

The existing Carlin biography follows the initial effort to serve warrants, calls for a posse, failed negotiations, new demands, and the final surrender. It separates the earlier proposed agreement associated with Singleton and Major Parker from the agreement actually accepted on September 16. That Major Parker has not been identified with Lucius Parker and must not be added to the latter's biography on the strength of a surname. [16]

The terms he accepted

The September 16 articles provided for surrender of the city, entry of Brockman's force, temporary deposit of arms, and departure or dispersal of the Mormon population. They also promised protection of persons and property and humane treatment of the sick and helpless. Limited numbers of trustees and clerks with their families could remain to dispose of property. [17, p. 39]

Carlin's subscription bound him to those terms as the civil head of the force. It does not show that he drafted every clause or personally committed every abuse described after the occupation. His documented responsibility is serious enough: he helped carry an asserted civil enforcement operation into a coercive settlement requiring the Saints to leave. [16–17]

Articles of accommodation, treaty, and agreement, made and entered into, this sixteenth of September, A. D. 1846, between Almon W. Babbitt, Joseph L. Heywood, and John S. Fullmer, Trustees in trust for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, of the one part—Thomas S. Brockman, Commander of the posse, and John Carlin, Special Constable and civil head of the posse of Hancock County, of the second part—and Andrew Johnson, Chairman of the Citizens of Quincy, of the third part—

1st. The city of Nauvoo will surrender. The force of Colonel Brockman, to enter and take possession of the city to-morrow, the 17th of September, at three o'clock p.m.

2nd. The arms to be delivered to the Quincy Committee, to be returned on the crossing of the river.

3rd. The Quincy Committee pledge themselves to use their influence for the protection of persons and property from all violence, and the officers of the camp and the men pledge themselves to protect all persons and property from violence.

4th. The sick and helpless to be protected and treated with humanity.

5th. The Mormon population of the city to leave the State, or disperse as soon as they can cross the river.

6th. Five men, including the Trustees of the Church, and five Clerks, with their families, (William Pickett not one of the number,) to be permitted to remain in the city for the disposition of property, free from all molestation and personal violence.

7th. Hostilities to cease immediately, and ten men of the Quincy Committee to enter the city in the execution of their duty as soon as they think proper.

e undersigned, subscribe to, ratify, and confirm the foregoing articles of ac-
n, treaty, and agreement, the day and year first above written.

ALMON W. BABBITT,
EPH L. HEYWOOD, and
S. FULLMER,
rust for the Church of Jesus
ist of Latter-day Saints.

ANDREW JOHNSON, Chairman
of the Committee of Quincy,
THOMAS S. BROCKMAN, Commanding posse,
JOHN CARLIN, Special Constable.

Figure 5. The surrender articles and subscription block as printed by participant John S. Fullmer in 1855, p. 39. This is an early printed account, not the autograph treaty. Damage at lower left is retained. Carlin's civil role and the departure requirement are visible. [17]

The county kept using his services

Carlin's recorder work is documented after the crisis, and a contemporary newspaper report identifies his election as recorder in August 1847. He later became sheriff. The owner's certificate now supplies an additional direct example of that later authority, dated April 12, 1850. The same man appears both in the history of coercive removal and in the continuing administration of property rights. [1, 16]

That continuity is not evidence that he engineered Haggard's 1843 purchase. The purchase was already on paper under another sheriff. Nor does issuing the 1850 deed establish that Carlin shared in its proceeds or chose Parker as assignee. It records his performance of the later official step. [1]

An 1850 census transcription supplies a strong household candidate: an Illinois-born John Carlin, thirty-two, whose occupation is sheriff. A contemporary 1860 Masonic directory lists a John Carlin as master of Hancock Lodge No. 20 at Carthage. Both are useful continuations of the existing research, with the identity qualifications preserved. The lodge directory does not provide his initiation date or prove a lodge position during the 1846 campaign. [16]

Carlin's exact parentage, complete family chronology, and death remain unresolved in the master biography. No kinship to Governor Thomas Carlin is assumed. No verified Carthage Greys enrollment or anti-Masonic activity has been established. The new endorsement strengthens his documented 1850 public career; it does not silently settle those separate questions. [1, 16]

Andrew B. Welch

The man whose lot was sold

Welch is the person easiest to lose behind more conspicuous officials. Yet the sale began with property identified as his. Whatever opportunity Haggard saw in the purchase, Welch stood on the other side of an execution. The certificate proves neither destitution nor misconduct. A creditor could obtain execution against a person who held other assets, and the paper does not tell us why the underlying obligation went unsatisfied. [1]

His name deserves a biography independent of his role as defendant. A promising genealogical candidate is Andrew Byron Welch, associated in family compilations with Elizabeth Adaline Owen and a Hancock County marriage in May 1835. The linked family references place children in Carthage. This is not yet a demonstrated identity chain from the 1843 lot to the later household, and "Byron" is not inserted into the document's name as an established expansion. [21]

A possible earlier jury-room connection

A modern transcription of the 1839 court file in People v. William Fraim lists Andrew B. Welch and Daniel H. Wells among the jurors. It identifies the relevant court entry as Lincoln Legal Papers document 58304, dated April 23, 1839. The matching full name and county make the connection strong, but the underlying image has not been independently compared in this edition. It is retained as a documentary lead, not as a newly collated original. [27]

The jury-room lead offers a striking possible contrast: Welch helping decide another man's criminal case in 1839, then becoming a civil defendant whose property was sold in 1843. The original court image is still needed to move that connection beyond the published transcription. It supplies no view of the Saints or relationship to another juror named Welch. [27]

No church membership, anti-Mormon organization, militia unit, Masonic membership, or anti-Masonic activity has been securely attached to this defendant. The certificate remains the firm center of his profile until the deed and household records connect these leads. [1, 21, 27]

Lucius Parker

The name that closes the surviving record

Carlin calls Lucius Parker Haggard's assignee. He does not call him a relative, business partner, attorney, or heir. The assignment itself is not written out on this sheet, and the date of Parker's acquisition cannot be read backward from the April 1850 deed date. His secure place in the story is the right-holder to whom the later sheriff said he made the deed. [1]

A useful county candidate appears in the 1850 census transcription. "Luceus Parker," age thirty-two, is listed as a New Hampshire-born farmer with fifty dollars in real estate, in dwelling and family 51 on page 273B. Harriet N., thirty-three and born in Vermont, appears next, followed by children born in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Illinois. The youngest child's exact name is uncertain in the transcription. The original census image has not been compared here. [18]

A FamilySearch family profile for Lucius Parker, 1819–1891, names Harriet N. Lawton and gives a Carthage death and Moss Ridge burial. The place and household make it a promising continuation of the census candidate. It does not independently prove that this was the assignee of Lot 2, Block 14. A deed, assignment, signature, or adjoining land description would provide a better bridge. [19]

The census valuation cannot be equated with this lot's value or with what Parker paid Haggard. Neither the census nor the compiled profile places an identifiable house on the parcel. The apparent migration pattern within the candidate family is worth investigating, but it remains distinct from the proved transfer on the certificate. [1, 18–19]

The John Davis Parker question

The earlier Parker biography identifies John Davis Parker as the son of Abel Parker and Mary Davies or Davis, born in Saratoga County, New York, in 1799. His record leads through the Latter-day Saint community, Nauvoo officeholding, the westward migration, and Utah. The material retrieved for the Lucius candidate does not supply a common parent or grandparent linking the two men. [20]

No family relationship with John Davis Parker has been established. Lucius's part in this account rests on the assignment and deed notation, not on another Parker's church or military history. [1, 18–20]

Returning to the courthouse door

The front fixes a sale in 1843; the reverse carries the right into 1850. Between those dates the people on the sheet took very different paths. Haggard assessed property and appeared in jury selection. Barnes supported Jackson's account under oath, pursued church leaders with writs, and was named in sworn arson allegations. William married Emma Smith's niece and later helped identify a prisoner mistaken for Brigham Young. Robison was reported driven from home and office. Carlin joined a coercive surrender agreement and afterward made Parker's deed. [1–17, 28, 31–33]

Martha's remembered box of county money and the deponents' accounts of burned grain bring the stakes of property into view. A recorded claim could survive for years; a household's goods could disappear in a night. Those different histories meet through the names on this certificate, not through proof that the execution itself was a religious attack. [1–2, 33]

The lot remains essential even though its precise modern site is unresolved. It keeps Welch in view as the owner whose interest was seized, Haggard and Barnes as creditors, Haggard as purchaser, and Parker as later assignee. It also limits the claim we make for the paper. We possess a certificate and a deed-making endorsement, not the whole lawsuit or a complete chain of title. [1]

The certificate cannot explain every motive, but it gives the story a fixed point. At this courthouse, people claimed property, sought protection, and exercised authority. Their other records show how differently they used that power.

Chronology and evidence register

Date	Event and source
1832	Family history places Haggard's arrival in Hancock County with his parents. [2]
January 7, 1836	Reported marriage of John P. Haggard and Martha A. Kington. [2]
April 8–May 15, 1843	Writ dated April 8; sale May 9; certificate filed May 15. Haggard alone buys Welch's lot. [1]
October 3, 1843	William Backenstos marries Clara Wasson, Emma Smith's niece, at the Nauvoo Mansion; Joseph officiates. [5–6, 31]
June 27, 1844	Joseph and Hyrum Smith killed. Martha later claims to have seen Smith at the window; her account contains serious errors. [2, 23]
August 13, 1844	Michael Barnes Jr. swears the statement later printed in Jackson's anti-Mormon Narrative. [32]
Spring 1845	Haggard advertises assessment rounds; appears in May 23 jury selection but is not selected. William acquires a Smith-estate judgment March 29. [3–4, 7]
September–October 1845	Barnes brings treason writs. Fellows (Sept. 16) and Everts/Evarts (Sept. 17) name Michael Barnes in arson declarations. In October he challenges grand-jury selection. [11–12, 33]
December 23, 1845	Church history records William Backenstos correcting Miller's mistaken identification as Brigham Young. [28]
September 16, 1846	Carlin subscribes the surrender articles as civil head of the posse. [17]
April 12, 1850	Carlin endorses the certificate: deed made to Lucius Parker, Haggard's assignee. [1]
June 26, 1851	Family history dates John P. Haggard's death at Carthage. [2]
1895–1899	Museum dates Martha-attributed quilt to 1895–1897; family history publishes her reminiscences in 1899. [2, 22]

The original case: what remains unknown

The complaint, judgment, original levy, April 8 execution, and any assignment instrument have not been recovered. The reverse's reference to the Book of Old Certificates, page 103 is a concrete next target. The related county series has been identified in earlier project research as Certificates of levy and redemption, 1841–1956, including an index and digitized material on DGS 8576212. That catalog identification is not a claim that page 103 or this case's entry has been inspected. [1, 25]

The finishing pass did not recover the April 12, 1850 deed, Haggard's assignment, the original complaint, or a verified lot-level Carthage plat. Lot 2, Block 14 remains the secure legal description; no modern address or building is assigned. The certificate book reference and image-group number are retained as precise archival leads, not as records already read. [1, 25]

Issue	Present finding
The transaction	Execution sale, not a tax sale. Judgment creditors Haggard and Barnes; purchaser Haggard alone. [1]
The lot and the price	Lot 2, Block 14, Carthage. Additional fractional cent uncertain. Buildings, market value, and original debt unknown. [1]

Issue	Present finding
The seven-year interval	Deed notation is dated April 12, 1850. Assignment date and reason for delay are not established. [1]
Haggard and the trial	Summoned and present during selection, not a member of the final twelve. [4]
Martha's testimony	Late family recollection with a demonstrably false governor-killing premise; not authenticated eyewitness testimony. [2, 23]
Barnes and violence	Barnes's own 1844 statement appears in Jackson's publication. Two named deponents accused Michael of arson in Sept. 1845; copies survive in Taylor's journal. No verdict or individual jail action established. [9–12, 32–33]
William and Jacob	William, not Jacob, signed the certificate, married Emma Smith's niece, acquired the estate judgment, and identified Miller. [1, 5–7, 28, 31]
Fraternal connections	Robison's initiation and secretaryship established. Carlin's later lodge identity probable. Other memberships or anti-Masonic activity not established. [13–16]
Welch's identity	Andrew Byron Welch household and 1839 jury entry are leads; complete identity chain unresolved. [21, 27]
The Parker question	Lucius's census/family candidate is promising; no documented connection with John Davis Parker. Not proof that none existed. [18–20]
Barnes committee record	Nov. 18, 1845 secretaryship belongs to Thomas L. Barnes, not Michael. The resolution opposed violence while supporting departure. [34]
Robison's expulsion	Taylor's journal reports the Carthage postmaster/recorder driven from office and home. It does not name his individual expellers. [33]

Recollection, accusation, and proof

The evidence now includes Barnes's own sworn statement as published in 1844, reported speech and enforcement actions, two named accusers' declarations copied into a contemporary journal, and a hostile newspaper's report of his procedural defense. These are not interchangeable. Jackson's intention of revenge is not a confession by Barnes; sworn allegations are not verdicts; Thomas L. Barnes's committee work is not Michael's. Martha's much later recollections retain their separate reliability problems. [2, 9–12, 23, 32–34]

The report presents the completed narrative and the findings of this finishing pass, not a claim that every surviving archive has been exhausted. The lawsuit's cause and final deed, several family identifications, and exact operational roles in the violence remain open. No repository, private family, or museum was contacted on the owner's behalf.

Illustrations and source access

The seven embedded historical images and details are retained: courthouse, certificate front and reverse, deed endorsement, sheriff's signature, Fullmer's printed surrender terms, and recording detail. The new shaded passages are modern reading aids—family relationships and textual excerpts—not facsimiles. The original certificate remains the visual center.

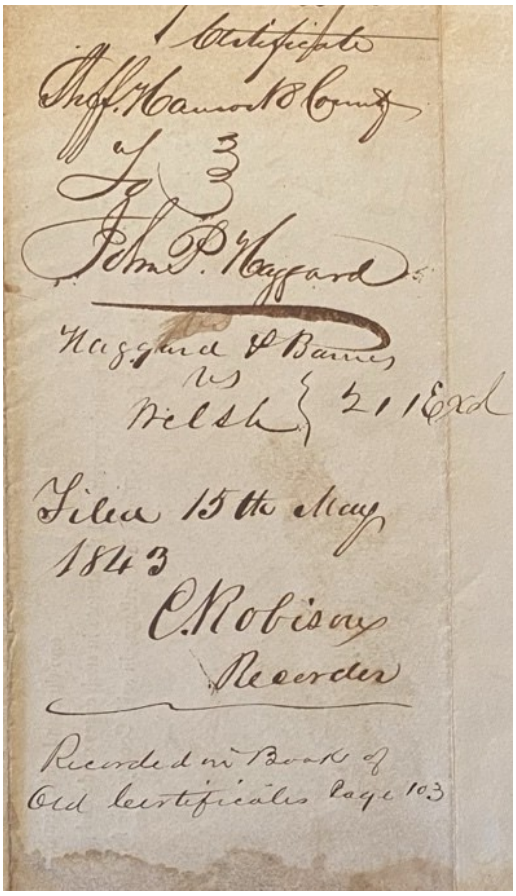


Figure 6. Filing and recording panel, turned upright from the reverse. The 1843 record reference gives the project a specific place to look for a contemporary recorded counterpart. The upper edge is a cropped continuation of the docket. [1]

Additional images: located sources, not embedded facsimiles

Martha's portrait is identified in the 1899 family book, and the museum catalog identifies her later Wonder quilt. A usable portrait file was not obtained in the finishing pass; the museum image remains linked and no reproduction request was sent. The wedding journal's photographed page was viewed online, but its image could not be transferred into the report. No substitute portrait or reconstructed manuscript has been used. [2, 22, 31]

The full online sources remain linked in the notes, including the original wedding-journal image, the marriage register, the Haggard jury docket, the Jackson publication, and the Taylor journal edition. No new lot map is presented: the precise parcel location has not been verified. This edition completes the reading text with the images actually available, rather than representing remote links as embedded illustrations.

Sources and image credits

Bracketed numbers in the text identify these sources. Contemporary records, later recollections, editorial identifications, family-profile leads, and reused project research are distinguished. Links lead to digital sources; their presence does not imply that every underlying manuscript or image was independently inspected. Access and source review: October 2026.

[1] The original execution-sale certificate, May 9, 1843; later deed notation, April 12, 1850. David Larsen's privately held original, photographs IMG_3669.jpeg and IMG_3670.jpeg. Read visually after rotation. The fraction following thirty-three cents and the small docket notation remain uncertain. The front records a sale and conditional entitlement to a deed; the reverse records filing on May 15, 1843, Book of Old Certificates, p. 103, and Carlin's later deed-making notation. No complaint, assignment instrument, or completed deed is supplied by these photographs.

[2] David D. Haggard, History of the Haggard Family in England and America, 1433 to 1899 (Bloomington, Illinois, 1899). Especially pp. 110–116, family and public-office accounts; pp. 119–122, Martha's needlework inventory and reminiscences. New York Public Library copy digitized by Internet Archive. The machine-readable text was consulted; full page-image collation was not completed, and p. 122 is particularly garbled. John's reported birth, marriage, death, and family are attributed to this late family compilation, not newly examined vital records. Martha's account contains demonstrable error concerning Missouri's governor, and her alleged eyewitness detail is not accepted uncritically. Office chronology and individual family dates require confirmation. Digitized book • Searchable historical text

[3] John P. Haggard, assessor's notice, dated March 18, 1845, in Nauvoo Neighbor, April 2, 1845, p. 4, col. 2. BYU Studies institutional transcription. Advertised Commerce appointments April 1–10, except the 6th; Nauvoo April 11–12 and 14–19; later county stops and Carthage appointments; C. C. Main could receive lists at the county seat. The notice establishes the announced itinerary, not a completed diary of visits or religious allegiance. Original newspaper clipping not newly collated. Issue and notice

[4] Docket Entry, Pluries Venire Facias, May 23, 1845, State of Illinois v. Williams et al. Hancock County Circuit Court Record D, pp. 274–275, Joseph Smith Papers. Page 274 names Haggard among the additional prospective jurors and records their appearance, apart from an age-based excusal. Page 275 gives the completed jury and excludes Haggard. A summons and appearance must not be converted into service on the trial jury or responsibility for its verdict. Prospective jurors • Completed jury

[5] Joseph Smith Papers, "Backenstos, William." Editorial biographical registry: 1813 Pennsylvania birth and baptism; parents; Hancock residence and 1842 sheriff election; marriage to Clara M. Wasson; later Nauvoo, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa residences; July 11, 1875 death at Iowa City. The infant baptism is not evidence of an established adult religious affiliation. William must remain distinct from his brother Jacob B. Backenstos. Biographical registry

[6] Nauvoo marriage register: William Backenstos and Clara M. Wasson, October 3, 1843. Original register image supplied by the Joseph Smith Papers, identifying Joseph Smith as the officiant. Used with the registry in note 5. The image is linked, not embedded; the courthouse certificate is an entirely different legal instrument. Marriage-register image

[7] Assignment of Judgment, March 29, 1845, Coolidge, Administrator of the Estate of JS v. Reynolds and Wilson. Joseph Smith Papers, contemporary instrument. Joseph W. Coolidge assigned the judgment and interest to William Backenstos, acknowledging value received. This establishes William's acquisition of an estate claim, not gratuitous assistance, ultimate collection, or the nature of the unrelated Haggard–Barnes judgment. Assignment

[8] Reused research: John P. Greene Document, Expanded Biographical Edition, September 2026. David Larsen Library report, especially the Michael Barnes Jr. profile and June 14, 1841 deputy's return. The 1843 certificate omits "Jr."; continuity with the Carthage officer remains a strong identification rather than a complete family proof. The August 13, 1844 affidavit is now assessed directly through the separate publication sources in note 32, rather than only through this prior report.

[9] Letter attributed to Jacob B. Backenstos, printed in History of the Church, vol. 7, pp. 142–145. Chapter 12. Differentiates Carthage Greys officers, the jail guard, Warsaw companies, and broader accusations. The officer entry for M. Barnes Jr. is not automatically a jail-guard assignment. Internal references place the letter after the 1845 violence despite its insertion into a June 1844 narrative. Original date and complete manuscript provenance are unresolved. Partisan allegations are not verdicts. Published letter and roster

[10] Subpoena, May 22, 1845–A, State of Illinois v. Williams et al. Joseph Smith Papers. Michael Barnes is named among prosecution witnesses commanded to appear. The subpoena is not a transcript of his evidence and does not, by itself, establish what he ultimately testified. Subpoena

[11] History of the Church, vol. 7, chapter 32, September 1845 entries, pp. 442–445. Compiled church narrative: George Miller's reported arrest by Barnes at Carthage; Barnes and an unnamed brother bringing treason writs to Nauvoo on September 15; proposed meeting arrangements and departure. These are attributed reports and allegations, not adjudicated treason findings. The Masonic Hall is a venue in the account, not proof of Barnes's lodge membership. September encounters

[12] "Addendum! Hancock Circuit Court," Nauvoo Neighbor, October 29, 1845. BYU Studies transcription. Reports an affidavit by Michael Barnes Jr. alleging prejudice in grand-jury selection and the setting aside of the array. The newspaper explicitly calls him a murderer of the Smith brothers and a house and grain burner. Those are serious contemporary partisan accusations, not established guilt or a conviction. The underlying affidavit and court order were not independently recovered. Issue and court report

[13] Joseph Smith Papers, "Robison, Chauncey." Editorial biographical registry for origins, county recorder service, marriage, lodge associations, mayoralty, later migration, and death. A recorder's copied instrument does not prove that he was a private party to the underlying transaction. The owner's reverse independently establishes his recording role in this case. Biographical registry

[14] Nauvoo Masonic Lodge minutes, April 13, 1842, copied minute book, p. 30. Joseph Smith Papers. Hyrum Smith presides, Joseph Smith is present, and John C. Bennett is named as secretary; Robison, J. B. Backenstos, and Stiles are initiated Entered Apprentices. The copied entry's "George W. Stiles" is identified by the editors as George P. Stiles. The copy is in William Clayton's handwriting; a named secretary is not necessarily its scribe. Do not transfer the following page's other degree work to Robison. Minute and editorial transcript

[15] Petition to Chauncey Robison, December 26, 1842, with his December 27 order. Joseph Smith Papers, extradition proceedings. Robison ordered the circuit clerk to issue habeas corpus process. The clerk's absence prevented immediate delivery. Robison did not decide the extradition merits or himself discharge Smith. Petition and order

[16] Reused research: John Carlin of Hancock County, Master Biography, October 5, 2026. David Larsen Library reference, read in full. Separates Carlin's civil leadership in 1846 from Brockman's military command and documents later recorder and sheriff work. The 1850 sheriff household, later assessor, and 1860 Hancock Lodge master are qualified identity continuations. Underlying fraternal reference: Leon Hyneman, World's Masonic Register (1860), p. 131. The present certificate supplies a new dated sheriff endorsement, April 12, 1850, not proof of all provisional family details. Masonic register cited by prior study

[17] John S. Fullmer, Assassination of Joseph and Hyrum Smith … Also a Condensed History of the Expulsion of the Saints from Nauvoo (Liverpool: F. D. Richards, 1855). Especially pp. 30–40; final surrender articles on p. 39. Participant's later printing of the September 16, 1846 terms. Names Brockman as commander and Carlin as special constable and civil head of the posse. The reproduced excerpt is taken from the facsimile retained in the Carlin biography. It is typeset, not an autograph treaty; visible damage is retained. Digitized pamphlet

[18] Hancock County 1850 census transcription, p. 273B, dwelling and family 51. ILGenWeb transcription lists "Luceus Parker," age 32, farmer, born New Hampshire, $50 real estate; Harriet N., age 33, Vermont-born, and children with New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Illinois birthplaces. Original image not compared. Household is a candidate for the 1850 assignee, not a proved parcel owner from the census alone. Census transcription

[19] FamilySearch public family profile, Lucius Parker, 1819–1891, LV7V-1ZV. Compiled profile identifies Harriet N. Lawton and a Carthage death and Moss Ridge burial. Its household resembles the census candidate. It does not establish a relationship to John Davis Parker or a chain to Lot 2, Block 14. This is a research lead rather than a substitute for the deed, assignment, and vital records. Family-profile lead

[20] Reused research: John Davis Parker and the Four Dollar Claim; Joseph Smith Papers, "Parker, John Davis." David Larsen's prior illustrated biography supplies the precise comparison target: born Saratoga County, New York, in 1799, son of Abel Parker and Mary Davies/Davis. His LDS, civic, military, and fraternal record is not transferred to Lucius. No common ancestor or documented kinship link emerged from the material compared. John Davis Parker registry

[21] FamilySearch public family profile, Elizabeth Adaline Owen, 1819–1852, M7KL-H6Q. Compiled entry supplies Andrew Byron Welch as husband, a Hancock County marriage on May 26, 1835, and Carthage family connections. These are candidate-identity clues. The owner's defendant is Andrew B. Welch; the middle-name expansion and complete household identity are not treated as proved. Welch household lead

[22] Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas, “Wonder quilt, variation of Capenter’s Star pattern,” accession 1983.0029. Catalog gives Martha A. Kinsgston Haggard, 1815–1899, as artist, dates the pieced cotton quilt 1895–1897, and credits the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Clark Langworthy. Catalog spelling is retained here; the family book uses Kington and the familiar pattern is Carpenter’s Star. Strong identification with the later-life quilt maker, but full provenance not examined. Object image is linked, not embedded; the quilt is not the earlier covering over county money. Museum object record

[23] Missouri Office of Administration, Hall of Governors: Lilburn Boggs; Joseph Smith Papers, letter to Sylvester Bartlett, May 22, 1842. The governor’s biography and the editorial history of the 1842 shooting establish that Boggs survived the attempt and lived until 1860. They disprove the governor-killing premise in Martha’s 1899 account. Her attributed dialogue, bullet count, and assailant identification are not independently established by her claimed proximity. Missouri historical profile • 1842 shooting context

[24] Joseph Smith Papers, venditioni exponas terminology and a comparable execution instrument. Venditioni Exponas, November 11, 1845, Coolidge, Administrator of the Estate of JS v. Reynolds and Wilson. The writ directs sale of property already taken in execution. This is legal context, not the missing April 8, 1843 writ in the owner’s case; no collateral or debt amount is imported from the comparison. Comparable writ and glossary context

[25] Reused archival lead: Hancock County 1845 Tax Redemption Project Notes. David Larsen Library research identifies the FamilySearch catalog series Certificates of levy and redemption, 1841–1956, including an index; FHL film 1,516,716, items 2–5; DGS 8576212. These are pointers for the Book of Old Certificates reference, not a claim that the owner’s entry or p. 103 has been read. The April 1850 deed and Haggard’s assignment remain unrecovered.

[26] A. T. Andreas, An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Hancock County, Illinois (Chicago, 1874), p. 10. Hancock County courthouse view, reproduced from the image already retained in the Source-Linked Reading Edition of Credit, Commerce, and Conflict and the Bagby–Bettisworth project. Later enlargement and alterations are visible. It illustrates the courthouse setting, not Welch’s lot or the exact 1843 exterior. Digitized atlas

[27] “People v. William Fraim: A Transcript of the Court File from Lincoln’s Least Successful Murder Defense,” March 19, 2016. Author’s online transcription identifies the April 23, 1839 jury entry as Lincoln Legal Papers document 58304 and includes Andrew B. Welch, Daniel H. Wells, and James Welch. The underlying court image was not collated here. This is a precisely identified documentary lead, not proof of Welch’s family ties or views of the Saints. Published court-file transcription The final attempt did not yield the underlying court image; the document number and jury reading remain the prior transcription lead.

[28] History of the Church, vol. 7, chapter 37, December 23, 1845 account, pp. 549–551. Compiled church account of William Miller’s arrest when mistaken for Brigham Young. At the Carthage tavern William Backenstos identified Miller; Jacob B. Backenstos’s subsequent hospitality is a separate action by the other brother. The episode is attributed, not treated as a newly verified verbatim conversation. Mistaken-identity arrest narrative

[29] Joseph Smith Papers, “Introduction to JS v. Reynolds and Wilson.” Editorial reconstruction of the action arising from Smith’s 1843 arrest, the judgment, and subsequent estate collection proceedings. Read with William’s March 1845 assignment, note 7. This case is separate from Haggard and Barnes v. Welch. Case introduction

[30] Reused research: Credit, Commerce, and Conflict, Source-Linked Reading Edition, October 2026. Approved David Larsen report archived in the Matthews–Robison project folder. Reused for Chauncey Robison’s separate private obligation, offices, and established source distinctions, and for the retained courthouse illustration. The 1840 school note and the present 1843 sale certificate are separate documents and do not share a proved underlying debt.

[31] Emma Smith’s niece and the October 3, 1843 wedding. Joseph Smith Papers, Journal, Book 3, page [115], kept by Willard Richards; editorial note 223 identifies Clara Wasson as daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth Hale Wasson and niece of Emma Smith, citing Recollections of the Pioneers of Lee County (1893), pp. 57, 96. The original journal page was viewed online and confirms the evening wedding at the Mansion. The approximately hundred-couple opening dinner is a distinct, earlier gathering. The photographed page is linked, not embedded. Journal and family identification • Original journal image

[32] Michael Barnes Jr., affidavit, August 13, 1844, printed in Joseph H. Jackson, A Narrative of the Adventures and Experience of Joseph H. Jackson, in Nauvoo (Warsaw: Office of the Warsaw Signal, 1844), pp. 31–32. Online historical transcription compared with the text layer of the University of Illinois copy of Karl Yost’s 1960 reprint; the latter is not an original 1844 scan. The two relevant reprint page images could not be rendered in the finishing pass, so a fresh word-by-word image collation is not claimed. Barnes reports Jackson’s stated purpose, belief about a shooting, and desire for revenge. Those intentions and beliefs are attributed to Jackson. Thomas L. Barnes and Alexander W. Barnes have separate affidavits. No original signed manuscript or authorization for publication was recovered. Historical text, pp. 31–32 • 1960 reprint PDF

[33] John Taylor's Nauvoo journal: September 15–17, 1845, edited by Dean C. Jessee, "The John Taylor Nauvoo Journal, January 1845–September 1845," BYU Studies 23, no. 3 (1983). The edition transcribes a manuscript mostly in George Q. Cannon's hand. Relevant manuscript pages [128]–[130]; current PDF pages labeled 83–85 (PDF leaves 86–88). These PDF page images were visually inspected. They preserve Taylor's avoidance of the officer, copies of William H. Fellows's September 16 declaration and Sarah Ann Everts's September 17 declaration (signature rendered Evarts), and the report of the Carthage recorder's expulsion. The declarations are grouped beneath a September 16 journal heading even though the second is dated September 17; their individual oath dates control. Their differing wheat estimates do not establish separate farms or a combined loss. The declarations use Michael Barnes without "Jr."; their identification with the constable remains part of the strong local correlation, not an independent family proof. These are journal copies of allegations, not surviving autograph affidavits or adjudications. Original residences, judicial disposition, and individual perpetrators of Robison's expulsion remain unproved. Edited journal and notes • PDF, declarations and continuation

[34] Carthage meeting, November 18, 1845. Resolution printed in Stanley B. Kimball, "Thomas L. Barnes, Coroner of Carthage," BYU Studies 11, no. 2 (1971), from the Mayson Brayman papers at the Chicago Historical Society Library, according to note 12. Printed signatories distinguish the drafting committee from Thomas L. Barnes, secretary, and Elam S. Freeman, chairman. The resolutions reject burning and killing while reaffirming a policy of Mormon departure. The document is used as a named contemporary meeting record through this publication, not as evidence that Michael Barnes attended, spoke, or served as secretary. Thomas's 1897 letters quoted in the same article are likewise not Michael's words. Published resolution and source note