

Minute Book 1: [http://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/minute-book-1/\[p.#+4\]](http://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/minute-book-1/[p.#+4])  
700078

Minute Book 2: [http://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/minute-book-2/\[p.#+2\]](http://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/minute-book-2/[p.#+2])  
700077

## 1831

1831-02: Edward Partridge called as bishop (D&C 41:9) *presumably, he was bishop for the entire Church*

1831-05: "Church at Orange," "Brethren at Warrensville," prayer meeting with members in Strongsville (Reynolds Cahoon Journal, MS 1115, p.2) 700079

1831-09-06: in Nelson, OH, "this Church" (local or general?) (MB2 6)

1831-09-12: "Church of Shalersville, Church of Orange, Church of Warrensville" (MB2 6)

1831-09-24: in Amherst, OH, "this Church" (local or general?) (MB2 7)

1831-10-10: in Kirtland, "this Church" (local or general?) (MB2 8)

1831-10-11: David Whitmer & Reynolds Cahoon called to "set in order the branches" (MB2 9, RC 22) *This is the earliest use of the term "branch" I have seen so far*

1831-11-09: "Brethren in Hiram," meeting at Windom, "brethren at Shalersville" (RC 22)

1831-11-17: members at Northampton (near Akron) organized as a church (RC 23)

1831-11-21: Church at New Portage (RC 23)

1831-11: Church in Winchester, Randolph, Indiana (MB2 19-20)

1831-12-04: Newel K. Whitney is appointed to be "a bishop unto the Church in this part of the Lord's vineyard," replacing Edward Partridge, who is now the "bishop in Zion." (D&C 72)

1831-12-14: "brethren at Thompson farm" (RC 23)

## 1832

1832-01-25: conference at Amherst, Joseph Smith sustained as "President of the High Priesthood" (MB2 24-25)

1832-01: members in Painesville (RC 30)

1832-01: church at Warrensville (RC 31)

1832-04: Kirtland consecrated "for a stake to Zion" (D&C 82:13)

1832-06: church at Shalersville (RC 38)

## 1833

1833-02-06: "Church in Thompson" (MB1 p.9)

1833-03-15: member in Wooster (MB1 p.11)

1833-05-02: member Norton, Medina Co. under jurisdiction of 1st Presidency (MB1 13)

1833-03-23: "Springfield and Elk Creek and churches round about" (MB1 15)

1833-04-23: "This Eastern branch of the Church," referring to Kirtland area (MB1 19)

1833-04-30: "Parkman Branch" (MB1 19)

1833-06-21: Westfield (NY) "Council of Elders" (branch or regional conference?) (MB1 22)

1833-09-28: "Stake in Kirtland" (MB1 25)

## 1834

1834-02-09: Conference of priesthood "of the Church of Christ in [New Portage, Medina Co., Ohio](#)" with the first presidency presiding; "a stake of Zion will not be established in this place at present" (MB1 30) *even though the presidency was there, it appears to be a branch conference, as the business was local.*

1834-02-12: Joseph Smith states his intent to more fully organize the governing council that had previously been ad hoc. (MB1 27)

1834-02-17: "Presidents church council" organized with the 3 presidents and 12 high priests as a "standing council in Kirtland" (MB1 29). Councils abroad (in branches) can be appealed to the Bishops Court, then to the President's Council (so it clearly has general jurisdiction). During the meeting, the conference resolved to completely rewrite the minutes, essentially matching D&C 102, such as calling it the "High Council of the Church of Christ," but not including verses 30-33, which was added in 1835 to adjust the appeals process to account for the Traveling High Council/Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Instead, a paragraph is appended (that does not appear in D&C 102) stating that the First presidency decides when appeals will be heard.

1834-02-20: case from the Church at [Springfield Township, Erie Co., Pennsylvania](#) appealed to High Council (MB1 39)

1834-03-17: conference at [Avon, Livingston Co., NY](#) (MB1 42)

1834-04-21: conference at [Norton, Medina Co., Ohio](#) (Bro. Carpenter's house); local disciplinary actions taken for members of "this church" mentions members Ambrose Palmer, Joseph Bosworth, Salmon Warner (MB1 46)

1834-08-28: Sidney Rigdon instructs Bishop Newel K. Whitney to convene the high council in a case involving the first presidency, which he then summons and presides over. (MB1 58) *so the Stake Bishop can act as president pro tem when the president is a party to the case?*

1834-09-08: conference at [New Portage](#). First use of "The Church of the Latter-Day Saints?" Mention of "this branch of the Church," Ambrose Palmer presiding, mentions brothers Carpenter and Gordon; "J.B. Bosworth from the Church in Norton" (MB1 49) *Appears that nearby Norton and New Portage were the same branch with at least two members in common, or did they just attend nearby conferences?*

1834-09-08: Letter to J.B. Bosworth from [New Portage](#) conference: Ambrose Palmer, "his appointment as presiding elder of this branch of the Church" [New Portage and/or Norton?] (MB1 74) *according to Joseph Smith Papers, Bosworth lived at Copley, Palmer at New Portage*

1834-09-24: High Priests can only be ordained in the High Council at Kirtland (MB1 76)

1834-09-29: "Church in Kirtland" (MB1 72)

1834-10-20: Letter from [Lewis, Essex, NY](#), "a branch of the Church of the Latter Day Saints" (MB1 80)

1834-11-28: Letter from "[the church in Lewis, Essex Co., NY](#)" requesting the advice of the high council. (MB1 77)

1834-12-28: Appeal from member in [Winchester Indiana Branch](#) (MB1 81)

## 1835

1835-01-18: Brethren from [Bolton, NY](#) seek the counsel of high council (MB1 82)

1835-02-14: Twelve ordained (MB1 149)

1835-02-28: Seventy ordained (MB1 164)

1835-02-27: meeting of recently-ordained apostles (9 of 12). They decide they are a “traveling high council, who are to preside over all the church of the saints among the Gentiles, where there is no presidency established, and they are to travel and preach among the Gentiles.”

*After this point, the high council is usually officially called “The high council of the Church of the Latter-Day Saints in Kirtland.”*

1835-05-02: meeting of the presidency and the Twelve. Joseph states that “the Twelve will have no right to go into Zion or any of its stakes and there undertake to regulate the affairs thereof where there is a standing High Council. But it is their duty to go abroad and regulate all matters relative to the different branches of the Church. . . No standing high council has authority to go into the Church abroad and regulate the matters thereof, for this belongs to the Twelve. No High Council will ever be established only in Zion or one of its stakes.” Also a number of other minor policies for local administration. (MB1 187)

1835-06-06: regional conference at [New Portage](#), chaired by Oliver Cowdery. “Ambrose Palmer, the presiding elder of said church” [New Portage/Norton?] reports 100 members. “Branch of the Church at [Strongsville](#), represented by Z Coultrin, to be fifteen in number.” More feud between Bosworth and Palmer. (MB1 89)

*In the summer of 1835, many of the saints in Missouri return to Kirtland to help finish the temple, including most of the leadership.*

1835-07-14: council meeting presided over by “O Cowdery, D Whitmer, W W Phelps, F G Williams, J Smith Junr, Presidents”

1835-07-17: general assembly. “Presidents of the Church in Kirtland: Sidney Rigdon, Oliver Cowdery, present; Joseph Smith Junr, Frederick G. Williams absent.” High Council of Kirtland “Presidents of the High Council from Zion, Wm. W. Phelps & John Whitmer.” High Council. Seven Presidents of the Seventy and 27 seventies. Bishop from Zion absent; “Newel K. Whitney, bishop of Kirtland.” (MB1 101-104)

1835-09-26: “Council of the Presidency of the Church of the Latter Day Saints:” JS Jr, Rigdon, D Whitmer, WW Phelps, J Whitmer, H Smith, O Cowdery.

1835-09-28: Counsellors: S Rigdon (PC), Joseph Smith Junr (Pres), John Smith (KHC), Joseph Smith Sr (Asst Pres), Thomas B. Marsh (P12), John Johnson (KHC), Samuel H. Smith (KHC), Jared Carter (KHC), Roger Orton (KHC), Levi Jackman (ZHC), Newel Knight (ZHC), Orson Pratt (12). Oliver Cowdery (Asst Pres), Hyrum Smith (Asst Pres), John Whitmer (KP), presiding.

Hearing an appeal/re-examination from two disciplinary decisions of the Twelve, and an appeal from the Zion Elder’s Quorum. (MB1 119) *What, are they just making up a council from scratch today?? Why is JS Jr not presiding?*

1835-10-03 and on: similar hodgepodge high council for appellate hearings (MB 126)

1835-11-18 local council at [New Portage](#), Ambrose Palmer presiding elder, J.B. Bosworth Clerk (MB1 129)

1835-12-28: “High Council of the Church of the Latter Day Saints.” similar hodgepodge (7 apostles, 5 KHC), Sidney Rigdon presiding, JS Jr a plaintiff (MB1 132). *Seems to be hearing*

*local cases, not just appellate. In late 1835, is the regular High Council of Kirtland even meeting anymore, or has this ad hoc council supplanted it?*

## 1836

1836-01-13: "Grand Council" meets. Presidents JS Sr, S Rigdon, H Smith, D Whitmer, J Whitmer, JS Jr, WW Phelps; Twelve apostles, High Council of Zion, High Council of Kirtland (only 7 remaining from some being called away), Bishop of Zion and counselors, Bishop of Kirtland and counselor. 5 replacement members called to Kirtland High Council. Some ordinations are to "High Council of Kirtland," some are to "High Council at the Stake of Kirtland." (MB1 200)

1836-02-12: Council meeting, resolution offered by the Presidency: (MB1 137)

"That no one be ordained to any office in the Church in this stake of Zion at Kirtland without the unanimous voice of the several bodies that constitute this quorum, who are appointed to do church business in the name of said Church. (viz) The Presidency of the Church and Council. The Twelve Apostles of the Lamb. The Twelve High Counsellors of Kirtland. The Twelve High Counsellors of Zion, The Bishop of Kirtland and his counsellors. The Bishop of Zion and his Counsellors, and the seven presidents of Seventies, until otherwise ordered by said quorum."

2nd Resolution proposed, that ordinations in branches abroad have to be approved in General Conference

1836-02-12: Twelve approves 1st resolution. proposes an amendment to 2nd Resolution that the Twelve can approve an ordination abroad. (MB1 138)

1836-02-17: Kirtland High Council approves original resolutions, rejects amendment of the Twelve. (MB1 139)

1836-02-18: Zion High Council approves original resolutions without amendments. (MB1 139)

1836-02-22: Presidency of the Church approves original resolutions without amendments (MB1 139)

1836-03-03: All of the governing bodies reassemble; committee introduces new set of resolutions that institute better record keeping for ordinations and personal licenses. The original resolutions are also passed when the twelve recall their amendment (except 3 apostles dissenting, but they acquiesce a couple weeks later). (MB1 143)

1836-05-16: First record of resumption of normal high council meetings (MB1 205)

1836-06-10: Conference at [New Portage](#). Phineas Brownson Jr. presiding, but Ambrose Palmer and other high priests perform ordinations (MB1 209)

## 1837

1837-05-29: David Whitmer and F.G. Williams, defendants in a case before the Kirtland High Council, say that as church presidents, the high council does not have jurisdiction over them, but that they should be tried in a bishop's court. Sidney Rigdon (presiding while JS Jr. is absent) says they should be tried here. The high council sides with Whitmer and Williams. (MB1 228) *in this and subsequent meetings, dissension between church leaders makes governance difficult.*

1837-09-03: General conference, leaders sustained: Joseph Smith Jr. as presiding officer of the Church. Sidney Rigdon & Frederick G. Williams councilors to form the first presidents of the Church. Oliver Cowdery, Joseph Smith Sr, Hyrum Smith, John Smith as assistant counselors. Dissensions leave vacancies in other leadership quorums. (MB1 234)

1837-09-17: Conference of elders; JS Jr states that the gathering places are getting crowded, and "it was necessary that there be more Stakes of Zion appointed;" JS Jr and Sidney Rigdon appointed to find other stake locations. (MB1 243) *Smith and Rigdon then travel to Far West, so presumably they mean other locations in Missouri, not Ohio; subsequently they appoint Adam-ondi-Ahman as a stake location.*

*Minute Book 1 ends 1837-11-27*

September 26: John Smith reports that "Brother Joseph and Sidney Rigdon expect to start soon to appoint 11 or 12 new stakes of Zion."<sup>1</sup>

## 1838

1 January: John Smith reports that Joseph, Hyrum and Sidney Rigdon returning from their trip to Missouri "have appointed five other stakes" (in addition to Far West) "they mean to go to the west as soon as they can settle their affairs here...W Marks, R Cahoon and myself are to preside over the stake of Kirtland"<sup>2</sup>

12 January: JS receives a revelation directing the First Presidency to move to Zion.<sup>3</sup> *Joseph and Sidney left that night.*

January 19: Secondhand report that "Elders Marks, John Smith, and Reynolds Cahoon have been elected and ordained to preside over Kirtland."<sup>4</sup>

February: Marks is acting as the financial agent for JS and SR.<sup>5</sup>

29 March: JS writes "the Presidency of the Church ... in Kirtland."<sup>6</sup> He has recently arrived in Far West. Mentions William Marks but doesn't call him president.

5 April: counselor John Smith leaves Kirtland; will become stake president of Adam-ondi-Ahman in June

June 7: counselor Reynolds Cahoon arrives in Missouri,<sup>7</sup> where he becomes a counselor in the presidency of Adam-ondi-Ahman

---

<sup>1</sup> Letter from John Smith to George A. Smith, 26 September 1837, *George A. Smith Papers, Family Correspondence*, Church History Library MS 1322,

<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/4487c499-6a42-4c45-bb37-e92d4de1e93e/0/5>

<sup>2</sup> Letter from John Smith to George A. Smith, 1 January 1838, *George A. Smith Papers, Family Correspondence*, Church History Library MS 1322,

<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/4487c499-6a42-4c45-bb37-e92d4de1e93e/0/11>

<sup>3</sup> Revelation, 12 January 1838-C, *Joseph Smith Papers*, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/revelation-12-january-1838-c>

<sup>4</sup> Letter from Hepzibah Richards to Willard Richards January 18-19, 1838, p.3, in Willard Richards Papers, Church History Library MS 1490 box 3 folder 14,

<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/106d974b-d7f3-4f0b-99ca-fc4c2cbeec7e/0/0>

<sup>5</sup> Accounts Payable, 1 February-19 April 1838, *Joseph Smith Papers*,

<https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/accounts-payable-1-february-19-april-1838/1>

<sup>6</sup> Letter to the presidency in Kirtland, 29 March 1838, *Joseph Smith Papers*,

<https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/letter-to-the-presidency-in-kirtland-29-march-1838/1>

<sup>7</sup> Lyndon Cook, *The Revelations of the Prophet Joseph Smith: A Historical and Biographical Commentary of the Doctrine and Covenants*, Provo: Seventy's Mission Bookstore, 1981, p.73.

17 June: The Kirtland Elders quorum is continuing to meet, although leadership changes often as more people are leaving for Missouri. On this date, a new quorum president is ordained by “President Marks, Bishop Whitney,” the president of the HP quorum (which is still intact) and the outgoing EQ president.<sup>8</sup>

July 6: As the Kirtland Camp departs, “President William Marks” accompanies them for a few miles.<sup>9</sup>

8 July: Revelation (D&C 117) instructs William Marks, Newel K. Whitney, and Oliver Granger to remain in Kirtland only long enough to settle the most pressing matters then come to Missouri.<sup>10</sup> Marks is called to be the president of the stake at Far West, and Newel K. Whitney to be the bishop at Adam-ondi-Ahman. *The instructions to not worry about the debts differs from later needs.*

8 July: JS writes Marks and Whitney (by the hand of Oliver Granger going east) with the text of the revelation, and encourage them to leave that summer.<sup>11</sup>

22 July: new elders are ordained by “Counselor Cole and Counselor [Hiram] Kellogg of the Presidency of the Church.”<sup>12</sup> *Are they Marks’ new counselors, replacing John Smith and Reynolds Cahoon? Counselor Kellogg is mentioned again August 12, and apparently he never leaves Kirtland at this time because he reappears in 1840 as HPQ president.*

August 22: last entry in Kirtland Elders Quorum until 1840.<sup>13</sup> The minutes contain no mention of the quorum being disorganized.

Fall: Bishop Whitney leaves Kirtland

October: William Marks leaves Kirtland

*Final Missouri entry in Minute Book 2 is 2 January 1839*

## 1839

May 6: In a conference at Quincy Illinois, Oliver Granger is “appointed to go to Kirtland and take charge and oversight of the House of the Lord and preside over the general affairs of the Church in that place.” (who is also going east to be the Church’s land agent).<sup>14</sup> Also, “Resolved

---

<sup>8</sup> Lyndon Cook and Milton V. Backman Jr, ed. *Kirtland Elders’ Quorum Record, 1836-1841*, Grandin Book Co, 1985, p.45.

<sup>9</sup> *Kirtland Camp Journal, March-October 1838*, p.16, Church History Library MS 4952, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/ee641835-dea0-4576-83f0-5659845714a5/1/15>

<sup>10</sup> Doctrine and Covenants 117:1-3, Revelation, 8 July 1838-E, *Joseph Smith Papers*, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/revelation-8-july-1838-e-dc-117/1>

<sup>11</sup> Letter to William Marks and Newel K. Whitney, 8 July 1838, *Joseph Smith Papers*, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/letter-to-william-marks-and-newel-k-whitney-8-july-1838>

<sup>12</sup> Lyndon Cook and Milton V. Backman Jr, ed. *Kirtland Elders’ Quorum Record, 1836-1841*, Grandin Book Co, 1985, p.47.

<sup>13</sup> Lyndon Cook and Milton V. Backman Jr, ed. *Kirtland Elders’ Quorum Record, 1836-1841*, Grandin Book Co, 1985, p.48.

<sup>14</sup> Conference at Quincy Illinois, 1839 May 6, *Historian’s Office general Church minutes, 1839-1877*, Church History Library CR 100 318 box 1 folder 4 p.2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=3ae7a00d-6f8f-4a31-bba7-a00199f3eb60&crate=0&index=1>; Authorization for Oliver Granger, 6 May 1839, Church History Library MS 18980, *Joseph Smith Papers*, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/authorization-for-oliver-granger-6-may-1839>

that the advice of this conference to the brethren living in the Eastern States is for them to move to Kirtland and the vicinity thereof and again settle that place as a stake of Zion, provided that they may feel so inclined, in preference to their moving further West.”

November 20: Council meeting in Kirtland, chaired by Heber C. Kimball.<sup>15</sup> Regional missionaries called. No mention of any local organization.

## 1840

March 13: Minutes of Kirtland Elders Quorum resume uneventfully, with same president as in 1838.<sup>16</sup>

April 3: Sidney Rigdon writes JS from New Jersey,<sup>17</sup> reporting that Almon Babbitt is encouraging local saints (especially in Philadelphia) to gather to Kirtland rather than Nauvoo, which he thinks is a bad idea given the debt of the Church that needs to be paid using land sales in Nauvoo (despite the resolution in the May 1839 conference).

April 29: JS and Oliver Granger sign papers appointing the latter a land agent for JS and the Church.<sup>18</sup> *So Granger is still in Nauvoo.*

Spring: Granger arrives in Kirtland, conducts some business, then goes to New York to do business.

Summer: Almon Babbitt moves to Kirtland

23 June: Oliver Granger writes JS from New York with concerns about Babbitt, who was apparently spreading rumors about JS' conduct years earlier.<sup>19</sup> *Is this in his presiding authority?*

July: JS writes Oliver Granger in response.<sup>20</sup> Says he would like to see Kirtland flourish, but “in consequence of aspiring men [the 1837 apostates] that Kirtland has been forsaken.” Refers to Babbitt encouraging eastern saints to gather to Kirtland. **“It is binding on you to act as president of the Church in Kirtland** until you are removed by the same authority which put you in, and I do hope there will be no cause for opposition.” Approves WW Phelps' desire to return to the Church (who is living in Kirtland).

September 5: High Council hears a case of Joseph Smith Jr against Almon Babbitt,<sup>21</sup> based on the June letter from Oliver Granger and another from Thomas Burdick, including several rumors

---

<sup>15</sup> Kirtland Council Meeting, Church History Library MS 24553, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/00a1ec4f-eedb-4d03-bca5-2d7a8cef9794/0/0?lang=eng>

<sup>16</sup> Lyndon Cook and Milton V. Backman Jr, ed. *Kirtland Elders' Quorum Record, 1836-1841*, Grandin Book Co, 1985, p.49.

<sup>17</sup> Letter from Sidney Rigdon, April 3 1840, *Joseph Smith Papers*, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/letter-from-sidney-rigdon-3-april-1840/1>

<sup>18</sup> Agreement with Oliver Granger, 29 April 1840, *Joseph Smith Papers*, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/agreement-with-oliver-granger-29-april-1840/1>

<sup>19</sup> Letter is not extant, but referenced in Letter to Oliver Granger, between circa 22 and circa 28 July 1840, *Joseph Smith Papers*, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/letter-to-oliver-granger-between-circa-22-and-circa-28-july-1840/1>

<sup>20</sup> Letter to Oliver Granger, between circa 22 and circa 28 July 1840, *Joseph Smith Papers*, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/letter-to-oliver-granger-between-circa-22-and-circa-28-july-1840/1>

<sup>21</sup> *Nauvoo High Council Minutes*, September 5-6, pp.76-78, *Joseph Smith Papers*, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/minutes-5-6-september-1840/>

being spread by Babbitt (but unrelated to the Kirtland organization). Babbitt (who is present in Nauvoo) and JS reconcile and the charges are dropped.

October 3: General conference in Nauvoo.<sup>22</sup> Almon Babbitt is “appointed to preside over the Church in Kirtland,” and that he can choose his own councilors. Hyrum Smith, Lyman Wight, and Almon Babbitt are called to organize stakes “between this place and Kirtland.”

October 19: JS and HS write “to the Saints in Kirtland Ohio.”<sup>23</sup> “We likewise must complain of the brethren who are in office and authority in the **Stake of Kirtland** for not writing to us and making known their difficulties and their affairs from time to time so that they might be advised in matters of importance to the well being of said stake.” “The situation of Kirtland was brought before the general Conference holden at this place on the 3d. instant, when it was resolved that Elder Almon Babbitt[t] should be appointed to preside over the Stake of Kirtland and that he be privileged to choose his own counselors.” “It has been deemed prudent to advise the Eastern bretheren who desire to locate in Kirtland, to do so, consequently you may expect an increase of members in your stake” *Apparently, they have not heard from Granger in a while, and have assumed that Kirtland is disorganized, whereupon they called Babbitt to replace him. Might Babbitt have encouraged this confusion?*

## 1841

January 12: “Almon Babbitt has been appointed to preside at Kirtland and has entered upon his odious duties, the church there numbers about 300 members.”<sup>24</sup> *Second hand reference*

January 19: in a revelation (D&C 124): “I the Lord will build up Kirtland, but I the Lord have a scourge prepared for the inhabitants thereof; and with my servant Almon Babbitt there are many things with which I am not well pleased; behold he aspireth to establish his counsel instead of the counsel which I have ordained, even the presidency of my Church, and he setteth up a golden calf, for the worship of my people.”<sup>25</sup> *This appears to relate both to his business dealings and him encouraging saints to gather to Kirtland instead of Nauvoo.*

January 26: JS writes Oliver Granger.<sup>26</sup> He refers to two (nonextant) letters he has received about the positive state of the Church in Kirtland, very late. JS wishes he had received them earlier, or he would not have appointed Babbitt to preside at the October Conference, which is apparently causing some confusion. “I hope you will not let any of the proceeding of last Conference disturb your mind, for we understood you were intending to come here last fall, and consequently thought it advisable to appoint some one to preside in Kirtland. I should be glad if

---

<sup>22</sup> Nauvoo Illinois, 1840 October 3-5, *Historian's Office general Church minutes, 1839-1877*, Church History Library CR 100 318 box 1 folder 6 p.3, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=268dddc2-c4de-4804-ae66-aef05c566e47&crate=0&index=2>

<sup>23</sup> Letter to the Saints in Kirtland Ohio, 19 October 1840, *Joseph Smith Papers*, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/letter-to-the-saints-in-kirtland-ohio-19-october-1840/1>

<sup>24</sup> John Smith to George A. Smith, 1841 January 7, *George A. Smith Papers*, Church History Library MS 1322 p.45, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=839e8fa2-9d7c-4e36-9f5b-10d17be825ff/0/44>

<sup>25</sup> *Doctrine and Covenants* 124:83-84, Revelation, 19 January 1841, *Joseph Smith Papers*, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/revelation-19-january-1841-dc-124/8>

<sup>26</sup> Letter to Oliver Granger, 26 January 1841, *Joseph Smith Papers*, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/letter-to-oliver-granger-26-january-1841/1>

you would co-operate with Elder Babbitt and both lay your Shoulders to the work, and if you do so I think you will be a blessing to the Church.” Acknowledges Granger’s success in relieving the debt on the Lord’s House and expresses his regard “for the prosperity of the Saints in Kirtland.”

March/April: Hyrum Smith meets Almon Babbitt in Philadelphia, and (according to Babbitt) authorizes him to organize the “Church with 2 counselors and Bishop and council.”<sup>27</sup>

May 4: JS writes Oliver Granger, mentions Granger’s prolonged illness.<sup>28</sup> Concerned about him possibly dying, encourages him to partner with Isaac Galland on the land disposal process (*apparently they did not subsequently meet and Granger was working with Babbitt instead*). Instructs him to keep possession of the temple until JS instructs him otherwise.

May 22: Conference at Kirtland, Almon Babbitt chair, W.W. Phelps clerk.<sup>29</sup> “The chairman explained the business of the conference relative to a reorganization, and resigned his office of president of this stake.” Babbitt is subsequently re-nominated “for the president or presiding elder of the stake in Kirtland; but he declined, yet, after some discussion, was unanimously elected. Elder Babbitt nominated for his counselors Elders Lester Brooks and Zebidee Coltrin.” “Thomas Burdick was nominated and unanimously elected Bishop of Kirtland,” counselors Hiram Winters and Reuben McBride. Also sustained priesthood quorum presidencies. No mention of a high council. Churches represented: [*are these part of the stake, or just attending the conference?*]

- “Kirtland Church.” between 3 and 400 members
- “branch of the Church” at Brownhelm, Lorain County, 15 members and 3 priesthood
- Charleston, Lorain County, 6 members
- Nelson, 23 members and 3 elders
- Madison, Lake County, 6 members and 1 elder
- Harrisonville, 7 members and 1 teacher, PE Harvey Edwards
- Brooklyn, 22 members, 2 priesthood, PE John Hughes
- Grafton, 20 members, 4 priesthood
- Gustavus, Trumbull Co., 11 members and 1 elder, Manly Isham appointed as PE
- Andover, Ashtabula Co., 27 members, 3 priesthood, PE James M. Adams

May 24: In a general epistle, the first presidency encourages the gathering to Nauvoo, and directs that all stakes beyond its immediate area be discontinued.<sup>30</sup>

August 27: Oliver Granger [L9PH-GW3] dies after a prolonged illness.

August 30: HS writes Oliver Granger; mentions that Babbitt’s actions are in opposition to the May general epistle and the January revelation.

---

<sup>27</sup> Almon Babbitt letter, 19 October 1841, *Joseph Smith Papers*, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/letter-from-almon-babbitt-19october-1841/3>

<sup>28</sup> Letter to Oliver Granger, 4 May 1841, *Joseph Smith Papers*, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/letter-to-oliver-granger-4may-1841>

<sup>29</sup> Conference Minutes, *Times and Seasons*, V.2 #17 (July 1 1841), p.458. <https://archive.org/details/TimesAndSeasonsVol2/page/n459/mode/2up>

<sup>30</sup> To the Saints Abroad, *Times and Seasons*, June 1<sup>st</sup> 1841, 2:15:434. <https://archive.org/details/TimesAndSeasonsVol2/page/n417/mode/2up>

October 1: At general conference in Nauvoo, Almon Babbitt is reprimanded (in absentia) for encouraging eastern saints to gather to Kirtland rather than Nauvoo, and is disfellowshipped.<sup>31</sup> Also resolves that Reuben McBride (who is visiting and in attendance) be the new Church agent in Kirtland.

October 2: Conference in Kirtland, chairman Almon Babbitt.<sup>32</sup> They resolve to establish a press and publish a periodical entitled "The Olive Leaf." Elders sent to the Brooklin, Nelson, and Andover branches. "The representation of churches showed an increase of branches and members."

October 5: Kirtland Elder's Quorum minutes end mid-sentence.<sup>33</sup>

October: HS writes "a member of that [Kirtland] branch."<sup>34</sup> "as to the organization of that branch of the church, it is not according to the spirit and will of God; and as to the designs of the leading members of that branch relative to the printing press, and the ordaining of Elders, and sending out Elders to beg for the poor, are not according to the will of God." Quotes a (undocumented) revelation that once Nauvoo is "filled up," then the Lord will build up Kirtland. *This seems more strident than Joseph's instructions.*

October 19: Almon Babbitt writes the First Presidency<sup>35</sup> defending his ecclesiastical and business actions. He claims that the rumor of his insubordination was a misunderstanding due to the contradiction between his October 1840 calling (and April instructions from Hyrum) and the May 1841 general epistle. Claims there are now 500 members in Kirtland "and a good many churches adjacent to this Stake" (suggesting that these branches were not part of the stake). He asks for clarification on what he should do with Kirtland, including the temple and remaining church property. "I therefore cannot consent as I now feel to preside over this Stake it a standing that I do not desire for this reason: I do not not feel qualified."

October 28: Joseph Smith grants Reuben McBride power of attorney in Kirtland in place of Oliver Granger.<sup>36</sup> *No mention of any ecclesiastical authority.*

November 2: Clarification of October 28 letter, specifically rescinding the appointment of Almon Babbitt and transferring his rights to McBride.<sup>37</sup> *No mention of any ecclesiastical authority.*

November 16: Counselors Brooks and Coltrin, "acting Presidents," and Bishop Burdick write the First Presidency and the Twelve.<sup>38</sup> They are hopeful that Babbitt can clear his name and return,

---

<sup>31</sup> Minutes of a Conference, *Times and Seasons*, V.2 #24 (October 15 1841), p.577.

<https://archive.org/details/TimesAndSeasonsVol2/page/n663/mode/2up>

<sup>32</sup> Kirtland Conference Minutes, *Times and Seasons*, V.3 #1 (November 14 1841), p.587,

<https://archive.org/details/TimesAndSeasonsVol3/page/n23/mode/2up>

<sup>33</sup> Lyndon Cook and Milton V. Backman Jr, ed. *Kirtland Elders' Quorum Record, 1836-1841*, Grandin Book Co, 1985, p.66.

<sup>34</sup> Extract of a letter, *Times and Seasons*, V.3 #1 (November 14 1841), p.589,

<https://archive.org/details/TimesAndSeasonsVol3/page/n27/mode/2up>

<sup>35</sup> Almon Babbitt letter, 19 October 1841, *Joseph Smith Papers*,

<https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/letter-from-almon-babbitt-19october-1841/3>

<sup>36</sup> Power of Attorney to Reuben McBride, 28 October 1841, *Joseph Smith Papers*,

<https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/power-of-attorney-to-reuben-mcbride-28october-1841>

<sup>37</sup> Power of Attorney to Reuben McBride, 2 November 1841, *Joseph Smith Papers*,

<https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/power-of-attorney-to-reuben-mcbride-2-november-1841/1>

<sup>38</sup> Lester Brooks, Zebedee Coltrin, Thomas Burdick to Joseph Smith, 16 November 1841. *Joseph Smith Papers*, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/letter-from-lester-brooks-and-others-16november-1841>

but acknowledge that he had been ambitious about the building of Kirtland. "Kirtland contains some good-hearted well-meaning saints." They ask for clarification whether Kirtland should be abandoned, including the temple.

December 15: JS responds to Church leaders in Kirtland,<sup>39</sup> reiterating that according to the May circular, all outlying stakes should have been discontinued. However, he allows the faithful residents of Kirtland to remain, build their printing press, retain the House of the Lord, but to not encourage others to gather there. Almon Babbitt is not yet reconciled.

## 1842

January 3: Reuben McBride writes Joseph Smith from Kirtland.<sup>40</sup> He has recently returned from Nauvoo to find "all in confusion in Kirtland" due to Hyrum Smith's October letter and the disfellowshipment of Babbitt, some blaming McBride for causing the tumult while in Nauvoo. He and Babbitt are not on good terms. Mentions the "bishop here" [Burdick].

October 28: Apostle Lyman Wight holds a meeting in Kirtland (500-700 in attendance).<sup>41</sup> He "gave it as his opinion that it would not be necessary to organize as a stake, but remain for further instructions from President Joseph Smith, as a Branch." Lester Brooks chosen president with counsellors, and Thomas Burdick bishop, "as before, with the right to choose his own counsellors."

## 1843

April 6: Conference at Kirtland.<sup>42</sup> Lyman Wight presides over the conference, but Lester Brooks is still the president at Kirtland. With Wight's encouragement, the saints resolve to move to Nauvoo.

## 1844

April 6: In General Conference, where missionaries are sent out throughout the United States to prepare for multiple stakes, Lester Brooks is named as the counselor to Lorenzo Snow as president in Ohio.<sup>43</sup>

October 8: At general conference, Lester Brooks is listed as one of the high priests called to preside over significant branches and build them into stakes (presumably the one in Kirtland)<sup>44</sup>

---

<sup>39</sup> Letter to Church Leaders in Kirtland, Ohio, 15 December 1841 (extract in *Book of the Law of the Lord*), *Joseph Smith Papers*, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/letter-to-church-leaders-in-kirtland-ohio-15-december-1841/1>

<sup>40</sup> Letter from Reuben McBride, 3 January 1842, *Joseph Smith Papers*, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/letter-from-reuben-mcbride-3-january-1842>

<sup>41</sup> *Times and Seasons*, 4:3 (December 15, 1842) p.39.

<https://archive.org/details/TimesAndSeasonsVol4/page/n61/mode/2up>

<sup>42</sup> Conference Proceedings, *Times and Seasons*, V.4 #18 (August 1 1843) p.282,

<https://archive.org/details/TimesAndSeasonsVol4/page/n423/mode/2up>

<sup>43</sup> Special Conference, *Times and Seasons*, V.5 #8 (April 15 1844), p.504-506,

<https://archive.org/details/TimesAndSeasonsVol5/page/n211/mode/2up>

<sup>44</sup> October Conference Minutes, *Times and Seasons*, V.5 #20 (November 1 1841) p.696,

<https://archive.org/details/TimesAndSeasonsVol5/page/n479/mode/2up>

*However, Brooks joined James Strang's church along with many Kirtland Saints, including going on a mission to England with fellow Kirtland resident Martin Harris.*