# A Hundred Acres at the Courthouse Door

*Hezekiah Spillman, Franklin Wilcox, and their Hancock County neighbors*

Illustrated reading edition • 15 October 2026

## Highlights

At the courthouse door in Carthage on March 1, 1841, Sheriff William D. Abernathy offered one hundred acres of Hezekiah Spillman's land for sale. Four creditors became the purchasers. Their bids added up to $348.08, and the sheriff's signature put the transaction on paper. But the land's story was not yet over. [1]

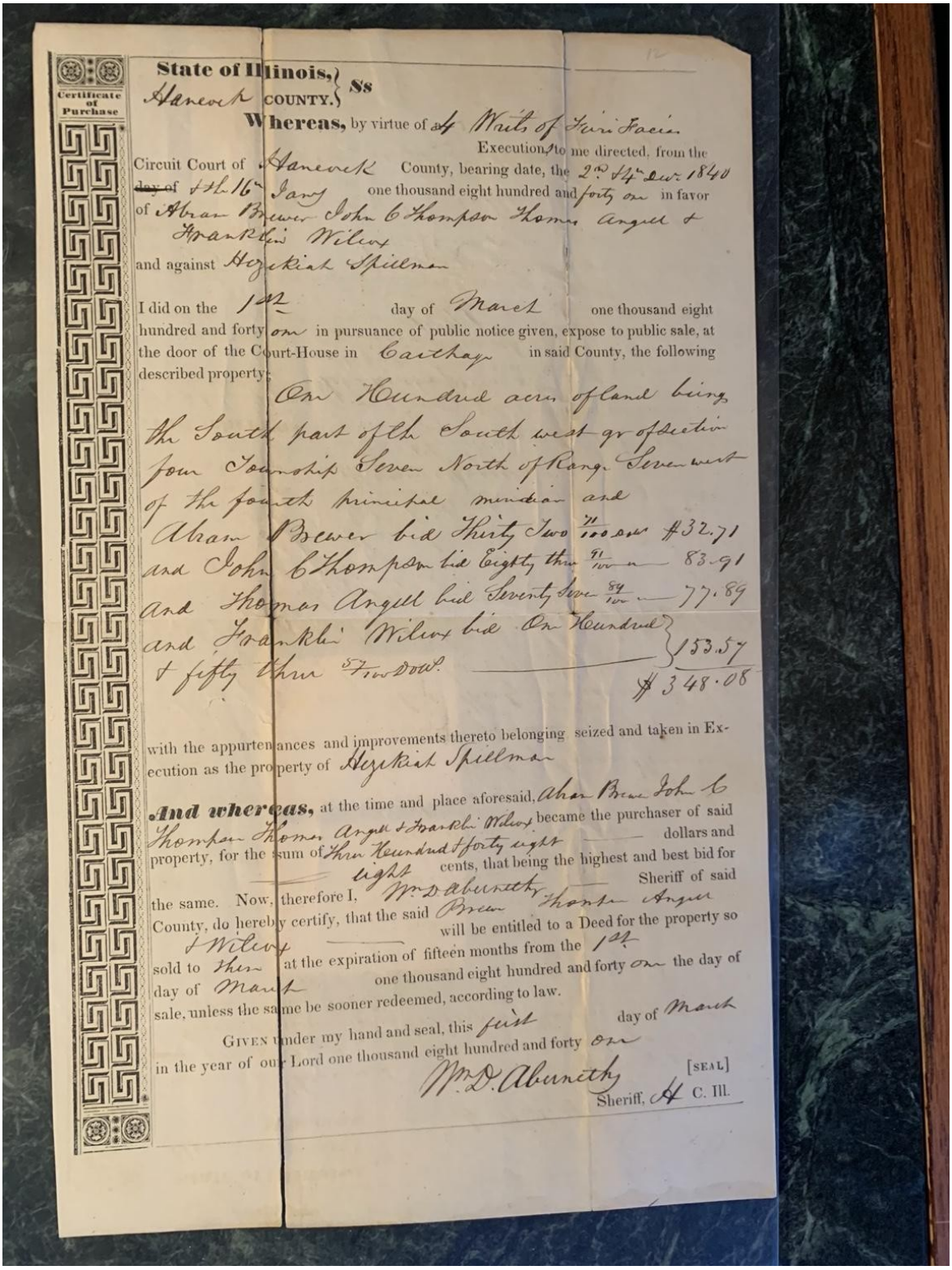
For the Saints gathering to Nauvoo, settling a new home also meant becoming somebody's neighbor. This certificate introduces people in that surrounding world: a river pioneer, a landowner related to Isaac Galland, a sheriff who later organized opposition to the Saints, and a clerk who became a militia officer and left an account of the crisis at Carthage. Their lives help explain the human relationships behind county government, commerce, and conflict. [2–7, 12, 21–26]

The purchasers had to wait fifteen months for a deed, and Spillman could recover the property through redemption before then. Whether he did so remains unknown. The sale itself is not evidence of religious persecution; its significance lies in the people it brings together. [1]

Project reference: Hezekiah Spillman versus Franklin Wilcox. The certificate names four creditors and purchasers—Abram Brewer, John C. Thompson, Thomas Angel, and Franklin Wilcox—against Spillman.

The original paper and its transcription come first. The story then follows the river settlements, the people behind the names, and the fifteen-month interval between a sale and a possible deed.

# The original certificate



Certificate of Purchase

State of Illinois, } ss
Hancock COUNTY. }

Whereas, by virtue of 4 Writs of Fieri Facias
Execution, to me directed, from the Circuit Court of Hancock County, bearing date, the 2d 4th day of Nov. 1840 ~~day of~~ 16th January one thousand eight hundred and forty one in favor of Abram Brewer John C Thompson Thomas Angell & Franklin Wilcox and against Hezekiah Spillman

I did on the 1st day of March one thousand eight hundred and forty one in pursuance of public notice given, expose to public sale, at the door of the Court-House in Carthage in said County, the following described property:

One Hundred acres of land being the South part of the South west qr of section four Township Seven North of Range Seven west of the fourth principal meridian and

Abram Brewer bid Thirty Two 71/100 dollars $32.71
and John C Thompson bid Eighty three 91/100 " 83.91
and Thomas Angell bid Seventy Seven 89/100 " 77.89
and Franklin Wilcox bid One Hundred & fifty three 57/100 dollars 153.57
$348.08

with the appurtenances and improvements thereto belonging seized and taken in Execution as the property of Hezekiah Spillman

**And whereas,** at the time and place aforesaid, Abram Brewer John C Thompson Thomas Angell & Franklin Wilcox became the purchaser of said property, for the sum of Three Hundred & forty eight ~~eight~~ dollars and cents, that being the highest and best bid for the same. Now, therefore I, Wm D Abernethy Sheriff of said County, do hereby certify, that the said Brewer Thompson Angell & Wilcox will be entitled to a Deed for the property so sold to them at the expiration of fifteen months from the 1st day of March one thousand eight hundred and forty one the day of sale, unless the same be sooner redeemed, according to law.

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

Wm D. Abernethy [SEAL]
Sheriff, H. C. Ill.

Figure 1. Front of the certificate, rotated upright from the supplied photograph. Sale dated March 1, 1841. Private document supplied for this project. [1]

## The clerk records the sale

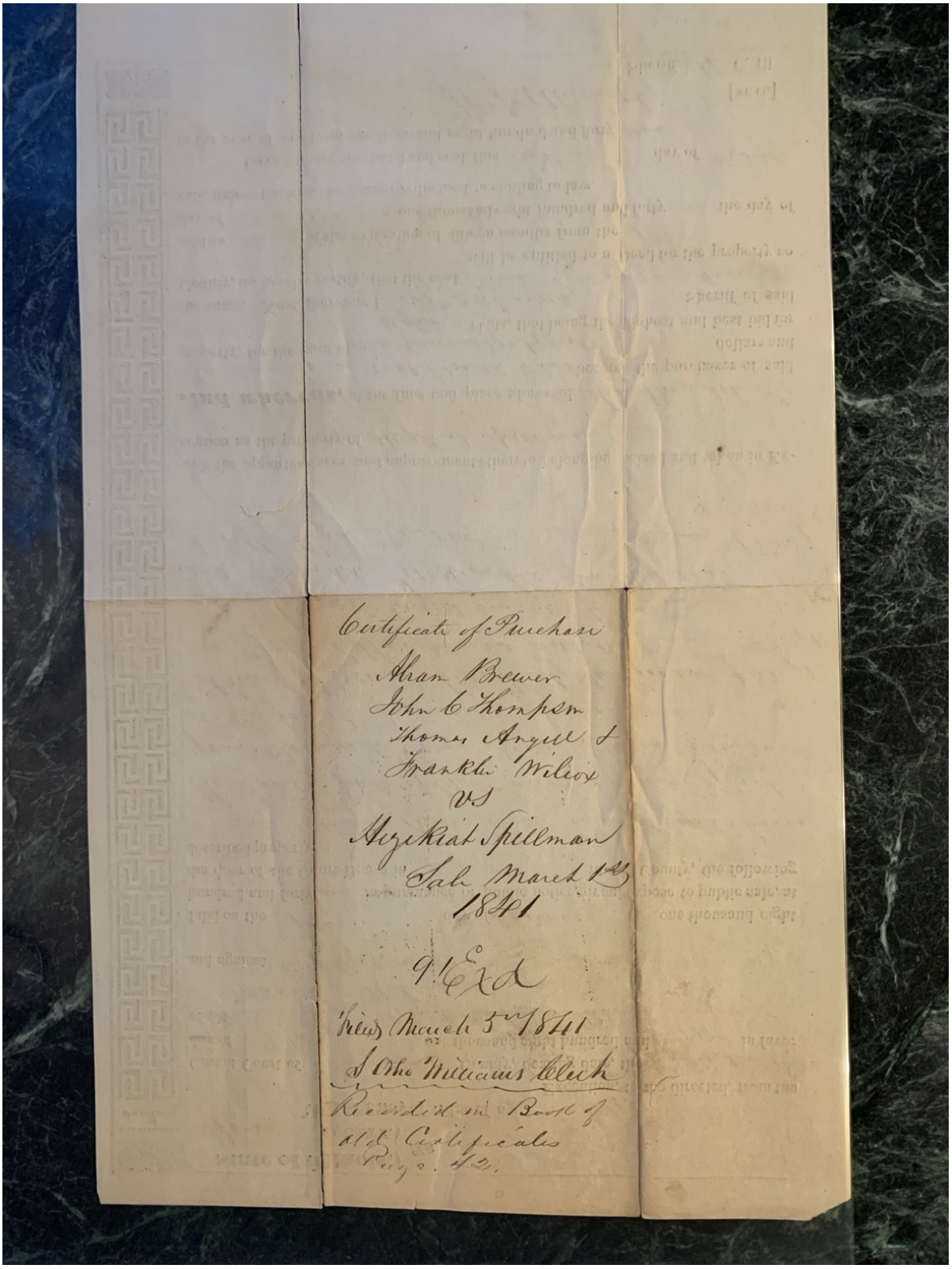



Figure 2. Reverse endorsement. Filed March 5, 1841, and recorded on page 42 of a certificate book. The clerk signs S. Otho Williams. [1]

## Reading the certificate

The following is a reading transcription. Capitalization and punctuation are lightly regularized; monetary abbreviations are expanded. Brackets mark uncertain readings. This is not a diplomatic transcription preserving every pen stroke or line break. [1]

State of Illinois, Hancock County. Whereas, by virtue of [4] Writs of Fieri Facias Execution, to me directed, from the Circuit Court of Hancock County, bearing date, the [2nd & 4th Dec. 1840 & the 16th Jany 1841], in favor of Abram Brewer, John C. Thompson, Thomas Angel & Franklin Wilcox, and against Hezekiah Spillman:

I did on the 1st day of March, one thousand eight hundred and forty one, in pursuance of public notice given, expose to public sale, at the door of the Court-House in Carthage in said County, the following described property:

One Hundred acres of land being the South part of the South west qr of section four Township Seven North of Range Seven west of the fourth principal meridian. And Abram Brewer bid Thirty Two 71/100 dollars, $32.71; and John C. Thompson bid Eighty three 91/100, $83.91; and Thomas Angell bid Seventy Seven 89/100, $77.89; and Franklin Wilcox bid One Hundred & fifty three 57/100 dollars, $153.57. [Total] $348.08.

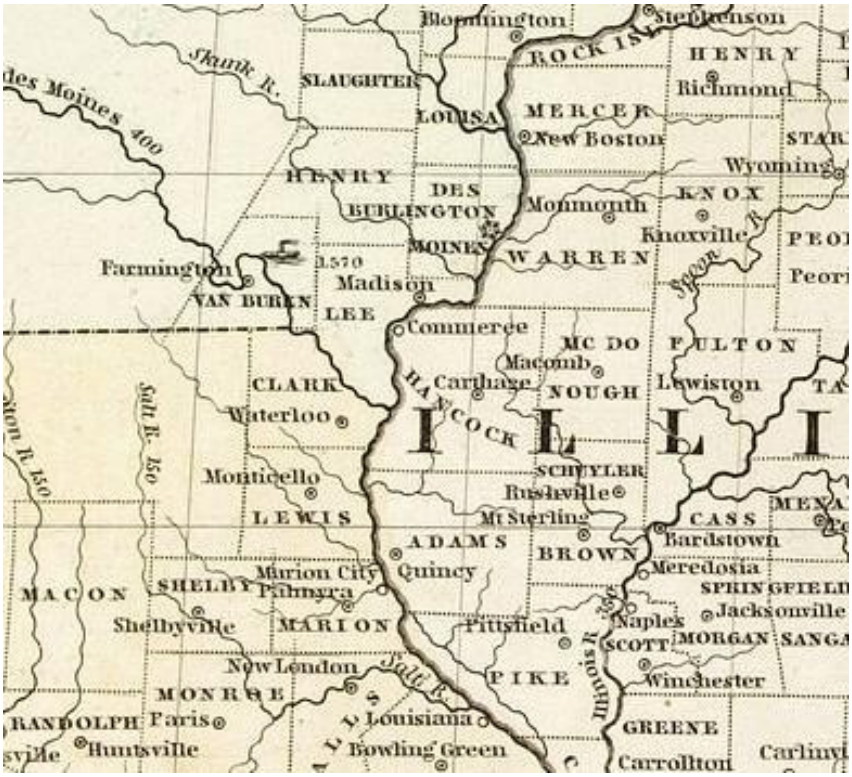
With the appurtenances and improvements thereto belonging, seized and taken in Execution as the property of Hezekiah Spillman.

And whereas, at the time and place aforesaid, Abram Brewer, John C. Thompson, Thomas Angel & Franklin Wilcox became the purchaser of said property, for the sum of Three Hundred & forty eight dollars and eight cents, that being the highest and best bid for the same. Now, therefore I, Wm. D. Abernathy, Sheriff of said County, do hereby certify, that the said Brewer, Thompson, Angel & Wilcox will be entitled to a Deed for the property so sold to them at the expiration of fifteen months from the 1st day of March one thousand eight hundred and forty one, the day of sale, unless the same be sooner redeemed, according to law.

Given under my hand and seal, this first day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty one. Wm. D. Abernathy, Sheriff, H. C. Ill.

Reverse: Certificate of Purchase / Abram Brewer / John C. Thompson / Thomas Angel & / Franklin Wilcox / vs / Hezekiah Spillman / Sale March 1st 1841 / [brief notation uncertain] / Filed March 5th 1841 / S. Otho Williams Clerk / Recorded in Book of [old?] Certificates / Page 42.

## The river country




Commerce, Carthage, and the Mississippi corridor, detail from Smith’s Map of the Western States, a sheet bearing an 1839 copyright. Commerce was incorporated into Nauvoo; Pontoosuc lies farther north along the river and is not labeled in this detail. [20]

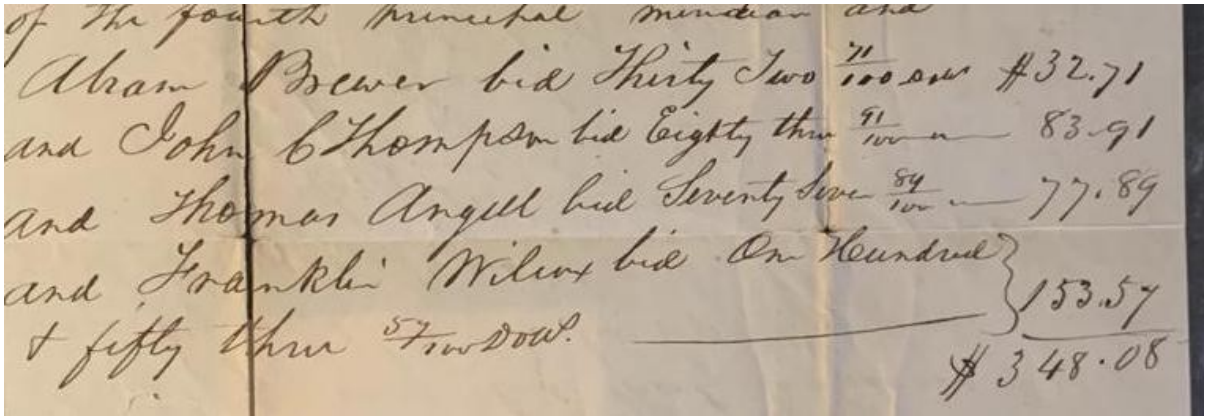
The Mississippi joined the settlements on its two banks. Spillman’s northern Hancock County world and Wilcox’s movements between Illinois and Iowa belong to this same river landscape.

## A hundred acres at the courthouse door

The amounts were unequal, but each name earned a place on the certificate. Abram Brewer’s bid was the smallest, $32.71. John C. Thompson’s was $83.91, Thomas Angel’s $77.89, and Franklin Wilcox’s $153.57. Together they acquired the purchaser’s rights described by the sheriff. [1]

Spillman’s land lay in northern Hancock County: the south one hundred acres of the southwest quarter of Section 4, Township 7 North, Range 7 West, measured from the Fourth Principal Meridian. The description is precise about the ground and silent about what stood on it. Any improvements were included, but no house, ferry, or woodyard is specifically named. [1]

The court had authorized the sheriff to sell property to satisfy the creditors’ claims. The certificate appears to refer to four writs issued in December 1840 and January 1841. In other words, several legal demands had converged on the same hundred acres. [1]



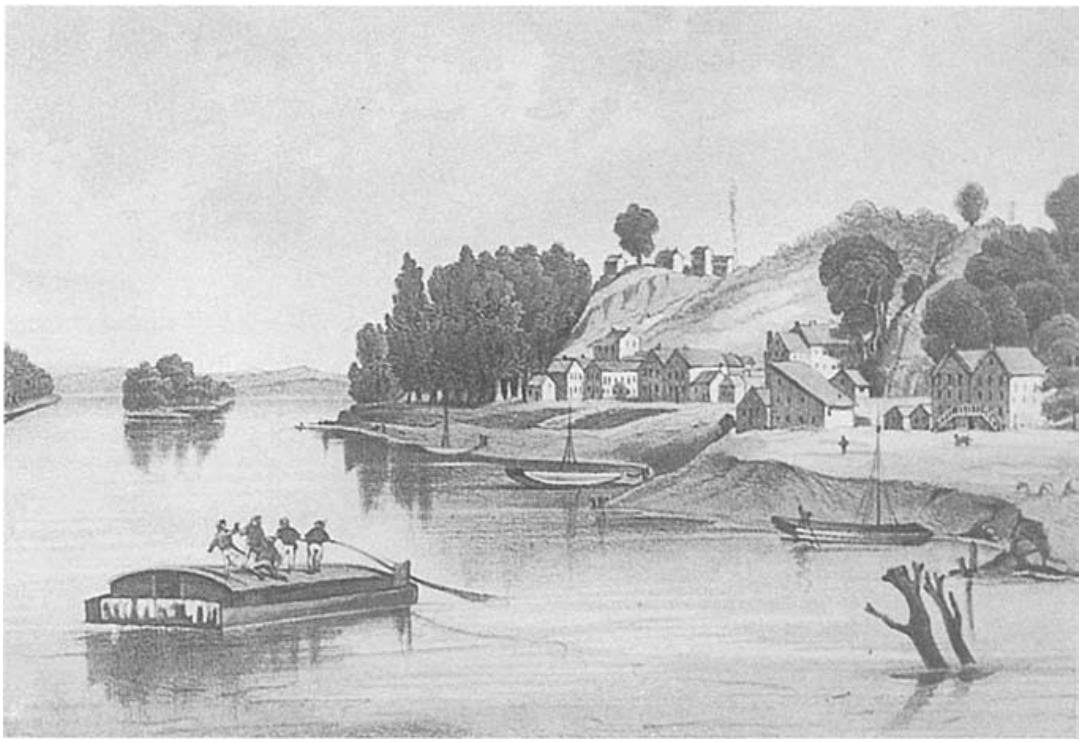

Four bids on one sheet. Detail of the original certificate, showing the individual amounts and the total. [1]

Wilcox's bid accounted for about 44 percent of the total. The certificate lists all four men as purchasers, without dividing the land into separate lots or explaining their arrangement. The $348.08 was a forced-sale price, not an appraisal of everything the property might have been worth.

The debts that brought them to Carthage remain behind the curtain. The paper preserves the sale rather than the original bargains. To understand why this transaction matters, we must leave the courthouse for a moment and follow Spillman back to the river.

## The man whose name marked the river

Spillman was no passing stranger. Thomas Gregg's county history places him in the area by 1825 and describes Spillman's Landing, where he operated a ferry and a woodyard serving steamboats. A landing carrying a man's name suggests how local geography could grow around the practical work of crossing a river and supplying its traffic. [2]



Warsaw on the Mississippi, after Henry Lewis. This later view evokes the river traffic that sustained places such as Spillman's Landing; it does not depict his ferry or woodyard. Lithograph published 1854–1858; black-and-white reproduction. [19]

Gregg also places Spillman in the early work of local government. He appears among jurors associated with the region's first courts, including the Hancock County petit jury of 1829. Another name in that jury list is John R. Wilcox. That is a connection across the settlement generation, though it does not prove any particular friendship or business arrangement. [3]

In April 1837, Spillman joined Marvin Tryon and James W. Brattle in laying out Pontoosuc. Gregg's account also remembers a blockhouse there during the Black Hawk War period. The river settlements had grown through years when transportation, town building, and defense were close neighbors. [4]

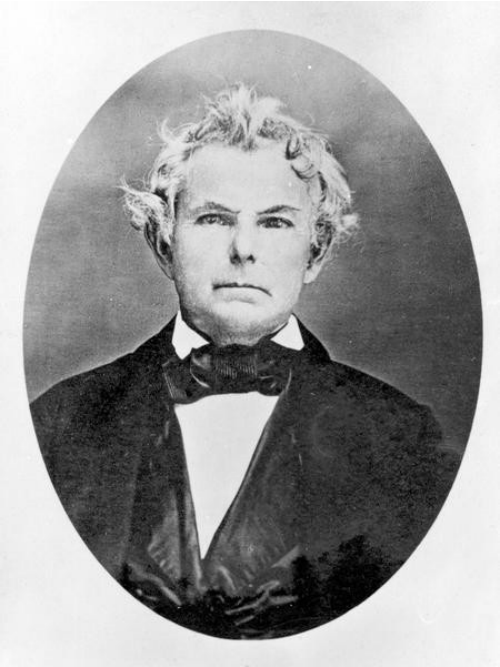
Four years after the town plat, Spillman's land was exposed to a sheriff's sale. The certificate offers a glimpse of the financial pressures behind a pioneer's public accomplishments. The man remembered for a landing and a town could also be a man pressed by creditors.

Spillman did not disappear from the surviving local record after the sale. An April 7, 1845, Nauvoo Neighbor tax list names a spelling variant, Hesikiah Spillman, together with Brattle and Tryon in connection with Pontoosuc lots. The publication concerns unpaid taxes for 1844. These are town-lot entries, and they must not be treated as proof that he retained or redeemed the hundred acres sold in 1841. [5]

The landing, town plat, and tax notice belong to one continuing local story. A familiar name could appear on a riverbank, in the county's recollections, and in a newspaper's list of overdue taxes.

## The Wilcox family crosses the story

Franklin Wilcox leads us across the Mississippi into a family whose affairs repeatedly crossed the river. The likely purchaser was the Vermont-born Franklin who later served in the Iowa legislature. His recorded residence at Commerce and his property interests there fit the man on the certificate. [6]



Isaac Galland, about 1850, unidentified photographer. Church History Library; published by the Joseph Smith Papers. He married Franklin Wilcox's sister Elizabeth in 1833. [7]

His sister Elizabeth had married Isaac Galland in 1833. Galland sold land to the Latter-day Saints as they gathered in the area, received baptism from Joseph Smith in July 1839, and became a church land agent. Elizabeth's name appears with his in surviving conveyances. Franklin's family thus stood close to the transactions through which the new settlement took shape. [7]

The property lists supply another connection. In 1841, Franklin Wilcox's name appears beside Lot 7, Block 11, of Commerce, assessed at $175. In the following year's first-ward list, Franklin Wilcocks appears against the same lot and block at $200. The old town's name and property descriptions continued to live inside the growing city of Nauvoo. [8–9]

Born in Vermont on June 24, 1810, to Pliny Wilcox and Mary Remele, Franklin moved through Ohio and the river country of Iowa and Illinois. His later years brought farming, local office, and a term in the Iowa legislature in 1862–1864. His biography describes a Congregational upbringing and no later church affiliation. Galland's religious path was different: he withdrew from church activity about 1842. Kinship joined the men without making their beliefs identical. [6–7]

Behind the public offices were changes in his household. His first wife, Maria Johnson, died in 1844. In 1845 he married Harriet Eliza Weeks. The surviving family accounts carry Franklin well beyond the courthouse sale into an Iowa life of farming and public service. [10]

## The sheriff in a changing county

William D. Abernathy signed the certificate in his official capacity. In other records his surname appears as Abernethy. The Joseph Smith Papers identifies him as a Connecticut-born merchant, postmaster, farmer, and sheriff, born in 1801. His career helps connect the early county's commercial life with its public offices. The same biographical entry records an attempt to arrest Joseph Smith in September 1840. [11]

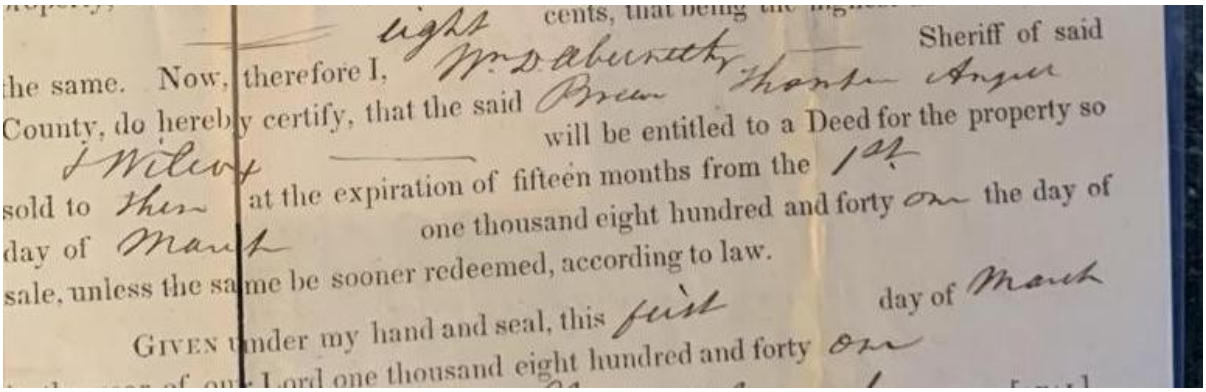
In 1842 Abernathy stood as the anti-Mormon candidate for school commissioner and lost. His later activities give that political label substance: meeting secretary, precinct organizer, and correspondent

who distrusted Mormon electoral support. His expanded biography below follows those connections into the county courts. None establishes a religious motive for the 1841 sale itself. [12, 21–24]

The clerk's pen carried the transaction into the county record. S. Otho Williams marked the certificate filed on March 5, four days after the sale, and recorded it on page 42. Three years later, this same clerk would be a Carthage militia officer writing about the deaths of Joseph and Hyrum Smith. The quiet endorsement on the reverse leads into a much more troubled chapter. [1, 25]

## The fifteen month question

Fifteen months is a long time when a hundred acres are at stake. Under the certificate's terms, the purchasers would become entitled to a deed after that interval unless the property was redeemed sooner. Counted from March 1, 1841, the waiting period reached June 1, 1842. [1]




The waiting period. The certificate promises a deed after fifteen months unless the property is redeemed sooner. Detail of the original. [1]

Redemption meant using the legal process to recover the property before the purchasers' right to a deed became final. A nearby example shows that this was a real possibility. In Gray v. A. Allen, an August 1841 certificate used the same fifteen-month arrangement; a later receipt records money Joseph Smith paid toward redemption in July 1842. Spillman's own outcome is still unknown. [13]

The sale had happened, but the deed was still in the future. Between them stood money, time, and the chance of redemption. The certificate catches that interval precisely.

The clerk's reference to page 42 offers a way to pursue the missing ending. A later receipt or deed may yet tell us whether Spillman recovered the tract or whether the purchasers completed the transfer.

The land's final disposition remains beyond this sheet. The people's stories carry farther: into Nauvoo's property lists, anti-Mormon organizing, and an account of the crisis at Carthage. For an LDS reader, their significance is in those particular connections. The Saints lived among neighbors whose choices mattered, and whose motives cannot all be recovered. The certificate gives us a place to begin meeting them.

# The lives behind the names

Some names lead into public careers and religious conflict. Others survive most clearly in the transaction itself.

### Hezekiah Spillman

An early Hancock County settler associated with a Mississippi River landing, ferry, and steamboat woodyard; participant in early jury service; and one of the named founders of Pontoosuc. The 1841 certificate establishes his ownership interest in the land seized and sold. Later Pontoosuc tax notices extend the local trail. His exact birth and death particulars, full family structure, faith, lodge membership, and attitude toward the Saints require stronger identification than the sources assembled here provide. [1–5]

# The people behind the signatures

### Franklin Wilcox

The likely purchaser is Franklin Wilcox, 1810–1900, later of Des Moines County, Iowa. The legislative biography gives a first marriage to Maria Johnson, who died in 1844, and a second marriage to Harriet Eliza Weeks in 1845. It describes years of farming and service as justice of the peace, sheriff, supervisor, and legislator. His sister Elizabeth's marriage to Isaac Galland is important to this project. Neither kinship nor Nauvoo property ownership establishes his religious or political sympathies. His local militia and Masonic affiliations remain unestablished. [6–10]

### William D Abernathy

William D. Abernethy was born April 8, 1801, in Harwinton, Connecticut, and died July 3, 1850, at Warsaw, Illinois, during a cholera outbreak. He married Evelina Hawley in 1833 and served as Augusta's first postmaster. His work as merchant, farmer, and sheriff placed him within the county's commercial and civic life. An Augusta church history names Evelina among Presbyterian founders; her membership does not establish his own. [11, 14]

#### An election did not end his opposition

The sheriff's name on Spillman's certificate belongs to a man whose relationship with the Saints became publicly adversarial. In 1842 he sought the office of school commissioner on the Anti-Mormon ticket. He lost, receiving very few Nauvoo votes. Opposition therefore preceded defeat. The surviving evidence does not show that resentment over this election caused his later conduct, but it does show that he continued to work within organized opposition. [12]

#### The secretary and the resolutions

On August 19, 1843, Abernathy served as secretary of an anti-Mormon meeting at Carthage. The gathering deferred its substantive report until September 6. The subsequent proceedings again name him as secretary and place him with Alexander Oliver on the Augusta precinct committee. He was participating in the organization, not merely appearing in a list of residents. [21–22]

The September resolutions promised assistance with another lawful demand for Joseph Smith's arrest and pledged mutual support in a confrontation. They also threatened collective retaliation if alleged Mormon threats were carried out and prompt legal redress failed. Their ninth resolution declared that, under those conditions, they would:

> *"take summary and signal vengeance upon them as a people." [22]*

**Typeset excerpt from the September 6, 1843, meeting resolutions, reproduced in the manuscript history published by the Joseph Smith Papers. This is a reading excerpt, not a photograph of the original newspaper.**

The distinction is consequential. A threat against a people reached beyond prosecution of an individual accused of wrongdoing. Abernathy's secretary and committee roles connect him to the movement expressing that position. They do not establish that he composed this sentence, spoke it aloud, or personally carried out violence. The proceedings document an organizational commitment; they cannot supply his unrecorded private thoughts. [21–22]

### His own words to John J Hardin

A more personal voice survives in his March 19, 1844, letter to Congressman John J. Hardin. Abernathy described preparations for Henry Clay's presidential campaign: campaign literature, an almost-ready Clay pole, and enthusiastic Whig supporters. In that electoral setting, he wrote:

> *"Our Mormon neighbors cannot be relied on." [23]*

**Typeset excerpt from William D. Abernethy to John J. Hardin, March 19, 1844, as quoted in Junius and Joseph, p. 98. The cited original is in the Hardin Papers, Chicago Historical Society.**

Here the words are attributed to Abernathy himself. Their immediate subject was the Saints' dependability as political supporters. They reveal political distrust, not an explicit threat of physical harm. Nor does the quoted passage connect that distrust to his 1842 defeat. Read alongside his committee service, however, the letter makes it difficult to portray him as a detached observer of the county's divisions. [23]

### Back inside the courthouse

The story returned to the machinery of county justice in October 1845. Sheriff Jacob B. Backenstos wrote on October 21 that the grand and petit jury panels had been set aside and that Abernathy and another man had been appointed as elisors—persons appointed to summon jurors. Backenstos, an ally of the Saints, regarded the development as evidence that the court favored their opponents. [24]

That letter gives us the perspective of a participant who distrusted Abernathy. It documents the reported appointment and the alarm it caused; it does not independently prove that Abernathy selected a biased jury. For Saints seeking justice, however, the question of who summoned the jurors was practical and urgent. Political alignments could matter inside a courthouse as well as at an election. [24]

Abernathy's place in this narrative is therefore clearer than the phrase anti-Mormon candidate alone suggests. His public opposition continued through organizing, correspondence, and a contested role in court administration. The evidence supports that continuity. It leaves unanswered whether electoral defeat hardened his opinions, whether he punished individual voters, or whether he personally used violence against Church members. His biography can identify the choices the records preserve without turning an unproved motive into a fact.

## Abram Brewer

Brewer was a creditor and purchaser whose recorded bid was $32.71. An Abraham Brewer appears in accounts of early La Harpe settlement, but the shared name and county location do not establish that he was this creditor. His faith and position toward the Saints remain unknown. [1, 15]

### John C Thompson

Thompson's middle initial is a valuable clue. His recorded contribution was $83.91. Without an occupation, residence, age, or signature from a second source, the common surname creates too many possible matches. He should not be merged with better-known Thompson figures in Latter-day Saint history merely to give him a fuller biography. The court's judgment and execution records are the best next means of identification. [1]

### Thomas Angel or Angell

The form contains spelling variation, and searches must preserve both Angel and Angell. His recorded bid was $77.89. A Thomas Angel appears in neighboring Schuyler County tax and census material, but the connection to this creditor remains unverified. Truman O. Angell's published family account does not establish Thomas as a relative. A distant relationship remains possible; it has not been demonstrated. [1, 16–17]

### S Otho Williams

Samuel Otho Williams's endorsement on the reverse is easy to pass over. He filed the certificate on March 5, 1841, and entered it in the county's certificate book. For an LDS reader, however, this administrative signature has another significance: its writer later became a second lieutenant in the Carthage militia and left an account of the events surrounding the murders of Joseph and Hyrum Smith. [1, 25]

His earlier clerical work had already intersected with Joseph Smith's affairs. On November 30, 1840, Samuel Hicks swore an affidavit before Williams in litigation over the steamboat Nauvoo. Hicks accused the pilots of damaging the boat through improper navigation; Joseph Smith was among its owners. The Joseph Smith Papers identifies Williams's handwriting in the affidavit and its docket. Here we can see the Saints using the county's legal machinery, with Williams performing an official role. That service alone does not establish personal sympathy. [26]

On July 10, 1844, Williams wrote from Carthage to John Prickett about the destruction of the Nauvoo Expositor press and the capture and killing of the Smith brothers. The seven-page letter survives in the Chicago historical collections and was published in Cultures in Conflict. Its editors describe Williams as a nonmember who disliked the Saints, but who rejected the anti-Mormon label and denied involvement in the murder conspiracy. [25, 27]

That combination deserves room in the story. Williams provides a perspective from the militia community outside the jail, while his account also presents his own position after the killings. His denial is evidence of what he claimed, not an independent verdict. His commission likewise establishes military responsibility without proving that he joined the attackers. His position can be described as unsympathetic toward the Saints, with his precise personal conduct requiring separate evidence. [25]

The connection matters because county officials appear here in more than one setting. A clerk could receive papers involving Joseph Smith's business and later hold military office during the crisis that ended in his death. Following Williams across those settings helps us understand the people behind the institutions the Saints encountered. His signature belongs in the narrative, not only in the transcription.

## What the affiliations evidence supports

| Person | Supported conclusion | Still unestablished |
|---|---|---|
| Spillman | Early settler and local civic participant | Faith, lodge membership, stance toward Saints; exact militia entry |
| Wilcox | Nauvoo property connection; likely Galland family connection | Local militia or lodge membership; anti-Mormon organization |
| Abernathy | Anti-Mormon candidate in 1842; meeting secretary and precinct organizer in 1843; political distrust expressed in 1844 [12, 21–23] | Personal church membership; election-related retaliation; personal violence; religious motive for this sale |
| Brewer, Thompson, Angel | Creditors and purchasers in 1841 | Secure fuller identities and organizational affiliations |
| Isaac Galland | LDS baptism in 1839; later withdrawal about 1842 | Any inference that his brother-in-law shared his faith |
| S. Otho Williams | Carthage militia lieutenant; nonmember eyewitness account; unsympathetic toward Saints [25] | Personal participation in the killings; lodge membership; he denied conspiracy involvement |

“Unestablished” does not mean neutral, tolerant, hostile, or nonmember. It means that the evidence presented here does not support assigning that label. Beliefs and alliances could also change; any eventual classification should carry a date and a source.

## The next records that could change the story

The remaining questions concern the origins of the debts, the less certain identities, and the fate of the land. Cataloged court and redemption records offer the strongest next leads.

The Illinois State Archives lists Hancock County Circuit Court Case Files, 1829–1858, accession 2/0102/23; Circuit Court Index, 1830–1964, 2/0061/36; Circuit Court Record, 1829–1922, 2/0061/32; and Master’s and Sheriff’s Levy and Redemption Certificates, 1841–1956, 2/0102/29, at its Western Illinois University regional depository. [18]

The highest-value request is for the certificate-book entry on page 42 and related files naming Spillman or Spilman, Brewer, Thompson, Angel or Angell, and Wilcox in 1840–1842. A deed-index search for the south 100 acres of the southwest quarter of Section 4, Township 7 North, Range 7 West, should follow. These records could identify the debts, establish the men’s residences, and settle whether redemption occurred.

Identity and interpretation. The certificate does not establish a religious motive for the sale. Family ties and property ownership do not by themselves establish sympathy or hostility toward the Saints. Nor

does the Pontoosuc tax notice prove that Spillman retained the tract sold in 1841. Franklin's later biographies also contain compressed military references and an inconsistent date for a visit to his brother John R.; those details are excluded from the narrative. [5–10]

## Sources and research notes

Numbers in the text refer to the sources below. Later county histories and family biographies are distinguished from contemporary documents. Online transcriptions are useful finding aids; important disputed details should be checked against their scans or originals.


1. Certificate of Purchase, March 1, 1841, and reverse endorsement filed March 5, 1841. Two photographs supplied for this project. Original location and ownership not independently established. Uncertain writ dates and the abbreviated reverse notation remain flagged in the reading transcription.

2. Thomas Gregg, History of Hancock County, Illinois (1880), p. 473, "Spillman's Landing." Later county history. Open source

3. Gregg, History of Hancock County, early court and jury accounts, including p. 231. Later county history. Open source

4. Gregg, History of Hancock County, Pontoosuc account. Town plat and early settlement recollections. Open source

5. Nauvoo Neighbor, April 7, 1845, tax list, BYU Studies transcription. The listing concerns Pontoosuc lots and is not evidence of redemption of the 1841 acreage. Open source

6. Iowa Legislature, Franklin Wilcox historical legislator biography. Retrospective account; abbreviated military material requires comparison with fuller family biographies. Open source

7. Joseph Smith Papers, Isaac Galland biographical entry; see also Isaac and Elizabeth Wilcox Galland deed to Oliver Granger, May 29, 1839. Open source

8. Joseph Smith Papers, List of Property in the City of Nauvoo, 1841, pp. [96–97], Franklin Wilcox entry. The adjacent unnamed property line is not assigned to him here. Open source

9. Joseph Smith Papers, List of Property in Nauvoo, First Ward, 1842, Franklin Wilcocks entry. Open source

10. Iowa Legislature, Franklin Wilcox historical document compilation, including newspaper obituary and 1888 and 1915 biographical accounts. Compare father and son military entries and the inconsistent 1841 visit to John R. Wilcox. Open source

11. Joseph Smith Papers, William D. Abernethy biographical entry. Its identification of him with a mob is a separate claim requiring attention to the cited evidentiary context before developing a murder narrative. Open source

12. Joseph Smith Papers, Letter from William S. Wright, July 24, 1842, editorial context citing Warsaw Signal, July 23, 1842, p. 3, "August Election." Open source

13. Joseph Smith Papers, Certificate, August 2, 1841, copy, Gray v. A. Allen, p. 2 and editorial notes concerning redemption. Used only as a contemporary local comparison. Open source

14. Hancock County church histories, Augusta Presbyterian founding members, Genealogy Trails transcription. Evelina's membership is not proof of her husband's. Open source

15. Gregg, History of Hancock County, La Harpe settlement account. Abraham Brewer remains a candidate identification for Abram Brewer. Open source

16. Schuyler County 1838 tax roll and 1840 census transcriptions, Genealogy Trails. Same-name leads only. Open source

17. Truman O. Angell, biographical study in Supporting Saints, Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University. No proven connection to the creditor Thomas Angel. Open source

18. Illinois State Archives, Local Governmental Records Holdings, Hancock County. Catalog evidence establishes holdings, not the contents or survival of a particular case. Open source

19. Henry Lewis, Warsaw view, lithograph published 1854–1858; Saint Louis Art Museum catalog. Black-and-white reproduction recovered from the earlier Commerce report, which credits the publisher preview of Hallwas and Launius, Cultures in Conflict. The historic title says Iowa; the scene is Warsaw, Illinois. Open source

20. Smith's Map of the Western States Designed to Accompany Smith's Geography for Schools. Detail from a sheet bearing copyright 1839, cataloged by Paulus Swaen, lot 46614. A detached sheet's copyright does not independently establish its printing date. Image reused from the earlier Commerce report. Open source

21. Anti-Mormon meeting, August 19, 1843, proceedings reproduced in History, 1838–1856, volume E-1, addenda p. 3, Joseph Smith Papers. Editorial citation: Warsaw Message, September 13, 1843, p. 1. Abernethy is named secretary; the report was deferred. Open source

22. September 6, 1843, proceedings, same history, addenda pp. 6–7. Page 6 contains resolutions including the conditional collective-retaliation language; page 7 names Abernethy on the Augusta committee and as secretary. These are reproduced proceedings in a later manuscript compilation, not a surviving autograph by Abernethy. Open source • Committee and secretary listing

23. William D. Abernethy to John J. Hardin, March 19, 1844, quoted in Robert S. Wicks and Fred R. Foister, Junius and Joseph, p. 98 and note 14. Original cited there: Hardin Papers, Chicago Historical Society. The excerpt is taken from the scholarly quotation, not an independently inspected original letter. Open source

24. Jacob B. Backenstos letter, October 21, 1845, reproduced in History of the Church, vol. 7, chapter 34, pp. 483–484, BYU Studies online edition. An interested contemporary's report of the jury appointments and his reaction, not a judicial finding of jury manipulation. Open source

25. John E. Hallwas and Roger D. Launius, eds., Cultures in Conflict (1995), pp. 222–226, Samuel Otho Williams letter and editorial introduction. The introduction establishes his rank, nonmembership, attitude, and denial of conspiracy. These are distinguished from proof of his actions during the attack. Open source

26. Samuel Hicks affidavit before S. Otho Williams, November 30, 1840, Miller et al. v. B. Holladay and W. Holladay, Joseph Smith Papers. The allegations concerning the steamboat are Hicks's sworn assertions, not findings of fact. Open source

27. Stanley B. Kimball, Sources of Mormon History in Illinois, Southern Illinois University bibliographic guide, entry for Samuel Otho Williams to John Prickett, Carthage, July 10, 1844, seven pages. Provides date, recipient, and subject description of the manuscript letter. Open source