

**STEVEN A. DOUGLAS – JOSEPH SMITH, JR.
1839-1844 (THE NAUVOO PERIOD)
ILLINOIS TIMELINE**

Douglas

Smith

Born April 23, 1813 in Brandon, Vermont	Born Dec. 23, 1805 in Sharon, Vermont
Learned cabinet making as young adult	1816 , family moves to western New York & settles into farming outside Palmyra, NY
1832 , begins studying law at Canandaigua Academy in New York	1820, Spring , the Prophet's First Vision
1833 , moves to Ohio and then to Winchester, IL where he continues to study law while teaching school	1823, September , first Angel Moroni vision
1834 , passes the Illinois Bar and establishes his first legal practice in Jacksonville, IL	1827, Jan. 18 , marries Emma Hale at South Bainbridge, NY Sept. 22 , obtains book of Mormon plates to later be transcribed into the book of Mormon December , moves to Harmony, Pennsylvania
1835 , serves as Morgan County (Jacksonville) States Attorney	1829 , Transcription continues on Book of Mormon
1836, Dec. elected as Representative to Illinois Legislature	1830, March , Book of Mormon published April 6 , Church organized
	1831, January , moves Church to Kirtland, Ohio
	1832, March , tarred & feathered by mob in Hiram, Ohio
	1833, July 2 , completes revision of Bible Nov. 22 , learns of expulsion of Latter Day Saints from Jackson, Co., Missouri
	1834, May – Aug. , leads Zion Camp expedition to Missouri; returns
	1835, February , organizes Quorum of Twelve Apostles and Quorum of Seventy
	1836, March 27 , dedication of Temple in Kirtland
	1837, June , sends first missionaries to British Isles
1838 , runs unsuccessfully for Congress in the Third District. ---Douglas leads attack on Supreme Court (the Whig Court) for upholding the "Life Tenure for Whigs" philosophy regarding Alexander Pope Field, the Whig Secretary	1838, Jan.12 – March 14 , flees Kirtland for Far West, Missouri Oct. 31 , surrenders to Missouri Militia at Far West; imprisoned Nov. 1 , sentenced to death; Gen. Alexander Doniphan prevents execution

<p>of State after the Democrats successfully elect a Democrat Governor. Field eventually resigned and Gov. Carlin appoints Douglas in his place.</p> <p>---Alien vote issue taken up by Douglas. Democrats needed alien vote for their continuing successes in Illinois. Douglas again leads attack on the Supreme Court to overturn ruling in Aug., 1838 during appeal session on June, 1840. Wins continuance on technicality postponing the Courts decision and “saves” the alien vote for the upcoming elections.</p>	
<p>1840-1841 Douglas’ Democrat comrades in the legislature enact a law assuring the right to vote be extended to all adult males without reference to citizenship. During the same session, Douglas, as Secty. of State, lobbies and supports the Nauvoo charters of the Mormons, seeing their successful enactment into law. Democrats also reorganize the Supreme Court by adding five new justices, all Democrats. Future Gov. Thomas Ford and Douglas are appointed to the reorganized Court in 1841.</p>	<p>1839, Jan. 1839, Saints begin exodus from Missouri to Quincy, IL, largest town on upper Mississippi River. Refugees number approx. 5,000. April, indicted on charge of treason; arrested but escapes; reunited with family at Quincy, IL</p>
<p>1841, Douglas seated by choice in the Mormon circuit (Fifth) serving the dual role as circuit judge and SP Justice. He successfully carried the favor and friendship of the Prophet. He serves the Mormons on several occasions in both his official capacity and an advisory role.</p> <p>May 7, Judge Douglas attends Nauvoo Legion parade ceremonies and dines with Gen. Smith and other high-ranking Mormon officials at Smith’s home.</p>	<p>1839, May 10, moves to Commerce (later called Nauvoo) Illinois</p> <p>Nov. 29, visits U.S. President Martin VanBuren, lobbies for justice for the persecuted Mormons. Van Buren is indifferent.</p>
<p>---appoints Esquire Davis, a friend of the Saints, to the post of County Clerk which enrages citizens of Warsaw, members of the anti-Mormon party.</p> <p>June, Judge Douglas pre-arranges and hears the extradition writ case against Smith before his bench in Monmouth. Douglas dismisses the writ.</p> <p>---Douglas clinches the Mormon vote by appointing Gen. John C. Bennett a Master-</p>	<p>1840, Dec., Illinois State Legislature convenes, Gen. John C. Bennett serves as lobbyist for Smith’s proposed City and associated charters. Stephen Douglas, already a power in the Democrat Party and a young Il. Secty. Of State, lends his support for Smith’s charters in General Assembly. Legislators did not overlook the fact that the Mormons were a powerful political bloc when they quickly considered</p>

<p>In-Chancery for Hancock County. Douglas' exercise of the power and patronage of the bench in behalf of the Mormons bore its fruit in time for the campaign of 1842.</p>	<p>the proposed charter and voted for its acceptance.</p>
	<p>1841, Jan. 19, revelation for construction of Nauvoo House & Nauvoo Temple Feb. 4, elected Lt. General in command of Nauvoo Legion (nearly 2,000 strong) May 7, Judge Douglas suspends court hearings in nearby Carthage to attend Legion parade ceremonies and sumptuous dinner at Gen. Smith's residence June, Judge Douglas arranges to have Smith's extradition writ proceedings take place before his bench in Monmouth, where Smith was swiftly discharged</p>
<p>1842, Dec., Justice Douglas dines with Smith delegation in Springfield prior to Gov. Ford's polling of the six Illinois Supreme Court justices in town regarding the validity of Gov. Carlin's arrest warrants and the Missouri "Boggs extradition writ". Justice Douglas is present at the polling.</p>	<p>1842, Jan, Smith vows Mormons will vote in a bloc for whomever benefits their cause the most, regardless of party...this sets a dangerous course for the Mormons and Smith at Nauvoo March 15, officiates at installation of Nauvoo Masonic Lodge; receives First Degree of Masonry May 6, former Missouri Gov. Lilburn Boggs is victim of assassination attempt; Smith and Norman Porter Rockwell are targets of new extradition writs from Missouri Gov. Thomas Reynolds on charges of attempted murder. (Gov. Reynolds had earlier in his career served as a Illinois Supreme Court justice from 1822 to 1824). IL Gov. Carlin issues arrest warrants for Smith and Rockwell for extradition to Missouri. Both are arrested in Nauvoo-freed by writ of habeas corpus in Nauvoo. May 19, elected Mayor of Nauvoo Aug. 8, Smith and Rockwell arrested on Missouri charges again and released the same day under the writ of habeas corpus from Nauvoo Municipal Court. Attempts of Missouri to get Smith for trial had become an annual summer event. Aug. – Dec., Smith goes into hiding in</p>

	<p>Nauvoo to avoid future arrest attempts Dec., Thomas Ford replaces Carlin as Gov. of IL. Smith comes out of hiding and surrenders to custody of General Law of the Nauvoo Legion after being convinced of the likelihood of succeeding on a habeas corpus writ through the U.S. District Court in Springfield. Gov. Ford polls 6 Supreme Court justices (Douglas) regarding validity of another Missouri writ & former Il. Gov. Carlin's arrest warrants for Smith; Justices opinion-writ is illegal and insufficient to cause arrest.</p>
<p>1843, Jan., Supreme Court Justice Douglas signs affidavit presented before U.S. District Court in Springfield, IL, Judge Nathaniel Pope presiding, attesting that Smith was in Nauvoo at the time of the assassination attempt on Gov. Boggs.</p> <p>Douglas elected to Congress.</p>	<p>1843, Jan. 5, U.S. District Court Judge Nathaniel Pope issues writ of habeas corpus for Smith, protecting him from the Boggs Attempted Murder charges and the extradition writ</p>
<p>1844, Feb., Douglas informed that Missouri Gov. Thomas Reynolds, who had issued the extradition writs for Joseph Smith and others from 1840-1844, was found dead in his Executive Mansion office, the victim of an apparent suicide. Gov. Reynolds formerly served for a short time as a justice on the Illinois Supreme Court (1822 - 1824). He was elected Gov. of Missouri in 1840 but, died with only ten months left in his term, on Feb. 9, 1844</p> <p>Douglas runs for re-election as Congressman from the Fifth District (Mormon district). As an incumbent, he wins handily, aided by the Mormon bloc vote even after Smith's assassination. The Mormon's had remembered and respected Smith's friendship with Douglas during the Nauvoo period.</p>	<p>1844, Feb. 20, instructs the Twelve to select a new location for the Saints in Oregon or California May 17, nominated by Mormons as a candidate for U.S. Presidency June 12, arrested on charge of riot for destruction of anti-Mormon press, the Nauvoo Expositor; freed on writ of habeas corpus June 25, Smith surrenders at Carthage June 27, Smith & brother Hyrum killed by mob storming the Carthage Jail</p> <p>Brigham Young assumes leadership of the Latter Day Saints after Smith's death.</p>

1845, July-September, Hostilities break out between the Mormons and other settlers in Western Illinois after the Smiths' assassination in Carthage. Anti-Mormon extremists begin systematically burning Mormon farms out in the county. More than 200 buildings are destroyed. Civil War has broken out. Sheriff Jacob Backenstos, elected by Mormons, raises a force of several hundred Mormons and lays siege to Carthage, destroying all resistance and taking the city. Opposition leaders flee to Missouri. Backenstos holds Hancock County under martial law enforced by Mormon volunteers. Gov. Ford councils in Jacksonville with Congressman Douglas, General Hardin and Attorney General McDougall. They decide to send a large force to Hancock County to keep the peace. It was also decided that these same men would unite with Gov. Ford to "induce the Mormons to leave the state". These men and W.B. Warren (Clerk of the Illinois Supreme Court) are named to the commission to accompany the Brigade of soldiers to Nauvoo to negotiate with the Mormons for their withdrawal from the State. Douglas, is issued an army commission on September 22, 1845 as an Aide de Camp to the Commanding General. This position carried the rank of Major in the Illinois Militia. The Gov. also appointed Warren a Major for the Brigade. Coincidentally, all four Commissioners were Freemasons. Many Mormons had been or were Freemasons. Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, and Hyrum Smith had been members of the fraternal order.

October 3, the Commissioners inform the President (Brigham Young) and High

<p>Council of the Church of L.D.S. that “ We are convinced that affairs have reached such a crisis that it has become impossible for your church to remain in this country”. The Mormon leadership, coincidentally Freemasons, also, accepts the prognosis and decides to withdraw to the Far West. Gov. Ford had wisely chosen Freemason commissioners to deliver the sad message to their Mormon Freemason leadership.</p>	
<p>1846, May, Major Warren (Supreme Court Clerk) who had remained in Nauvoo since the Commissioners’ negotiations in the fall of 1845, is recalled along with his detachment after the majority of Mormons had safely left the State.</p>	<p>1845, Jan. 29, Nauvoo Charter revoked by Illinois General Assembly thus, depriving the Mormon city of its legal government, with no provision made by the hostile legislature for an alternative to prevent lawlessness and anarchy within the city. The Nauvoo Legion is not disbanded. July – Sept., hostilities break out and eventually lead to Civil War between the anti-Mormon factions and the Mormons October peace is brokered by Commissioners sent with the State’s Brigade to quell the violence in Hancock Co. Stephen Douglas, former Supreme Court Justice and now Congressman, serves as a commissioner alongside Supreme Court Clerk, W. B. Warren. Commissioners travel on from Nauvoo to Quincy to meet with delegations from nine counties who were meeting on Oct. 1 to determine how to take action against the Mormons. Douglas and Gen. Hardin convinced them to allow the Mormons peace to leave the State.</p>
	<p>1845-46 Winter, Mormon exodus to the West from Nauvoo begins</p>