The Stonehouse of Benjamin H Brooks

NAUVOO, ILLINOIS • SEPTEMBER 1849

The alleged home invasion by William Brooks, Elizabeth Brooks, Nancy Hendrix, Margaret Hendrix, Claudius T. Hendrix, and Claudius Hendrix; the alleged imprisonment of Deborah Brooks; and the alleged attempted murder of John Hines and James Brooks.

(The house is traditionally associated with the Upper Stone House, the original home of Captain James White, acquired in the 1839 land purchase by Joseph Smith and his associates.)

Warrant issued on a sworn complaint, signed by Chauncey Robison, Justice of the Peace, on 27 September 1849, and executed by Marshal Jonathan Calkins Wright, an early Latter-day Saint convert baptized at Nauvoo in 1843.



The house identified as Captain James White's in a 1906 historical publication. Its identification with the Brooks residence in the warrant remains unconfirmed.

Image: Orville F. Berry, "The Mormon Settlement in Illinois," Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society for the Year 1906, plate following p. 92; description on p. 100. Digitized by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

The Stonehouse of Benjamin H Brooks

With an Extended Biography of Early LDS Church Member Jonathan Calkins Wright

An LDS civic officer in post-exodus Nauvoo and the investigation of an 1849 property conflict

Executive Summary

This report interprets the 27 September 1849 warrant through the career of the officer who executed it, Jonathan Calkins Wright. Wright was an early Latter-day Saint convert and former Nauvoo municipal officer who remained in the Nauvoo–western Iowa sphere after the principal 1846 exodus. His Church assignments included protecting livestock, encouraging scattered Saints to gather, and serving as an acting bishop while families prepared for migration west. At the same time, he continued to perform civic duties. His return on this warrant is a surviving example of those religious, migration, and civil responsibilities overlapping in post-exodus Nauvoo.

The warrant arose when Nauvoo justice of the peace Chauncey Robison received a sworn complaint alleging that six members of the Brooks and Hendrix families had forcibly occupied a stone house used by Benjamin H. Brooks and his family. The complaint alleged removal of furniture, confinement of Deborah Brooks, violence against John Hines, and a pistol shot directed at James Brooks. Wright served four of the accused and brought them to the courthouse. The surviving document does not record the hearing or its outcome.

The Hendrix defendants can be identified with reasonable confidence as one household headed by Claudius Townsend Hendrix and Margaret Hendrix, accompanied by their daughter Nancy and their son Claudius T. Hendrix. Their documented movement from Washington County, Iowa, through Nauvoo and onward to Arkansas indicates a brief Nauvoo residence. Benjamin and Deborah Brooks are substantially identified, but the precise relationships among the opposing Brooks and Hendrix parties remain incompletely proven. John Hines remains unidentified.

The traditional Captain James White Upper Stone House is a plausible but unconfirmed candidate for the disputed residence. Its location is Block 10, Lot 4 of the Joseph Smith Addition near the Mississippi River. No deed, tax entry, lease, census correlation, or contemporary notice yet places Benjamin Brooks in that building in 1849. This report therefore preserves the identification as a hypothesis rather than a conclusion.

The central historical significance of the warrant is therefore not evidence that the Brooks–Hendrix quarrel was religious; no such evidence has been found. Rather, it shows Wright—a Methodist convert baptized in Nauvoo in 1843, missionary, acting bishop, migration organizer, and experienced municipal officer—using civil process to preserve order in a city transformed by the departure of most Latter-day Saints. The incident belongs to the same transitional period in which he assisted the Saints still moving west and sustained Church communities across western Iowa.

Interpretive Framework Wright's Continuing Assignment

Wright did not simply leave Nauvoo with the first departing companies. The documentary sequence places him in the regional work of the exodus: a February 1847 assignment to protect Church livestock in Missouri; an early 1848 journey through scattered Iowa settlements to encourage gathering; service as acting bishop at Harris Grove from about July 1848 to May 1849; association with the Kanesville or Blockhouse Branch in 1849; and his execution of this Nauvoo warrant in September 1849. In June 1850 he finally departed Kanesville with the Edward Hunter Company and reached the Salt Lake Valley in October.

Taken together, those records support the report's organizing premise: Wright remained behind during the continuing removal to help Church members, property, livestock, and branch communities move toward the West, while also retaining a role in local civic affairs. The exact wording and duration of any single instruction to "stay" have not been recovered from an original commission. The conclusion rests on the convergence of dated assignments and actions and is stated with that evidentiary qualification.

Research Conclusions

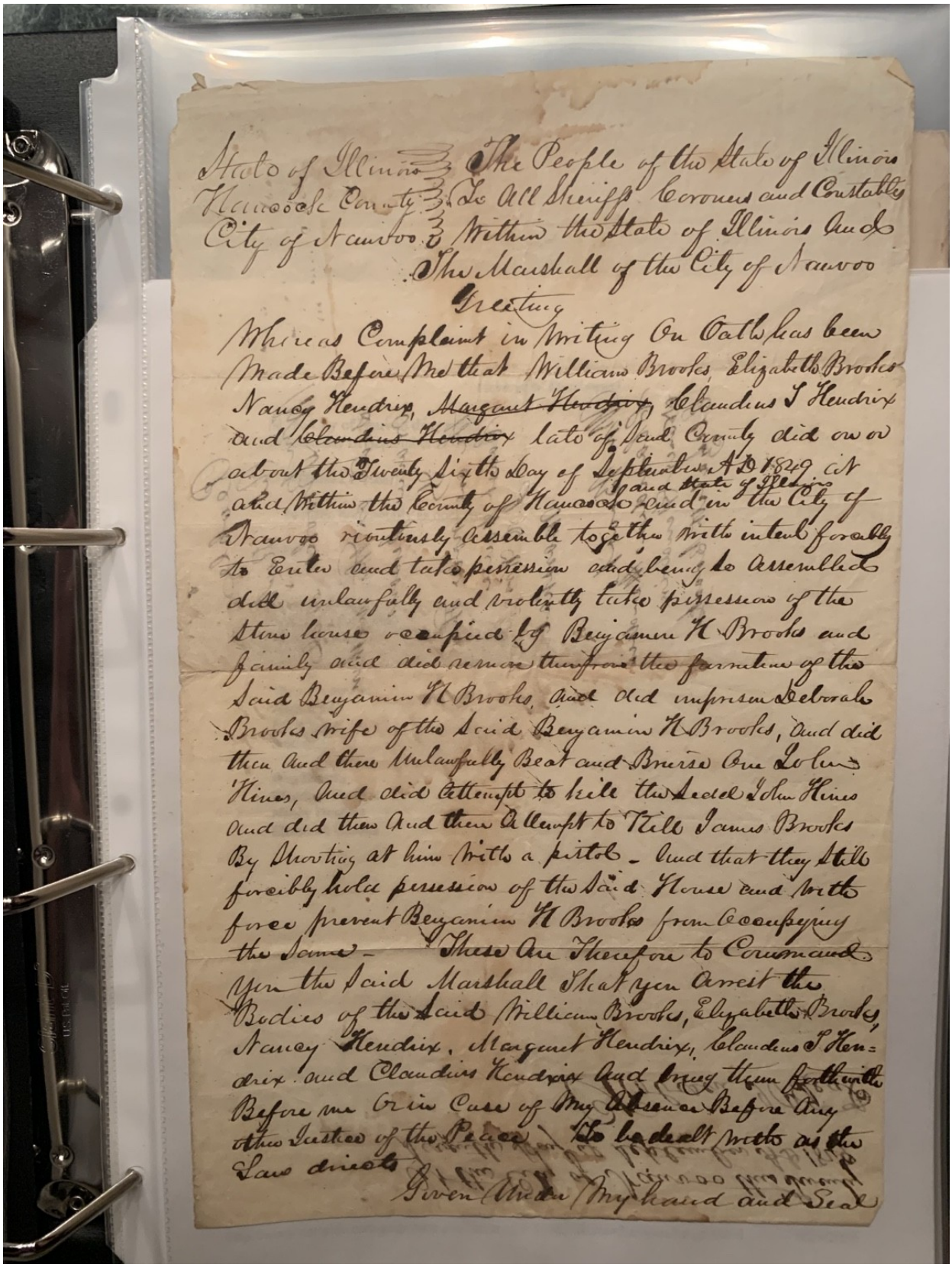
Question	Conclusion	Confidence
What was the document?	A criminal arrest warrant based on allegations made under oath, followed by a partial marshal's return. It was not a judgment.	High
Who signed it?	Chauncey Robison, justice of the peace. Robison is the confirmed spelling.	High
Who executed it?	Jonathan Calkins Wright, acting as marshal of Nauvoo.	High
Who were the Hendrix defendants?	Probably Claudius Townsend Hendrix Sr., wife Margaret, daughter Nancy M., and son Claudius T.	Moderate to high
What happened afterward?	No dismissal, bond, indictment, conviction, acquittal, settlement, or restitution order has been located.	Unresolved
Which stone house?	The Captain James White Upper Stone House is plausible, but Benjamin Brooks's occupancy is unproved.	Unconfirmed
Who was John Hines?	No candidate satisfies the necessary identity tests.	Unresolved

Document Description and Provenance

The project consists of photographs of an original single-sheet warrant and of an accompanying typed transcription. The warrant is written on both sides. The face contains the complaint and arrest command; the reverse contains the date, Robison's signature and authentication, and Wright's service return or docketing. The paper shows folds, staining, edge losses, ink variation, and show-through. The typed transcription is useful but contains at least one material error in the younger Claudius Hendrix's middle initial.

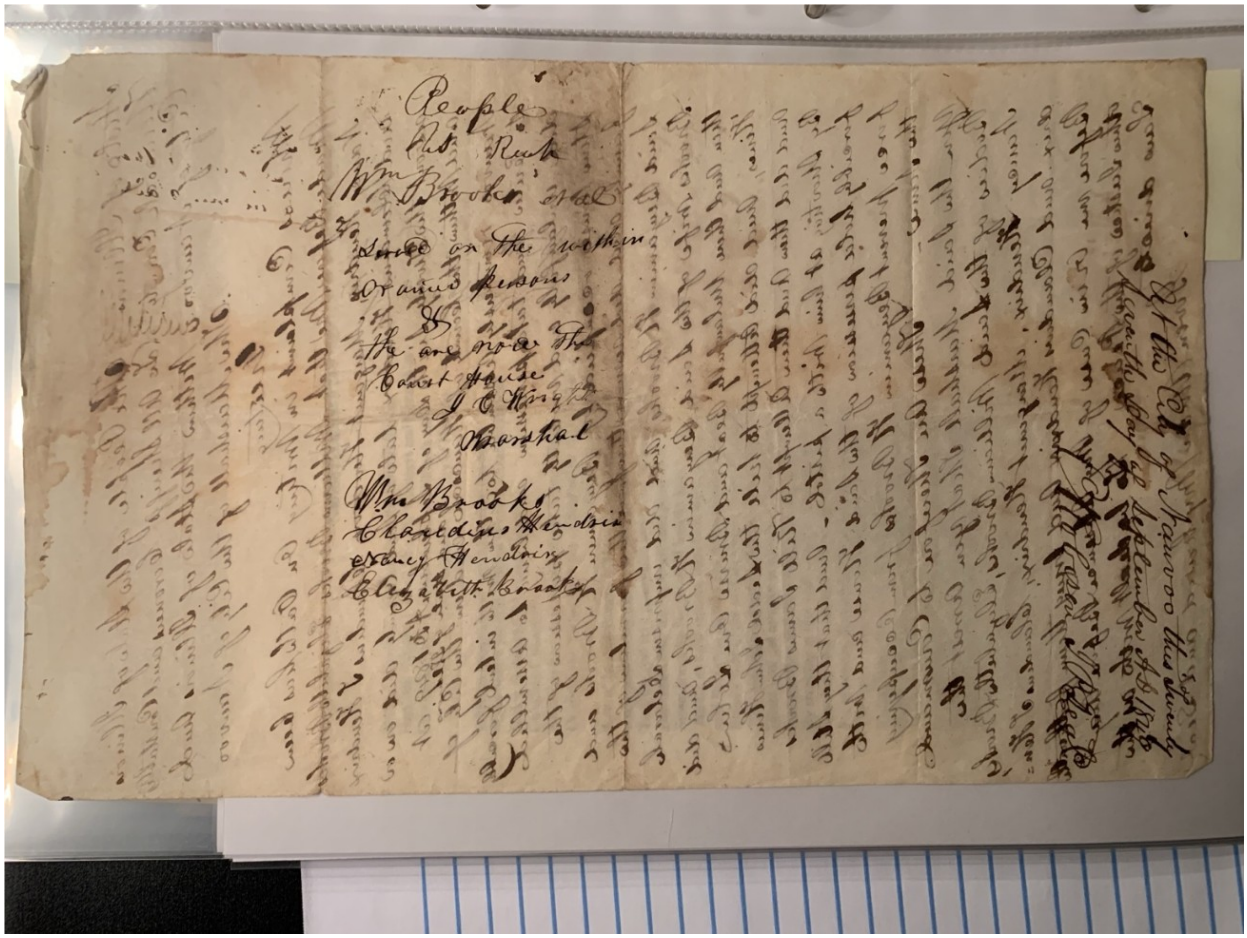
No archival collection number or continuous court-file context appears in the supplied images. The typed heading calls it "Nauvoo Document #24," evidently a later local arrangement rather than the original legal caption.

Original warrant face



State of Illinois } The People of the State of Illinois
Hancock County } To All Sheriffs Coroners and Constables
City of Nauvoo } Within the State of Illinois and to
The Marshall of the City of Nauvoo
Greeting
Whereas Complaint in Writing On Oath has been
Made Before Me that William Brooks, Elizabeth Brooks
Nancy Hendrix, ~~Margaret Hendrix~~, Claudius J Hendrix
and ~~Claudius Hendrix~~ late of said County did on or
about the Twenty Sixth Day of September A D 1849 at
and Within the County of Hancock and in the City of
Nauvoo riotously assemble together with intent forcably
to Enter and take possession and being so assembled
did unlawfully and violently take possession of the
Stone house occupied by Benjamin H Brooks and
family and did remain therefrom the famelies of the
said Benjamin H Brooks, and did imprison Deborah
Brooks wife of the said Benjamin H Brooks, and did
then and there Unlawfully Beat and Bruise One John
Hines, and did attempt to kill the said John Hines
and did then and there Attempt to Kill James Brooks
By Shooting at him with a pistol - and that they still
forcibly hold possession of the said House and with
force prevent Benjamin H Brooks from occupying
the same - These Are Therefore to Command
You the said Marshall That you Arrest the
Bodies of the said William Brooks, Elizabeth Brooks,
Nancy Hendrix, Margaret Hendrix, Claudius J Hen-
drix and Claudius Hendrix And bring them forthwith
Before me or in Case of My Absence Before Any
other Justice of the Peace To be dealt with as the
Law directs
Given Under My hand and Seal

Original warrant reverse and docketing



Faithful Corrected Transcription

Reading transcription checked against the supplied photographs. Original wording and abbreviations are retained; line breaks and some capitalization and punctuation are regularized for readability. Strikethrough shows canceled words; angle brackets ⟨ ⟩ show wording inserted above the line. Ornamental and superscript letter forms are regularized. The date and justice's signature continue on the reverse. The document spells Robison without a second n.

State of Illinois } The People of the State of Illinois
Hancock County } To All Sheriffs Coroners and Constables
City of Nauvoo } Within the State of Illinois and
The Marshall of the City of Nauvoo
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Before me Or in Case of my Absence Before Any
other Justices of the Peace to be dealt with as the
Law directs.

Given under my hand and Seal
At the City of Nauvoo this twenty
Seventh day of September A D 1849.

C Robison J P {seal}

Reverse Docketing and Return

People
Vs

William Brooks
Served on the within
Named persons

&
They are now at
court house
J C Wright
Marshall

Wm Brooks
Claudius Hendrix
Nancy Hendrix
Elizabeth Brooks

Textual Corrections

Typed reading	Corrected reading	Reason
C Robinson	C Robison	Identity and manuscript spelling confirmed; no second n.
Claudius L. Hendrix	Claudius T. Hendrix	Manuscript initial and family reconstruction favor T.
Stone house by Benjamin H. Brooks	Stone house occupied by Benjamin H. Brooks	The manuscript says occupied, not built or owned.
City od Nauvoo	City of Nauvoo	Typographical error in later transcript.
Deborah Brooks	Deborah Brooks	Reading is secure and matches Benjamin's wife.

Allegations and Legal Character

The warrant records allegations, not proven facts. It combines a contested possession with accusations of collective violence. The alleged conduct included riotous assembly, forcible entry, continued forcible possession, removal of Benjamin's furniture, confinement of Deborah, battery and an attempt upon John Hines's life, and shooting at James Brooks with a pistol.

Illinois forcible-entry practice was designed to restore peaceful possession without deciding ultimate title. This warrant went further: it commanded arrest and presentation before a justice of the peace. Its continuation could therefore have appeared in a justice docket, recognizance, peace bond, or Circuit Court file if the accused were bound over on an indictable charge.

The return shows service upon William Brooks, one Claudius Hendrix, Nancy Hendrix, and Elizabeth Brooks. Margaret and the second Claudius were not listed. They may not have been found, may have departed, or may simply have been omitted from an abbreviated return.

Historical Setting Nauvoo in 1849

The confrontation occurred three years after the principal Latter-day Saint evacuation. Nauvoo's population, property market, and government were being reorganized. Buildings had been sold under pressure, left with agents, rented informally, used by caretakers, or occupied under disputed chains of title. The arrival of French Icarian and German immigrants in 1849 added another phase of repopulation.

In that setting, title and physical possession did not necessarily coincide. The family composition of the accused, removal of household furniture, and continued occupation suggest a dispute over a claimed purchase, lease, family settlement, or right of possession rather than an unexplained random attack. The surviving warrant does not disclose the defendants' claimed right.

The Latter-day Saint removal was also still unfinished. Church officers worked between Nauvoo, Missouri, and the Iowa settlements to protect property, organize branches, gather dispersed members, and prepare companies for the overland journey. Wright's presence as marshal should be read within this mobile borderland. He was simultaneously a Church servant aiding the continuing migration and a civil officer responding to the ordinary—but sometimes violent—property disputes created by Nauvoo's social transition.

Biographical Findings for the Case Participants

Benjamin H Brooks

Benjamin H. Brooks was born about 1810 and is probably the son of William Brooks and Elizabeth Stitt. His first wife appears to have been Sarah Henton, who died in 1842. On 21 December 1842 he married Deborah M. Hatfield in Morgan County, Illinois. Benjamin and Deborah were enumerated in Nauvoo in 1850, showing that the family remained in the city after the confrontation.

No baptism, priesthood, Nauvoo Temple, ward, mission, or westward-pioneer record has been securely assigned to this Benjamin. Residence in Nauvoo in 1849–1850 does not establish Latter-day Saint membership. His occupation, property title, political affiliation, and final disposition remain incomplete.

Deborah M Hatfield Brooks

Deborah was Benjamin's wife and the woman allegedly confined in the occupied house. Her Morgan County marriage establishes her identity more securely than the religious and social details of her life. No reliable LDS ordinance or congregational record has been found for her. Her Hatfield ancestry has not yet revealed a legal or kinship connection to the Hendrix defendants.

William and Elizabeth Brooks

William and Elizabeth were probably Benjamin's parents, making the event an intrafamily possession dispute. That identification is plausible but should not be treated as finally proved without probate, deed, or household evidence. No Church membership record can safely be assigned to them because of the frequency of both names.

James Brooks

James Brooks, born about 1813 and probably Benjamin's brother, is the strongest candidate for the man allegedly fired upon. He later became known as a Civil War captain and was associated with Nancy Clark. The warrant does not supply age or residence, and no independent record proves that the later captain was the 1849 victim.

The Hendrix Household

Warrant name	Probable identity	Approximate age in 1849	Relationship
Claudius Hendrix	Claudius Townsend Hendrix Sr.	44	Father
Margaret Hendrix	Margaret, wife of Claudius Sr.	Adult	Mother
Nancy Hendrix	Nancy M. Hendrix	18	Daughter
Claudius T. Hendrix	Claudius Townsend Hendrix Jr.	14	Son

Claudius Hendrix was among early federal-land purchasers in Washington County, Iowa Territory, in 1840. A daughter was born there in 1844. A 1917 Washington County quiet-title notice preserves the connected names Claudius, Margaret, and Claudius T. Hendrix in relation to land in Sections 29 and 32,

Township 74 North, Range 7 West. The family appears in Nauvoo only in the September 1849 warrant and was in Big Rock Township, Pulaski County, Arkansas, by the 1850 census; by 1860 it was in Lamar County, Texas.

No dependable record identifies this particular household as Latter-day Saint. Other persons surnamed Hendrix or Hendricks were Church members, but they cannot be merged with this family merely by surname. No Nauvoo political office, militia appointment, anti-Mormon committee role, Masonic membership, or church leadership has been found for the four defendants.

John Hines

John Hines remains unidentified. A man of that name appears in later accounts of the 1845 murders of John Miller and Henry Leiza in nearby Lee County, Iowa. According to the retrospective account, Hines told his wife that he and two accomplices, rather than members of the Hodges gang, committed the murders. Geographic proximity makes him a candidate, but there is no age, residence, occupation, Brooks relationship, Hendrix relationship, or evidence placing him in Nauvoo on 26 September 1849. The identification is therefore speculative and should not enter the narrative as fact.

The Stone House

The Upper Stone House Candidate

The well-known Upper Stone House was one of the earliest structures in Commerce. Tradition dates its construction by Captain James White to 1829. White conveyed it to Isaac Galland, and Galland included it with approximately forty-seven acres in the 30 April 1839 transaction with the First Presidency. Sidney Rigdon and Frederick G. Williams were associated with the building; it served as the Nauvoo Ferry Hotel in 1841 and later as a forwarding and commission house.

The structure occupied Block 10, Lot 4 of the Joseph Smith Addition near the Mississippi River. In August 1843 Charles Allen and John Kelly announced that they had taken the Upper Stone House for a forwarding and commission business. The building remained a recognized waterfront landmark associated with the Upper Stone House Landing.

Why the Identification Is Unconfirmed

The warrant says only “the Stone house occupied by Benjamin H Brooks.” It does not say Upper Stone House, Captain White house, ferry hotel, warehouse, or Block 10, Lot 4. Nauvoo contained other stone dwellings and two named stone-house landings. No accessible deed, tax entry, lease, advertisement, census-neighborhood reconstruction, or property file places Benjamin in the Upper Stone House in 1849.

The correct conclusion is therefore: the Captain James White Upper Stone House is historically and geographically plausible, but identification of it as Benjamin Brooks’s 1849 residence remains unconfirmed.

Extended Biography of Jonathan Calkins Wright

Field	Finding
Birth	29 November 1808, Rome, Oneida County, New York
Parents	Peter Bice Wright and Elizabeth Shed or Shead
First wife	Rebecca Wheeler; married 1 March 1838, McLean County, Illinois
Baptism	29 March 1843, Nauvoo; attributed to Hyrum Smith
Nauvoo offices	Fourth Ward assessor and collector; city marshal; elected councilor
Church service	Elder; missionary; acting bishop; pioneer captain; bishopric and stake counselor

Field	Finding
Utah civil service	Box Elder County clerk and recorder
Death	8 November 1880, Brigham City, Utah Territory

Origins and Marriage

Jonathan was born in Rome, New York, to Peter Bice Wright and Elizabeth Shed. By the 1830s he had moved west. He married Rebecca Wheeler in McLean County, Illinois, on 1 March 1838. Their son Amos Russell Wright was born in Exeter, Scott County, Illinois, in January 1840, proving that the family was established in western Illinois before entering Nauvoo.

Methodism and Conversion

Family history identifies Wright as a Methodist who could not become settled in that faith. In Nauvoo he encountered John Taylor, Hyrum Smith, and other Church leaders and became convinced that he had found divine truth. Concerned about opposition from relatives across the Mississippi, he reportedly attempted to leave without baptism, became seriously ill, and remained in Nauvoo. The Church database fixes his baptism on 29 March 1843. Family tradition identifies Hyrum Smith as baptizer and as the man who confirmed and ordained him an elder. Rebecca joined the Church with him.

First Mission

On 3 July 1843, only three months after baptism, Wright and Samuel James were called to Scott County, Illinois. Their task was to counter hostile public opinion surrounding attempts to arrest Joseph Smith. The assignment demonstrates the confidence placed in Wright’s local knowledge, judgment, and ability to represent the Church soon after conversion.

Property and Fourth Ward Administration

Jonathan and Rebecca occupied a two-story red-brick home described as kitty-corner from Joseph Smith’s Red Brick Store and near Hyrum Smith’s residence. Wright appears in Fourth Ward assessment material and took part in preparing or maintaining tax records. The precise block, lot, deed chain, and tax valuation remain to be extracted from the underlying property files.

Marshal Assessor Collector and Councilor

After John P. Greene died, the City Council on 14 September 1844 elected Wright city marshal and Fourth Ward assessor and collector. As marshal he served municipal process, maintained bonds and returns, enforced court orders, and coordinated with the mayor, recorder, and police. The timing placed him in office during the most unsettled post-martyrdom months.

On 3 February 1845 Wright received approximately 844 votes for city councilor. Repeal of the charter soon disrupted the government in which he had been elected. The 1849 Brooks–Hendrix warrant proves that he later acted as marshal under post-charter Nauvoo authority, but no remote source has produced that later election or commission.

Nauvoo Legion

Wright served as a company-grade Nauvoo Legion officer. Sources differ between captain and first lieutenant, although captain is the more frequent identification. His company, cohort, commission date, and specific actions during the June 1844 mobilization remain unresolved.

Witness to the Martyrdom Crisis

On 13 January 1855 Wright swore an affidavit concerning a conversation of 26 June 1844. He said Colonel Enoch C. March, speaking in Nauvoo in the presence of Alton Telegraph editor George T. M. Davis, indicated that the authorities had the principal Church leaders in their control and that removing them would settle the conflict. Wright understood March to predict the deaths of Joseph and Hyrum Smith. The affidavit is important but retrospective: it was sworn more than ten years after the alleged conversation, and no independent source repeats all of March’s words.

Temple Participation

Scholarly literature identifies Wright as endowed in the Nauvoo Temple. The exact date, Rebecca's ordinance history, and any temple labor or guard service were not available in the online profile. Wright was rebaptized on 20 October 1850, one week after reaching Utah, in accordance with a common nineteenth-century practice of covenant renewal.

Exodus and Western Iowa

The Wright family passed through Winter Quarters and western Iowa wards and branches. Their infant Enoch, born 16 November 1846, died eighteen days later and was buried in grave 27 at Winter Quarters. Wright did not immediately continue to the Salt Lake Valley. Instead, a February 1847 assignment sent him to protect Church livestock in Scott County, Missouri. Early in 1848 he traveled east through Mount Pisgah, Lost Camp, Chariton Point, Lone House, Soap Creek, and Iowaville to encourage scattered Saints to gather. These assignments form the clearest evidence that his delayed departure was service connected with the continuing migration, not simple disengagement from the western movement.

Branch records identify him as acting bishop of Harris Grove beginning about 15 July 1848 and continuing until approximately May 1849. He was also associated with the Blockhouse or Kanesville Branch in 1849. These offices placed him among Saints who had not yet crossed the plains and help explain his mobility and continued availability for both Church and civic assignments in the Iowa–Nauvoo region. The Brooks warrant, issued four months after his approximate Harris Grove tenure ended, is a concrete record of that civic service during the same transitional interval.

Rebecca Wheeler Wright

Rebecca shared Jonathan's conversion and the hardships of Nauvoo and the exodus. Sources conflict over her death: some derivative compilations give 1848, while evidence surrounding the birth of Lyman Van Wright on 21 May 1850 supports a death in or about May 1850, possibly associated with childbirth. She died in the Council Bluffs–Kanesville region and was reportedly buried in an unmarked grave. Her diary and family papers deserve separate study.

The Edward Hunter Company

Wright crossed the plains in the Edward Hunter Company, departing Kanesville on 29 June 1850 and reaching the Salt Lake Valley on 13 October. He served as captain of ten. His household included Amos Russell, Virginia Ann Charlotte, David Darwin, Jonathan, and infant Lyman Van Wright. He thus managed the migration as a recently widowed father of five children.

South Cottonwood and Box Elder

Wright served as bishop or acting bishop at South Cottonwood from approximately March 1851 to December 1852. After moving north, he became a counselor to Bishop William Davis, a member of the Box Elder high council, and later a counselor to Lorenzo Snow in the Box Elder Stake presidency. These positions placed him within the combined religious, economic, and settlement government of early Brigham City.

A territorial business directory identifies Wright as Box Elder County clerk and recorder, with Samuel Smith as probate judge and John Burt as sheriff. Claims that Wright was mayor of Brigham City, a lawyer, or a territorial legislator have not been adequately verified and are not adopted here as firm facts.

Plural Family

Following Rebecca's death, Wright entered plural marriage. The Church database records Cynthia Martin, Mary Jane Neeley, Lois Susanna Moran, and Karen Marie Olsen in addition to Rebecca. Family history reports seven wives and thirty-four children, leaving two wives to be reconciled through original sealing and family records. Lois Moran was fourteen when she married Wright in January 1857 and died at eighteen in December 1860. Mary Jane Neeley's family account states that she married Wright at

eighteen or nineteen partly to assist his motherless children and rescue her younger sister from a difficult household; she later emphasized Wright's kindness to the children.

Education Occupation and Character

Mary Jane's account describes Wright as educated and says that he taught his children higher learning at home; the family later learned Morse code. His recordkeeping, assessment, court, missionary, and county-clerk responsibilities demonstrate literacy and administrative competence. The best-supported occupational description is farmer, public administrator, and Church officer. Assertions that he practiced law remain unproved.

Death and Legacy

Wright died in Brigham City on 8 November 1880, aged seventy-one, and is reported buried in the Brigham City Cemetery. His career joined Nauvoo conversion, municipal crisis, the Iowa interlude, the western migration, and northern Utah colonization. Unlike leaders formed in Kirtland or Missouri, his influence grew rapidly from administrative capacity, reliability, and loyalty after a comparatively late 1843 conversion.

His 1849 return is therefore significant. It shows a committed Latter-day Saint officer enforcing ordinary legal process in a changed, largely post-Mormon Nauvoo. The paper does not make the Brooks–Hendrix conflict a religious confrontation, but it demonstrates Wright's continuing involvement in Nauvoo civil life while also serving scattered Church communities.

Religious Affiliations

Person	Finding
Jonathan Calkins Wright	Confirmed Latter-day Saint; baptized 1843; elder, missionary, bishop, pioneer captain, stake counselor.
Chauncey Robison	Closely associated with Nauvoo's Latter-day Saint civic and property network; definitive baptismal evidence was not located in this investigation.
Benjamin and Deborah Brooks	No secure LDS membership evidence.
William, Elizabeth, and James Brooks	No secure LDS membership evidence for the persons in this case.
Claudius, Margaret, Nancy, and Claudius T. Hendrix	No evidence securely connecting this household to the Church.
John Hines	Identity and religious affiliation unknown.

Case Outcome and Record Searches

No freely searchable newspaper, published county history, court calendar, name index, or online court image located a final disposition. No evidence presently establishes conviction, dismissal, acquittal, recognizance, peace bond, indictment, settlement, or restoration of possession.

Record class	Search result or next evidentiary value
Justice of the peace docket	Most likely location for examination, discharge, bail, or peace bond; not located online.
County Court docket 1849–1855	Could preserve a chronological entry; images are not fully name-indexed.
Circuit Court case files 1829–1858	Could contain indictment or recognizance if defendants were bound over.
Circuit Court miscellaneous files	Could contain loose warrant, testimony, bond, or return.

Record class	Search result or next evidentiary value
Hancock deed and tract indexes	Needed to identify Benjamin's property and test Block 10, Lot 4.
Tax and building survey records	Could link Brooks to a stone improvement or occupancy.
Brooks probate records	Could identify land, furnishings, debts, or intrafamily claims.
Wright manuscripts	1848 diary and 1849 appointment could explain his presence and authority.

Evidence Assessment

Finding	Classification
Date, allegations, signature, persons served	Direct evidence from the warrant
Wright's 1844 appointments	Direct evidence from City Council minutes
Wright's baptism, missions, company, marriages, death	Institutional biographical records
Hendrix household reconstruction	Correlated census, land, family, and name evidence
Brooks family relationships	Probable; requires original family or probate confirmation
Upper Stone House identity	Plausible hypothesis; no Brooks occupancy bridge
Lee County John Hines	Speculative candidate only
Dismissal or settlement	Possible procedural outcome, not documented

Unresolved Questions and Archival Targets

- Locate the justice-of-the-peace docket or loose papers for 27 September 1849 and the succeeding examination.
- Search Hancock County Circuit Court recognizances, indictments, criminal dockets, and miscellaneous files through the next terms.
- Trace every Brooks and Hendrix entry in the Hancock County grantor–grantee and tract indexes.
- Reconstruct Block 10, Lot 4 from 1845 through 1850 and compare occupants with Benjamin Brooks.
- Locate Wright's post-charter 1849 marshal appointment, bond, or election return.
- Examine Wright's 1848 diary and his 23 April 1850 letter to Brigham Young.
- Verify Wright's Nauvoo Temple endowment and Rebecca's ordinances in the original register.
- Resolve Wright's Nauvoo Legion rank, company, and commission.
- Reconcile all seven wives and thirty-four reported children from sealing, census, and family records.
- Locate Rebecca Wheeler Wright's diary, death record, and burial evidence.
- Search Box Elder probate, property, ward, stake, and county records for Wright's later offices and estate.
- Locate a contemporary November 1880 obituary or funeral notice.

Final Conclusion

The 1849 warrant documents a violent and apparently intrafamily contest over possession of a Nauvoo stone house. Its evidentiary reach is limited: it proves that allegations were sworn, that Chauncey Robison issued process, and that Jonathan Calkins Wright brought four accused persons to the courthouse. It does not prove guilt or identify the legal owner of the house.

The accused Hendrix household is now reasonably identified and appears to have stayed in Nauvoo only briefly. Benjamin and Deborah Brooks remained in Nauvoo in 1850, but the ultimate possession of the disputed building is unknown. John Hines remains unidentified. The Captain James White Upper Stone House must remain a carefully labeled candidate, not an established identification.

Jonathan Calkins Wright emerges as the case's most historically consequential participant. A Methodist convert of 1843, he became a trusted missionary and Nauvoo administrator, held civil and militia authority during the martyrdom crisis, and then remained in the Nauvoo–western Iowa region while the Latter-day Saint removal continued. His documented tasks—protecting livestock, gathering scattered members, presiding as an acting bishop, and later captaining ten in the 1850 Edward Hunter Company—show sustained responsibility for people and property moving west.

The warrant belongs inside that story. It records Wright acting in civic affairs while still engaged in the religious and migratory work of his community. It does not prove that the Brooks or Hendrix families were Church members, or that their quarrel was sectarian. It does demonstrate that the post-exodus history of Nauvoo was not a clean break: at least one experienced Latter-day Saint officer continued to connect the old city, the temporary Iowa settlements, and the developing western Church. His marshal's return is a small but unusually tangible witness to that transitional service.

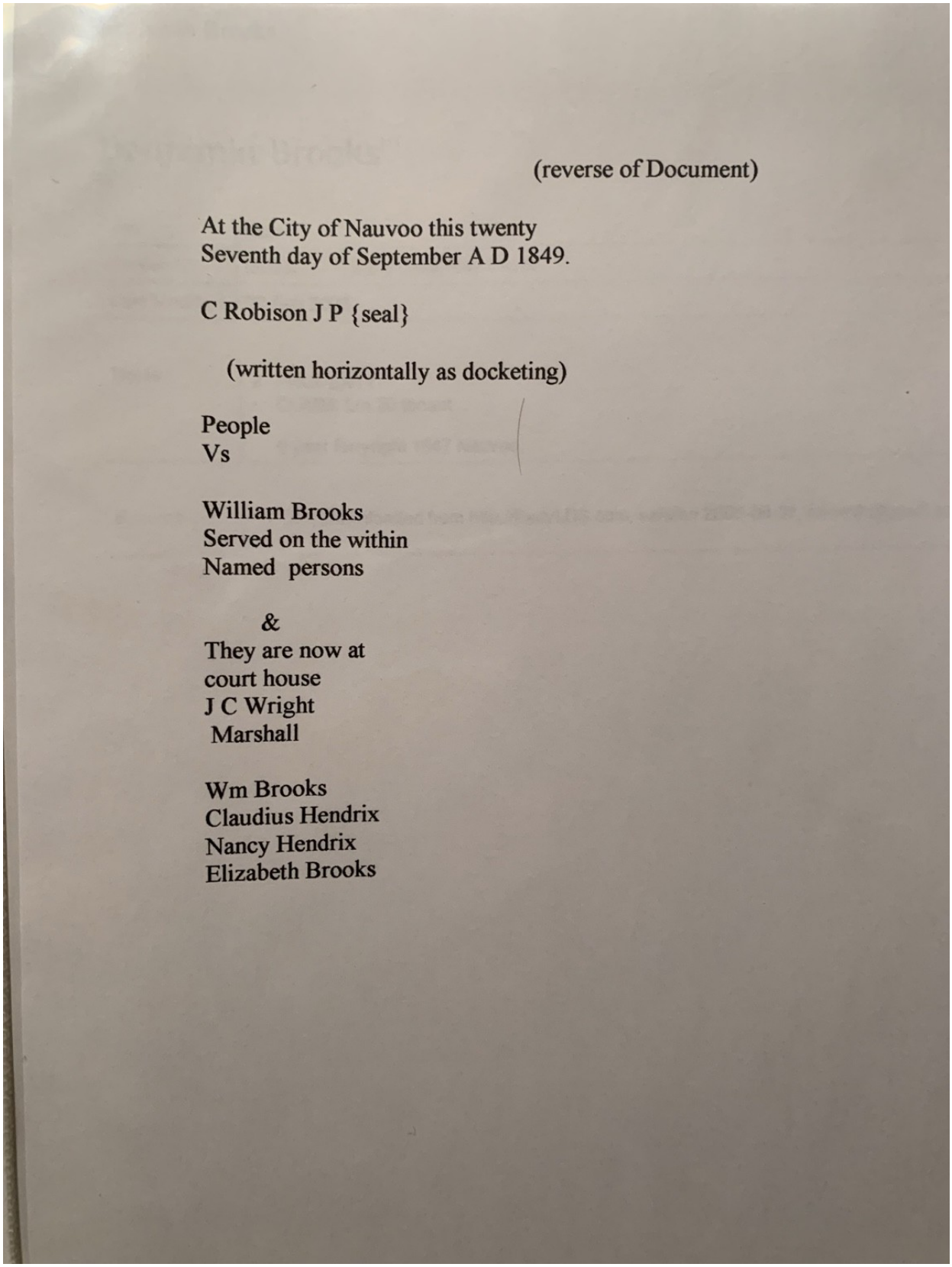
Sources

1. Primary warrant and typed transcription, supplied photographs IMG_0549.jpeg through IMG_0552.jpeg.
2. Church History Biographical Database. "Jonathan Calkins Wright." https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/chd/individual/jonathan-calkins-wright-1808?lang=eng
3. Joseph Smith Papers. Nauvoo City Council Minute Book, 14 September 1844, p. 217. https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/nauvoo-city-council-minute-book-1841-1845/223
4. Joseph Smith Papers. City Election Poll Record, 3 February 1845. https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/city-election-poll-record-3-february-1845/29
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Appendix: Earlier Typed Transcription

The accompanying typed transcription is reproduced below. Photographs of the original warrant face and reverse appear immediately before the faithful corrected transcription in the main text.

Typed transcription continuation and reverse docketing



(reverse of Document)

At the City of Nauvoo this twenty
Seventh day of September A D 1849.

C Robison J P {seal}

(written horizontally as docketing)

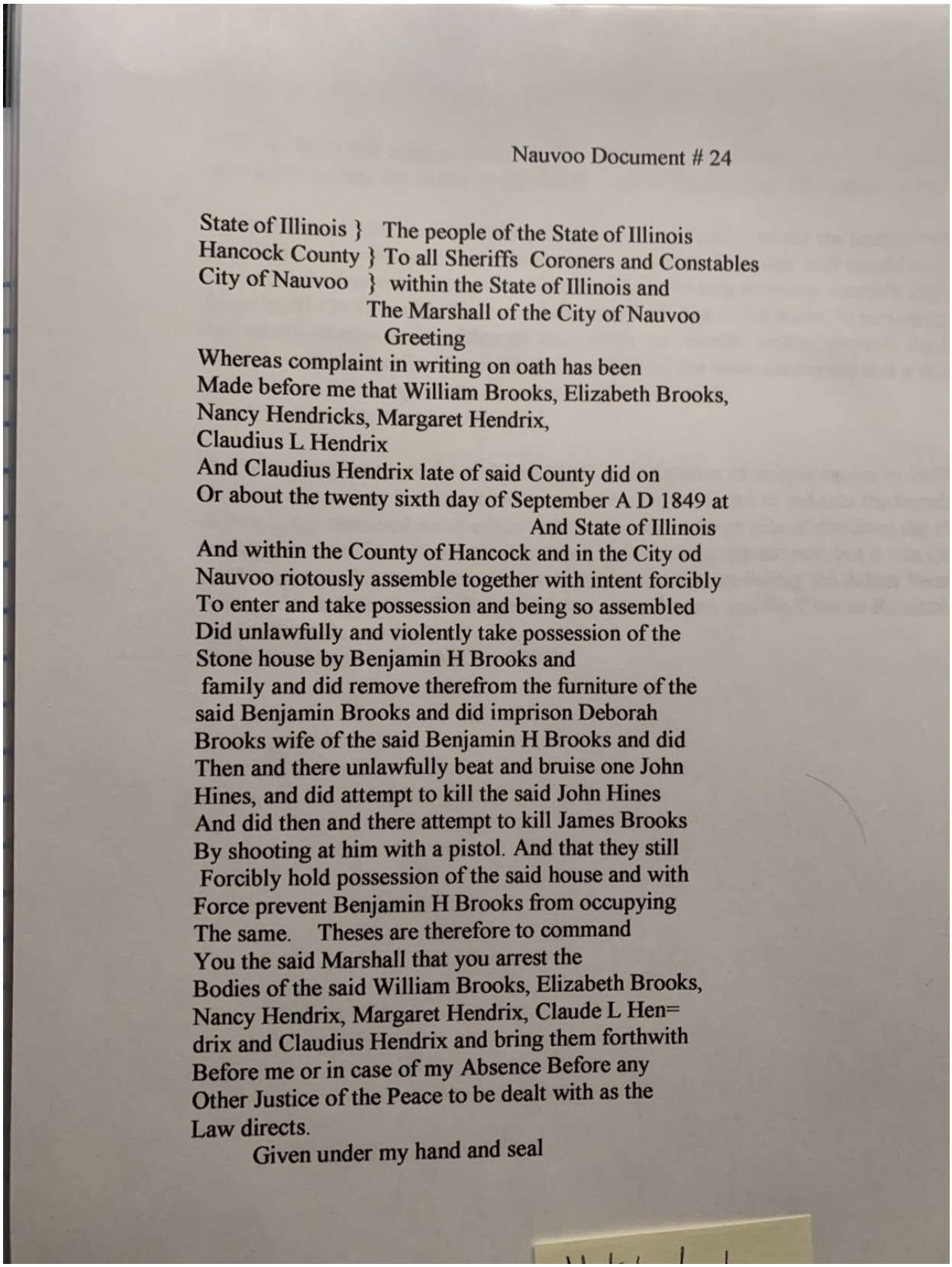
People
Vs

William Brooks
Served on the within
Named persons

&
They are now at
court house
J C Wright
Marshall

Wm Brooks
Claudius Hendrix
Nancy Hendrix
Elizabeth Brooks

Typed transcription of warrant



Nauvoo Document # 24

State of Illinois } The people of the State of Illinois
Hancock County } To all Sheriffs Coroners and Constables
City of Nauvoo } within the State of Illinois and
The Marshall of the City of Nauvoo
Greeting

Whereas complaint in writing on oath has been
Made before me that William Brooks, Elizabeth Brooks,
Nancy Hendricks, Margaret Hendrix,
Claudius L Hendrix
And Claudius Hendrix late of said County did on
Or about the twenty sixth day of September A D 1849 at
And State of Illinois
And within the County of Hancock and in the City od
Nauvoo riotously assemble together with intent forcibly
To enter and take possession and being so assembled
Did unlawfully and violently take possession of the
Stone house by Benjamin H Brooks and
family and did remove therefrom the furniture of the
said Benjamin Brooks and did imprison Deborah
Brooks wife of the said Benjamin H Brooks and did
Then and there unlawfully beat and bruise one John
Hines, and did attempt to kill the said John Hines
And did then and there attempt to kill James Brooks
By shooting at him with a pistol. And that they still
Forcibly hold possession of the said house and with
Force prevent Benjamin H Brooks from occupying
The same. Theses are therefore to command
You the said Marshall that you arrest the
Bodies of the said William Brooks, Elizabeth Brooks,
Nancy Hendrix, Margaret Hendrix, Claude L Hen=
drix and Claudius Hendrix and bring them forthwith
Before me or in case of my Absence Before any
Other Justice of the Peace to be dealt with as the
Law directs.

Given under my hand and seal