

The Story of the Eight Witnesses Monument
Liberty, Missouri

Dedicated: November 19, 2011

Time Capsule Placed: November 10, 2012

A book similar to this was placed in the time capsule

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Story of Eight Witnesses Monument – Introductory Letter

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November 9, 2012

To the Latter-day Saints, my descendants,
and all who may read these words,

It is with great humility and gratitude that I write this letter. For me, this is an opportunity to aid in advancing the testimony of the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon and to share some of the miracles surrounding the erection of this monument.

When first invited to assist John and Kipp Craig in securing this property it seemed like an exciting legal matter but I did not know then how it would affect my life. It quickly became a labor of love and I felt the hand of God guide me through the legal process and the proceedings. At many times, application of the law was only the surface of the challenge and what became most import were the personal relationships surrounding this project. I have included with this letter several photographs of the day the foundation was poured and then, 30 days later, when the monument was set. I have also provided an affidavit prepared during the legal proceedings securing this property. The purpose of this letter will be to share two sacred experiences which occurred during this project.

Securing the land

The first challenge in securing the land was to strike the deal with the right person. It was quickly discovered that determining who that person was would not be an easy task. There were two successive beneficiary deeds filed in Clay County transferring the property to the step grandsons of Virgil Saddler – Ronnie Phillips Sr. and his son Ronnie Phillips, Jr. While these deeds were poorly drafted making it unclear who had a life estate in the property and how long that would last, it was clear that the area used as a cemetery was excepted from the Deed. This meant that upon the death of Mr. Sadler, his Will would determine who the cemetery would be transferred to. However, the Will was never probated and the time for doing so had long since passed. This meant that the rights to that portion of the land were transferred to the heirs of Mr. Sadler. He had no surviving spouse and no natural or adopted children. So now the

questions became who are his heirs, would they agree to transfer to the property, would they require payment of money, could they even be located? Each question seemed to be an opportunity for failure.

The miracle came in the amazing cooperation of this family. These family members are mentioned in the affidavit attached and you will see that they each responded with the agreement to transfer the land and the cemetery to the Craig's and the Craig's agreed to accept liability for the cemetery. These family members were all non-members of the church but each became united in making this monument possible. No one asked for money. Not one objected to the project and each was very supportive. If even one of the siblings, nieces or nephews of Vergil Sadler decided they wanted money or objected to the project, this would not have happened without a long legal challenge, if at all. It seemed so very unique to have such complete unity among a family that did not seem that close to each other and had no affiliation with the church. But, that is what happened and the property was secured.

Setting the Monument

Due to weather, shipping delay, schedules and construction issues, the monument was scheduled to be set just three days before the dedication ceremony was to take place. I had made arrangements, after much effort, for the donation of the transportation from Vermont to Liberty Missouri by J.E. Dunn Construction Company. They also agree to provide a crane and crew to lift the 60,000 pound solid Granit monument to the foundation that had been poured 30 days prior. The foundation was eight by eight in diameter and over five feet deep. This steel reinforced foundation was required to hold this monument into eternity. J.E. Dunn also agreed to provide the stone masons to set the stone.

The morning the project was to take place I was sitting at my desk when I had a strong impression to leave my desk and go to the site. I quickly stood up and told my secretary that I would be back. When I arrived at the monument site I was surprised to see that all equipment was just sitting idle and the workers and foreman were standing around looking at each other. I got out of my vehicle and asked for the man in charge. In doing so the person I spoke with told me that the project had stalled because the power company (KCPL) came to turn off the power but realized it was a bigger project than expected. The power running past that land in the overhead cables could not just be shut off, the lines needed to be cut and moved so the crane could safely be operated. Cutting the lines required at least 48 hours written notice to everyone below where the lines were cut and we were informed that we needed to make this request.

I asked the foreman and other men in charge if they knew who we needed to speak with at KCPL. They had no idea. After about an hour of surmising over how to solve the problem the foreman stated that they needed to pull off the job and could come back when the power lines were down. This would mean that the dedication would need to be canceled and all the guests from around the world and church head quarters would need to be notified. I excused myself from the group and offered a short prayer. No sooner had I finished this prayer when I clearly remembered that one of the men in my neighborhood worked for KCPL. I could not find his number so I call the general number to KCPL and asked for Mike Degendorff. To my surprise they patched me right in. To my greater surprise, he was apparently the CEO and director for all of KCPL. He was not in the country at the time but his assistant sent him an email. Through this process I explained how the power line needed to come down, that no notice had been given to the users of the line but that I had a crane and crew ready and that the dedication was only a couple days away. I was asked if notice could be provided and I said I thought I could make that happen.

I got into my car and drove the distance of the power line to see how many would be affected. To my surprise, there were only three families! I knocked on the doors of each family and explained what was taking place then asked for permission to shut off the power. They all readily agreed until I got to the last house where I was told clearly NO. That home had two people who lived there who were medically dependent upon the electricity. I then asked that if I could provide a generator to power their home, would that be acceptable. The adult daughter who was taking care of her parents agreed and I called a friend, Bart Walker, who owned an electric company. They quickly ran over a generator, we started it up and I went back to the site to let them know I had made arrangements. Within thirty minutes from that point, the power lines were cut! The foremen were astounded. They had never seen the power company work so quickly and willingly. It was a true miracle.

After the lines were cut, I received an angry phone call from the man who was dependent upon the electricity. Apparently, he felt differently from his daughter. I quickly drove to his home and was escorted back to his room. He was sitting up in bed and did not look happy. I extended my apologies and asked how I could help. I explained why the power was off and why we needed his help. I did not know that his wife had very hard feelings toward the church. After a few moments, some careful discussion, and continual silent prayer, he softened and agreed to let us move forward. I thanked him and then, as I left the house, I had the impression that I should offer to buy him lunch. I went back to the home and extended the offer. It was warmly accepted and feelings were mended.

There are many other powerful experiences surrounding this project where God's hand was evident. I am moved to tears when I think of his power and care for each of use. The events of this project are a witness to me of the importance of the restoration of the Book of Mormon. I am deeply grateful for the testimony of the eight witnesses. I join my witness with them. While I have not handled the plates, or even seem them, I have received a powerful witness from the Holy Ghost that the restoration of the gospel is true and the Book of Mormon is indeed the word of God. This knowledge has directed the actions and decisions of my life. This knowledge gives me a witness of the divinity of Christ. He is my savior and redeemer. I have covenanted to follow him and to be a true disciple.

May God bless all who read this letter, with its supporting material, with a desire to read the Book of Mormon and obtain a conviction of it and that Jesus Christ is to Son of God and Savior of the world.

Sincerely,

Rodney A. Ames

A Story from the Dedication of the Eight Witnesses Monument

On November 19, 2011, the monument to the Eight Witnesses was dedicated in Liberty, Missouri. Among the little miracles that helped make this event a success was one involving parking. The monument is located off a narrow street that does not provide much room for parking. A last minute decision was made to direct cars to park on a field located up the hill from the monument - a member directing parking was sure the land belonged to a friend, and that the friend would not mind if they allowed cars to park there.

After everyone had parked -- including about 20 cars on the field -- and walked to the dedication ceremony, a member of the Liberty Ward involved in parking, decided to make one last trip up the hill to check on the field parking. As he neared the top of the hill, a Suburban drove up on the sidewalk next to the field, stopping short in front of Patrick Rainey, a member of the Shoal Creek ward. An upset man jumped out of the Suburban and began talking to Br. Rainey. As the member approached, the visibly-agitated man demanded to know who gave permission for the cars park on his field. Responding while a bit confused, the member asked whether the field belonged to his friend. A "no" came thundering in response, followed by the man describing himself as unpleasant to deal with. The member apologized for his misunderstanding, and stated, "please tell us what damage there is to the field, and we will make you whole." Sputtering in anger and disbelief, the man demanded, "I don't even know who 'we' is." So, the member introduced himself: "well, I'm Mark Lehnardt," he said as he extended his hand.

The man's countenance immediately changed from anger to curiosity, and he inquired, "do you have a son named Stephen?" The member replied, "no, but I have a brother named Stephen who has a son named Stephen." Upon hearing the family relationship, any remaining anger in this man left, and he explained as he turned to return to his Suburban, "your nephew goes to school with my daughter. Don't worry about parking here."

The member called up his nephew to thank him for treating young women with respect. He learned that his 14 year-old nephew's school locker was next to the man's daughter for 4 years. Without knowing or planning, by following the teachings of the Savior, his nephew had made a significant enough impression on a young woman's father that his anger disappeared when the mere family relationship came to light

Youth of the church can do great things, and have wide-ranging effect on their communities, simply by following the example of Jesus Christ and living the ideals taught in YM and YW programs of the Church.

Affidavit of Ronald Putz

*Name of Deponent: Ronald Putz
Affidavit sworn: July 25, 2008*

AFFIDAVIT OF RONALD PUTZ

RE: THE ARTHUR FAMILY CEMETARY BURIAL PLACE OF CHRISTIAN WHITMER AND PETER WHITMER JR.

I, Ronald Putz, of the City of Blue Springs, in the State of Missouri, retired, MAKE OATH AND SAY THAT:

1. I am a founding member of the Missouri Mormon Frontier Foundation ("MMFF"), an organization founded in 1991 that, among other things, studies, identifies and commemorates historical sites which are of significance to early Mormon history in Missouri, generally between 1831 and 1839. I have also given tours of historical sites to others interested in this early Missouri mormon history for the last number of years. As such I have personal knowledge of the matters set out herein, except where stated to be on information and belief, in which case I do verily believe them to be true.
2. One site of significance in Missouri Mormon history is the Arthur farm in Clay County, Missouri ("the Arthur Farm"). It was located just south and west of Liberty, Missouri. It was acquired by Michael Arthur in 1830 and owned by him until 1867. Attached to this my Affidavit as **Exhibit "A"** is the Deed of Transfer to Michael Arthur dated July 26, 1830 and the Deed of Transfer from Michael Arthur dated August 26, 1867.
3. Many events of significance in Missouri Mormon history took place on the Arthur Farm, particularly in and around 1834. Many of these are described in a book entitled "Sacred Places", edited by the late Lamar Barrett, of Brigham Young University, an excerpt of which is attached to this my Affidavit as **Exhibit "B"** see particularly pp. 170-180).
4. One of the significant events which are believed to have taken place on the Arthur Farm is the burial of two of the eight witnesses to the Book of Mormon, Christian Whitmer in 1835 and Peter Whitmer Jr. in 1836. Attached to this my Affidavit as **Exhibit "C"** is an email to me

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dated December 20, 2007, from Ron Romig, historian of the Community of Christ Church (formerly the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) and another founding member of MMFF.

5. When I first visited the site of the Arthur farm in about 2000 or 2001, I found a part of it, just over six acres, described as 2500 South Withers Road, Liberty, Missouri, 64068, was owned by Virgil Sadler and occupied by him and his step-grandson Ronnie Phillips Sr. ("the Property"). I later interviewed Virgil Sadler on November 18, 2003, and discussed the probable location of the Arthur Family graveyard on the Property. He advised that there were 15 or more displaced headstones stacked up near an old chicken house where there used to be a hog shed. This was on a flat spot 40 or more yards north of his house across a ditch or small ravine ("the Graveyard Site"). At least one of the headstones (which I have personally seen) had the Arthur family name on it. As a result Mr. Sadler believed this area was the Arthur Graveyard Site. Attached to this my Affidavit as **Exhibit "D"** is a transcription of our interview which I recorded on November 18, 2003.

6. Virgil Sadler and I discussed the potential of preserving the Graveyard Site as a historically significant site. However, unfortunately he became ill and passed away in Clay County July 21, 2005 at the age of 85, before this could occur.

7. Prior to his death, Virgil Sadler provided for the transfer of the Property by way of Beneficiary Deed dated November 1, 2001, to his step-grandson Ronnie Phillips Sr. and then to Ronnie Phillips Sr.'s, son, Ronnie Phillips Jr. However, specifically excluded from this transfer was the Graveyard Site described as "one-fourth of an acre". Attached to this my Affidavit as **Exhibit "E"** is the Beneficiary Deed dated November 1, 2001.

8. After Virgil Sadler's death I was uncertain about ownership of the Graveyard Site and as a result matters sat for a time.

9. In the summer of 2007 I visited the Graveyard Site with John Craig and Kipp Craig ("the Craigs"), two brothers I had met through the tours I give of Missouri Mormon historical sites. They expressed an interest in acquiring the Graveyard Site to preserve it as a historical site.

10. I introduced the Craigs to Ronnie Phillips Sr. It was agreed that if the Craigs would pay back taxes owing on the Property Ronnie Phillips Sr. would transfer his interest, if any, in the Graveyard Site and grant an easement across a portion of his property to the Graveyard Site. Ronnie Phillips also agreed he would assist in securing a similar agreement and signature from his son, Ronnie Phillips Jr., which was done. The agreement was also signed by James L. Phillips who was also a step-grandson of Virgil Sadler and the named Trustee under the will of Virgil Sadler. Attached to this my Affidavit as **Exhibit F**" is the agreement between the Craigs' and the Phillips dated August 25, 2007.

11. I am advised by the Craigs legal counsel, Mr. Rodney Ames, and do verily believe that the Craigs made the first payment of back taxes agreed to in the Phillips Agreement on August 27, 2007, and have provided funds to make the final payment of back taxes once title to the Graveyard Site is in their names.

12. I am further advised by the Craigs' legal counsel, Mr. Rodney Ames, and do verily believe that after further review his opinion is that:

- (a) neither Ronnie Phillips Sr. or Ronnie Phillips Jr. owned the Graveyard Site as a result of the Beneficiary Deed dated November 1, 2001, (Exhibit "E") because the Graveyard Site was specifically excepted from the Beneficiary Deed.
- (b) the Graveyard Site did not transfer from the estate of Virgil Sadler to any party under his will because the will was not probated within one year and was therefore, under Missouri law, invalid. In any event Mr. Ames was advised by the proposed Trustee under the will, James L. Phillips, that no specific bequest was made of the Graveyard Site.
- (c) the owners of the Graveyard Site under Missouri's Intestate Succession laws were Virgil Sadler's heirs.
- (d) Since Virgil Sadler had no natural children (Ronnie Phillips Sr. and others of his brothers were step-grandsons only) and his wife and parents all predeceased him, his heirs were his brothers and sisters, or in the event they had passed away, the children of his brother and sisters.

13. I am further advised by the Craigs' legal counsel, Rodney Ames, and do verily believe that through inquiries in 2007 of one of Virgil Sadler's brothers, Leroy Sadler, Virgil Sadler's brothers and sisters (and nieces and nephews where a brother had passed away) were identified as:

1. Leroy Sadler (living)
2. Eugene Sadler (living)
3. J.C. Sadler (living)
4. Jewel Sadler (living)
5. Carl Sadler (deceased; survived by two sons, Carl Ronnie and Charles Sadler)
6. Guy Sadler (deceased; survived by 3 daughters, Mary Thompson, Kathy Amboree and Patricia Cregan, and one adopted son, Donald Sadler)
7. Darrell Sadler (deceased, survived by wife Colleen, not an heir)

("Virgil Sadler's Heirs)

14. I am further advised by the Craigs' legal counsel, Rodney Ames, and do verily believe that Mr. Ames has obtained on the Craigs' behalf, transfers of the Graveyard Site from each of Virgil Sadler's Heirs to the Craigs. Attached to this my Affidavit as **Exhibit "G"** are transfers of the Graveyard Site from each of Virgil Sadler's Heirs to the Craigs. I am further advised that since those transfers were obtained, Charles Sadler has passed away.

15. I am further advised by the Craigs' legal counsel, Rodney Ames, and do verily believe that Mr. Ames obtained, on behalf of the Craigs, an Order from the Circuit Court of Clay County, Missouri, Probate Division, confirming Virgil Sadler's Heirs as the owners of the Graveyard Site on the death of Virgil Sadler and that each of Virgil Sadler's Heirs consented to the transfer of their interest in the Graveyard Site to the Craigs. Attached to this my Affidavit as **Exhibit "H"** is the Judgment and Decree Determining Heirship of the Circuit Court of Clay County, Missouri, Probate Division, dated May 7, 2008.

16. The Craigs also determined to seek confirmation of the exact location of the Graveyard Site on the Property by retaining consultants to use ground penetrating radar ("GPR") to identify likely gravesites. The GPR search, which I witnessed on January 11, 2008, confirmed that the most likely place for the Graveyard Site was in the area previously identified to me by Virgil Sadler, north of the existing home and the small ravine located on the Property. Attached to this my Affidavit as **Exhibits "I"** and **"J"** are a copy of the GPR Report dated February 6, 2008,

prepared by Construction Solutions and a memo to file prepared by Kipp Craig dated January 16, 2007.

17. I was present and, along with Ronnie Phillips Sr., assisted the Craigs on Monday, January 14, 2008, to stake out the location of the Graveyard Site and easement thereto. This location was consistent with the GPR readings and the location previously indicated to me by Virgil Sadler north of the existing home and the small ravine on the Property. Attached to Exhibit "F" of this my Affidavit is a handwritten drawing I am advised and do verily believe that John Craig prepared showing the staked location of the Graveyard Site and easement thereto. John Craig, Kipp Craig, Ronnie Phillips Sr. and Ronnie Phillips Jr. all signed this drawing approving it. To my knowledge it accurately reflects the staking we did and the location of the Graveyard Site.

18. Thereafter the Craigs arranged for a legal survey of the Graveyard Site and easement thereto. I was not present during this survey but have reviewed the resulting survey drawing. It is consistent with the staking which I participated in on January 14, 2008, the handwritten drawing attached to Exhibit "F", the GPR readings and the location previously identified to me by Virgil Sadler north of the existing home and the small ravine on the Property. Attached to this my Affidavit as **Exhibit "K"**, is a copy of the survey drawing dated February 6, 2008 prepared by Weiskirch & Parks Engineers, Inc.

19. I do verily believe the Graveyard Site indicated on the survey marked as Exhibit "J" is indeed the Graveyard Site located upon the Arthur Farm where Peter Whitmer Jr. and Christian Whitmer, two of the eight witnesses to the Book of Mormon, are buried.

20. I swear this Affidavit as background at the time of the Craigs' application to quiet and confirm title as vesting in them to the Graveyard Site and their application to quiet and confirm an easement vesting them to the Graveyard Site, all as indicated in the survey marked as Exhibit "K".

SWORN BEFORE ME at the City of)
Liberty, in the State of Missouri,)
this 25th day of July, 2008.)
)

Deborah A Hatfield)
A NOTARY PUBLIC)
In and for the State of Missouri)

Ronald Putz)

Ronald Putz)



In presence of William L. Smith
 & Andrew Bartleson
 John Bartleson Seal
 Tommy Bartleson Seal
 Andrew Bartleson Seal
 State of Missouri
 County of Clay
 I, William L. Smith, clerk of the Circuit Court with
 in and for said County, do certify that on this 26th day of July A.D.
 1830 John Bartleson and Andrew Bartleson personally appeared
 before me at my office in Liberty, and acknowledged the above and
 foregoing instrument of writing to be their act and deed, hands
 and seal; and on the third of September following, Tommy Bartle-
 son wife of said John Bartleson, personally appeared before me and
 acknowledged the said deed; she being first made acquainted with
 the contents of said deed, and examined privately, separate and apart
 from her said husband, acknowledged and declared that she executed
 the said deed & relinquish all right of dower to the land and her
 wife therein described freely, voluntarily, without the threat, persuasion
 or undue influence of her said husband.
 In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the
 Public Seal of my office, on the third day of September
 in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and
 thirty. William L. Smith, clerk

State of Missouri
 County of Clay
 I, William L. Smith, clerk of Clay Circuit Court
 & ex officio Recorder of said County, do certify that the above and
 foregoing deed is duly recorded in my office in book No page
 395 & following, on the 31st day of September A.D. 1830
 William L. Smith, Clerk
 Clerk of Recorder

This Indenture made and entered into on this twenty sixth day
 of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty,
 by and between John Bartleson and Tommy Bartleson, his wife, of
 the County of Clay, and State of Missouri, of the first part, and Mi-
 chael Arthur of said County, and State of the other part, Witnesseth,
 that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of
 the sum of Nine hundred and thirty three dollars, lawful money
 of the United States, to them in hand paid, by the said Michael Arthur,
 of the second part, before the signing and delivery of these presents,
 the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged; hath given, granted, bar-
 gained and sold, and by these presents do give, grant, bargain and
 sell unto the said Michael Arthur, of the second part, and to his
 heirs and assigns forever, three several lots, tracts, pieces or parcels
 of land, situated, lying and being in the County and State afore-
 said; one of which said tracts, containing two hundred and forty
 acres and fifteen hundredths of an acre, was located in said County
 of Clay, by virtue of a certificate numbered three hundred and thir-
 ty six of the records of said title at Saint Louis, Missouri, and is bound

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John Bartleson & his
 wife
 Michael Arthur

EXHIBIT "A"

is as follows, to wit. Beginning at the corner of Section twenty three, twenty four, twenty five and twenty six, in Township fifty one north of the Base line, of Range thirty two, West of the fifth principal Meridian line, from which an elm twelve inches in diameter bears south eighty degrees east, distant thirty three links and a half, oak five feet six inches in diameter bears south seventy degrees west, distant thirteen links, thence east on the line between Sections twenty four and twenty five, twenty two chains and twenty four links to a hook, oak links westward, then south sixty degrees east, forty two chains and thirty five links to the quarter section post, corner, from which a locust three inches in diameter bears north fifty five degrees, west distant fifty eight links and a half, Walnut thirty inches in diameter bears South five degrees east, distant eighty five links; thence south at right chains an Elm twenty four inches in diameter, at eleven chains and ten links a hook, oak links and a half east at thirty eight chains, a hook, oak links and a half bears north sixty five degrees east forty eight chains and thirty seven links to a post, corner, from which a red oak eighteen inches in diameter bears North thirty five degrees west, distant twenty links and a half, locust nine inches in diameter bears south thirty six degrees west, distant eighteen links, thence west at thirty six chains and sixteen links an Elm eighteen inches in diameter, forty two chains and forty nine links to a post, on the line between sections thirty five and thirty six, from which a Hickory nine inches in diameter bears North thirty three degrees west distant sixteen links and a half, oak eighteen inches in diameter bears south forty four degrees east distant seventy one links, thence North between Sections twenty five and twenty six, forty eight chains and thirteen links to the beginning, and being in Township fifty one, North of Range thirty two West, and Survey number 2976, as described in the Patent, issued on the 17th day of June 1824, & recorded Vol. 4, page 404 & 405, in the General Land office at Washington City, also one other tract of land situated in said County and State containing Eighty four acres and ninety one hundredths of an acre, being the West half of the South East quarter of Section twenty five, in Township fifty one, of Range thirty two, in the western district of Missouri, patented to said John Brantton on the 17th April 1825; also one other tract, piece or parcel of land, situated, lying and being in said County and State, being the West half of the South West quarter of Section twenty four, in Township fifty one, of Range thirty two, containing Eighty four acres and twenty eight hundredths of an acre, patented to James Bogie of Kentucky on the first day of June 1824, and recorded Vol. 4, page 221, and by him conveyed to the said party of the first part by said, James Bogie by warranty deed bearing date 27th Oct-1824, & recorded in the Recorder's office in Clay County, in book 4, page 232. Be it therefore with all and singular the rights, franchises, tenements and appurtenances thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining; Do Grant and to hold the said three several tracts, pieces or parcels of ground unto the said Michael Arthur of the second part and to his heirs and assigns, to the only proper use, benefit and behoof of the said Michael Arthur, his heirs and assigns forever.

And the said John Bartleson, for himself, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns doth hereby covenant and agree to and with the said Michael Arthur, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, that the before recited tracts, pieces and parcels of land & hereinafter premises he and they will warrant and forever defend against the right title, claim or interests of all and every person or persons whatsoever.

In witness whereof the said John Bartleson and Fanny Bartleson his wife, have hereunto set their hands and seals on the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of William & Son as to John Bartleson

John Bartleson (S) Fanny per Bartleson (S)

State of Missouri, County of Clay, I, William D. Smith clerk of the Circuit Court within and for said County, do certify that on the day of the execution of the above said John Bartleson personally appeared before me and acknowledged the same; and on the third of September 1850 Fanny Bartleson wife of said John Bartleson personally appeared before me and subscribed and acknowledged the same; We being by me first made fully acquainted with the contents thereof and examined privately, separate and apart from her said husband acknowledged and declared that she executed the same and relinquished all right of dower to the land and premises therein described, freely, voluntarily, without the threats, persuasion or undue influence of her said husband.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the public seal of my office at Liberty, on this third day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty.

William D. Smith, clerk

State of Missouri, County of Clay, I, William D. Smith, clerk of Clay Circuit Court and ex officio recorder of said County do certify that the above and foregoing deed is duly recorded in my office in book No. page 396 & following on this the third day of September in the year 1850.

William D. Smith (S) Clerk & Recorder

David English & Charles English

Know all men by these presents that we Isaacson English and Annial English being authorized by a power of attorney to act for and in behalf of Charles English in settling his debts, now for that purpose we have to receive to David English the sum of forty dollars and being desirous of receiving the payment of the same the said David English we have this day by virtue of the aforesaid power of attorney granted bargained and sold and by these presents do grant bargain and sell to the said David English the following property to wit one roan mare and colt the property of Charles English and running on the farm of said English, right head of sheep in Charles English's marks and numbering on the farm of said C. English also all the

BK 28 Pg 41

Michael Arthur Esq Wife M Henry N Vandyke

Deed

unc
up
of
us

Know all men by these Presents, that we Michael Arthur
Esq and Amanda M F Arthur his wife, of the County of Clay in
the State of Missouri, have this day, for and in consideration
of the sum of Four Thousand Two Hundred and fifty Dollars
to the said Michael Arthur in hand paid, by Henry N
Vandyke, of the County of Clay, in the State of Missouri
Qualified, Bargained and sold to us by these presents to Grant
Bargain and sell unto the said Henry N Vandyke the fol-
lowing described tracts or parcels of land, situate in
the County of Clay, in the State of Missouri, that is to say:-

Part of Section Twenty four, of Township five in Range
Eighty one, in Range Thirty two, beginning at the
Margarit Whisler's South East corner, & State in the
West line of Section Twenty four, in said Township Eighty
one, thence South in said line, One hundred and Eighteen
two Poles to a Stake, in the mouth of a Lane thence on the
center of said Lane, North Seventy five degrees East Eighty
Eight Poles to a Stake thence South Eighty four degrees
East Thirty six Poles to a Stake in the Eastern mouth of
said Lane - thence North Two and a half degrees, East Below Poles
to a Stake thence North Seventy five degrees, East Twenty
four Poles to the center of a Spring Branch. - thence across
said Branch, in the center of it with the meanders thereof
to the West line of the East half of the North East quarter
of Section Twenty five, thence North in said line, Ninety
six and a half Poles to Mosley's South East corner. thence West in
said line, Sixty five Poles beginning - containing One hundred
and Forty two and a half poles, after deducting the land
relinquished for the benefit of the Kansas City and Lawrence
Rail Road, and one fourth of an acre for Cemetery, be the
same more or less, according to said boundary. -

We have and do hold the premises hereby conveyed, with all
the rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, or
in any wise appertaining, unto the said Henry N Vandyke,
his heirs and assigns forever: & the said Michael Arthur
and his wife concurring, to Rescind the said Henry N Vandyke
his heirs and assigns, for myself, my heirs, Executors, and ad-
ministrators, to Warrant and defend the title to the premises
hereby conveyed, against the claims of every person what-
soever. -

In Witness Whereof, we have hereto subscribed our names and
affixed our seals, this Twenty Sixth day of August AD 1867

Michael Arthur
Amanda M F Arthur

State of Missouri ³ 26th
 County of Montgomery ³ We do Remember that on this 26th day
 of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred
 and fifty seven, before me a Notary Public within said County
 aforesaid, personally appeared Michael Arthur Esq. and
 M. F. Arthur his wife, who are personally known to me to
 be the persons whose names are subscribed to the within
 and foregoing deed as having executed the same as parties
 thereto, and solemnly acknowledged the same to be their
 act and deed, for the purposes therein mentioned, and also
 the said Amanda M. F. Arthur, wife of the said Michael
 Arthur, being by me first made acquainted with the con-
 tent thereof, did separate and apart from her
 husband, and then she executed the said instrument of writ-
 ting of deed, and without compulsion or undue influence
 of her said husband, acknowledged and declared that she
 executed the said deed, and relinquished her dower in the said
 lands and tenements therein mentioned, voluntarily, freely
 and without compulsion, or undue influence of her said husband.
 In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my
 name, and affixed my Notarial Seal of Office, this
 day and year above written.
 Notary Public ³ Frederick Giviner Notary Public
 by me by testimony of parties ³ for Montgomery County Missouri -
 26th Aug 26th 3

News Filed for Record Aug 26th 1857
 B. A. Bailey Clerk

William Gray Esq. Wife Dr. John C. Dulles
Deed

Knows all Men by these Presents, that we William Gray Esq. and
 Gray his wife, of the County of Platte, in the State of Missouri, have this
 day, for and in consideration of the sum of One Hundred Dollars
 to the said William Gray Esq. and his wife, in hand paid
 by John C. Dulles, of the County of Montgomery, in the State of Missouri,
 Granted, Margained and Sold, and by these presents do Grant,
 Bargain and Sell unto the said John C. Dulles, the following de-

← A. KIPP CRAIG

VOLUME FOUR

SACRED PLACES

MISSOURI

A Comprehensive Guide to Early LDS Historical Sites



LaMar C. Berrett

General Editor

Max H Parkin



EXHIBIT

"B"

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upon as slaves, and in many instances, treated so" (EMS September 1834, 7).

Immigration of Latter-day Saints into Clay County occurred in **three stages**. The first was the arrival in November 1833 of several hundred exiled victims of persecution in Jackson County. They arrived there en masse and trickled in during the following months, gathering from other counties. The second immigration was the arrival of Zion's Camp, a relief and rescue body from the East. Some camp members remained in the county after Zion's Camp arrived in June 1834. The third phase of immigration to Clay County was a later Mormon push from the East prompted by a vigorous Church policy of gathering to Clay County.

This third gathering, authorized by Joseph Smith at Kirtland, Ohio, was intended to collect sufficient numbers in Clay County to mobilize an organized return to Jackson County. The future date the Church set for its return was Sept. 11, 1836, "which is the appointed time for the redemption of Zion," wrote the Prophet (HC 2:145; D&C 105:27-31). At first this emphasis added only moderate numbers of immigrants to the county, but by the summer of 1836 immigration increased considerably. Several companies, including some numbering a few hundred each, arrived that year (MHR 60:506). This surge of immigration and the purchasing of land in the county by the Saints eventually forced an intense confrontation between the Mormons and Gentiles. Violence erupted in the summer of 1836, but before the Saints were driven from the county, Church leaders sought new homes in Caldwell and Daviess Counties.

The route for visiting sites in Clay County starts at the courthouse in Liberty or uses it as a point of reference. Sites south and west of Liberty are identified first, sites east of town follow, and sites in the northeast part of the county come last. This approach to Mormon sites also follows a somewhat chronological sequence of events.

Mormon Settlements South and West of Liberty

The Colesville Settlement

The Colesville Settlement was located in what is now Avondale, immediately north of North Kansas City in the far southwest corner

of Clay County.¹ The settlement began about one mile north of the Missouri River, or .75 mile northwest of the Chouteau Bridge as State 269 crosses the Missouri River from Kansas City into Clay County. Use State 269 at Kansas City if you are coming from Kansas City or Independence. After crossing the river, turn left (west) immediately onto State 210 and go .5 mile to Walker Road. If you are coming from Liberty, go south on State 291 to State 210 just north of the Missouri River. Go west seven miles to Walker Road. To get to Avondale, go north on Walker Road, which becomes old Highway 10, for .3 mile.

Avondale is a quaint hamlet. Its southwest quarter is composed of a 40-acre parcel purchased by Newel Knight in 1834. Cooley Park is just north of Newel's land. The approximate center of Newel's 40-acre purchase is on Highway 10, just south of Bell Street. Newel's land also included Rock Creek on the west side of town. As you enter Avondale from the south, State 10 crosses Rock Creek.

The **Colesville Branch from Jackson County** remained together in Clay County during the winter of 1833–34. Immediately after being driven from Jackson County in November 1833, members of the Colesville Branch lived in primitive shelters along the river bottoms on the western edge of the county. Emily Austin, sister of Newel Knight's wife, Sally, recorded, "We lived in tents until winter set in, and did our cooking out in the wind and storms. Log heaps were our parlor stoves, and the cold, wet ground our velvet carpets, and the crying of little children our piano forte" (LAM 72–73). Writing of the Saints' unity and struggle that winter, Newel Knight recorded:

The Colesville branch, as usual, kept together and formed a small settlement on the Missouri bottoms, building themselves temporary houses; a few other families settled with us; and the Saints all around built themselves places of shelter for the Winter. But the scenes that were endured, at the river side, immediately after the flight [from Jackson County], beggars description. (NKJ 85)

1. While some names given to the Mormon settlements in Clay County are original with the author and named for the principal resident, other names are given or suggested by the records.

In the spring of 1834 **Newel Knight**, the branch leader, **purchased 40 acres** nearby at the river bluffs in the southwest corner of Clay County, which formed the basis of the settlement.² Newel and Joseph Knight Jr. then commenced the construction of a grist-mill in the area. "I went back from the river about .5 mile on a beautiful little stream of water and commenced building a mill," Newel wrote (JNK 51). The stream was apparently Rock Creek, which flowed south on the west side of his land. Joseph lived nearby and sometimes worked on the mill with Newel. The traditional site for early mills in the area was on Rock Creek at the point where Highway 10 crosses the stream. Today it is still a "beautiful little stream" despite urban development.

Branch members built a **large log meetinghouse** that they named the White House. The log building was "elegantly white-washed outwardly, and papered inside," and there was nothing else like it in the settlement, said Emily Austin. Both Latter-day Saints and Gentiles, some of whom were unfamiliar with religious worship, attended meetings in the building. "Some of our Gentile neighbors would attend meeting on the Sabbath, probably through curiosity, as it is my opinion they never entered a place of worship in all their life before," Emily added. The building was sufficiently large to serve as a residence for eight families during the week, being used as "a parsonage" for the families of the elders in the branch, said Emily (LAM 79–80). Its site is unknown, but it may have been at today's 3310 Excelsior St., about one block west of Cooley Park.³

The Colesville Branch began to separate in Clay County. After the first winter, members of the group, originally from New York, began to scatter in search of rentable land (JNK 50; LAM 82). Newel wrote of the separation:

2. Newel Knight's 40 acres were in the southwest quarter of Section 7, T 50 and R 32 (CDB E 171; ICC 64). In the county land record his land is listed as "Thirty eight & 93/100 acres" (CDB E 171). Emily Austin said Newel "lived among the bluffs, a mile and a half from the [Missouri] river." The property, she added, was a "broken piece of land," which is characteristic of this part of Avondale (LAM 83).

3. When a large whitewashed log house on this site burned in about 1890, the rear part of the structure was left intact. The surviving rear section was later incorporated into a two-story frame house. This entire structure burned in about 1973, at which time the whitewashed logs became visible, said Frank Smith, an Avondale resident and builder, who in 1982 built a house on the site (FFI). Could this have been the White House of the Colesville Branch? If so, it was located .5 mile north of Ingram Street, which marked the north edge of Newel Knight's property.



This site on Rock Creek is near where Newel Knight built his mill in the Colesville Settlement in Clay County. The site is near the crossing of State 10 over the creek in Avondale. Rock Creek ran through the western part of Newel's 40 acres.

The Colesville Branch continued to live together until spring [1834] when it became necessary to place ourselves in a condition to provide for the coming season. Some went one way and some another wherever a chance for entering land or get[ting] labor could be found. (JNK 50)

Emily Austin and her husband were among those who separated from the branch. "We rented a farm two miles from the river," Emily said. "This farm was ample for two or three families." Their new Gentile neighbors were "warm-hearted, friendly and obliging," she said (LAM 82).

Newel Knight's wife, **Sally Coburn Knight**, died Sept. 15, 1834, soon after the death of her newborn son, Eli. Sally and her child were buried in the same casket near the bluffs of the Colesville Settlement. "They are folded together in that mansion where the lambs of Christ are gathered," wrote Sally's sister, Emily, mourning their deaths (LAM 83). Newel believed that "the hardships and privations [Sally] had to endure" since she was driven from her Kaw Township home in Jackson County contributed to her death (NKJ 94).

Newel left Missouri for Kirtland soon after his wife's death,

leaving a sick two-year-old son in the care of his sister-in-law. He left as part of a labor force to build the Kirtland Temple and to receive his endowments. At Kirtland he married **Lydia Goldthwaite**, responding to a suggestion by the Prophet Joseph Smith, who performed the marriage on Nov. 24, 1835. After the Kirtland Temple was dedicated, Newel returned to Clay County with his new wife (NKJ 95; HC 2:320).

The Hulet Settlement

The Hulet Settlement was located in the southwest corner of Clay County, 2.5 miles northwest of Newel Knight's land and 10 miles southwest of the Liberty Courthouse. It was located where I-29 intersects N. Oak Street Trafficway (State 283) and just east of U.S. 169. The settlement comprised land situated to about .5 mile north and to about .5 mile south of Vivion Road (U.S. 69) and the State 283 intersection. The settlement was named after **Sylvester Hulet** and was known in the *Far West Record* as the "Hulet Branch" (FWR 81, 84; HC 2:139). Several problems erupted in this settlement. Sylvester was ordained to the office of high priest in the branch privately without proper approval, which soon prompted an investigation by the stake high council in Clay County in July 1834. The council also looked into improper use of spiritual gifts in the Hulet Branch (FWR 79-92).

Philo Dibble, Carlos Granger, and Charles English were among those Saints who owned land in the Hulet Settlement. Charles may have been a local convert, inasmuch as he had purchased 80 acres in Section 2 (just south of present-day Vivion Road) as early as 1821 and another 80 acres in 1823 to make up much of the branch (ICC 98, 102; COE T 50, R 33). State 283 separates Charles English's two purchases. Philo Dibble and Carlos Granger each purchased 40 acres nearby in Sections 3 and 35 (MIS-P 318; see Clay County map).

David Whitmer, the stake president and head of the Church in Clay County, was probably a resident of the Hulet Settlement. In June 1834, when Joseph Smith was in Clay County with Zion's Camp, the Prophet traveled with David from the camp at Rush Creek, east of Liberty, to David's house in "the western part of Clay county," Joseph said (HC 2:115). Upon arriving, Joseph sent back word to have his young cousin George A. Smith, who was at the

Rush Creek camp, join him in that “west part of the county” (HC 2:120; see Rush Creek Camp in the Gilbert Settlement). George, who was recovering from cholera at the time, described his trip and noted distances:

I rode 2½ miles to Liberty [from Rush Creek] and stopped at Peter Whitmer’s. . . . I remounted and rode to Lyman Wight’s [4 miles, to the home of non-Mormon Michael Arthur, where Lyman lived]. . . . I then remounted and rode 9 miles [apparently westward] feeling as if I should be obliged to fall from the horse. I determined not to give up, and arrived at David Whitmer’s; saw Joseph and Hyrum. (ThI 81:218)

Concerning George’s trip, Joseph recorded, “George A. Smith . . . rode fifteen miles, and came to me” (HC 2:120). Actual mileage and direction from Rush Creek to the Hulet Settlement agree with the information given in George’s narrative and in Joseph’s account. David’s home, therefore, was at the Hulet Settlement and, possibly, on Charles English’s land, where David may have resided near his parents and his brothers Christian and Jacob.⁴ His brothers John and Peter Jr. lived in Liberty (JWAB 13).

Christian Whitmer and Peter Whitmer Jr. died in Clay County. Christian, a member of the Missouri High Council, died at age 37, on Nov. 27, 1835, and was “buried near Liberty,” states the Whitmer family history (WF 9). He had been sick in bed and was a cripple when, in November 1833, a mob drove him from Jackson County. Given his condition, Christian and his wife, Ann Schott Whitmer,

4. Brief notes from John Whitmer’s “Account Book” suggest that David Whitmer lived in the Hulet Settlement and near his parents and brothers. David’s parents, Peter and Mary Whitmer Sr., apparently lived near Charles English. English’s property (Section 2, T 50 and R 33) was eight miles west and four miles south of the Liberty courthouse (COE). Whenever John, a resident of Liberty, visited his parents, he kept brief notes in his “Account Book” of the visits, indicating that he usually took two days for a visit, without ever stating where his parents lived (JWAB 16–21). Each time he visited them, he stayed overnight, probably because of the distance. During a visit in November 1834, John noted that the trip and visit occupied three days. On that occasion he said he visited his father, spent the second night with Charles English, obviously a neighbor, and visited his father again the next day. On Nov. 21 he returned home to Liberty “with a load of turnips” (JWAB 16). Likewise, the one time his parents visited him at Liberty that he noted, they stayed overnight, as did David on his visits (JWAB 13; FWR 81–83). David probably lived near his parents, on or near the Charles English land, to help care for them, as possibly did his brothers Christian and Jacob. On another occasion John said he “went to Jacob and fathers” for a three-day visit, but he never mentioned visiting Christian (JWAB 16).

may have resided in the Hulet Settlement near his parents and brothers David and Jacob. However, John Whitmer never mentioned visiting him there. After Christian died, his widow married branch leader Sylvester Hulet (FWR 269).

Christian, one of the **Eight Witnesses of the Book of Mormon**, was succeeded in the Missouri High Council by his youngest brother, Peter. **Peter Whitmer Jr.**, who also was a faithful witness to the Book of Mormon and a **missionary to the Lamanites**, died a year later of tuberculosis, on Sept. 22, 1836, five days shy of his 25th birthday. The Whitmer family history states that Peter died at Liberty "and was buried beside his brother Christian" (WF 9).

The location of their grave site is unknown. But if they were "buried near Liberty," they might have been buried in one of the Mormon settlements south of Liberty. Andrew Jenson, assistant Church historian, suggested a site in his *Biographical Encyclopedia*. Peter "died on a farm about two miles from Liberty . . . and was buried by the side of his brother Christian" (BiE 1:277). This could place the burial site at the Phelps Settlement, on or near the Michael Arthur land on Little Shoal Creek. There, Arthur owned 160 acres in each of the adjacent Sections 14 and 23, north and south of Liberty Drive, in Glenaire (COE). Another site, although four miles south of Liberty instead of two, is the Arthur land at the Wight Settlement, where there was a pioneer cemetery (see page 176).⁵ This site may yet be the choice of the Missouri Mormon Frontier Foundation to place a marker honoring these two witnesses of the Book of Mormon. Another possible, if unlikely, site is near Christian's parents in the Hulet Settlement in the area of State 283 and Vivion Road if Christian lived near his parents when he died. Christian and Peter were the oldest and youngest sons, respectively, of Peter Whitmer Sr. and Mary Musselman Whitmer.

The Wight Settlement

The Wight Settlement was an important gathering place during the summer of 1834. The Wight Settlement was located four miles

5. Although there was an early pioneer cemetery across the road south of Michael Arthur's house at the Wight Settlement, four miles south of Liberty, Lyman Wight and other leading Mormon residents of that neighborhood had moved elsewhere in the county by the time Christian Whitmer died in 1835. (See the Wight and Morley Settlements.)

south of the courthouse at Liberty. This settlement became a **temporary gathering place** for Latter-day Saints after they were driven from Jackson County. The settlement was located around Lyman Wight's log house on land owned by Michael Arthur. "Other buildings" that the Mormons used were "on the same ground," said Lyman's oldest son, Orange (RoOW 2). For a view of this important area from the courthouse, go west three blocks on Mill Street, (located one block south of the courthouse) and turn left on Liberty Drive. Continue southwest on Liberty Drive .5 mile to State 291. Cross State 291. Liberty Drive veers right immediately after crossing the highway, but keep left for Withers Road. From State 291, the distance to the Arthur place on Withers Road is 2.8 miles.⁶

The Wight Settlement was on the south side of Withers Road at the corner as the road turns west. Important events of the Church occurred here, which is now farmland, with no public access.

Events at the Arthur Place

1. **Michael Arthur**, a friendly non-Mormon who, with others, were known as **Jack Mormons**, assisted the Saints in several ways. John Whitmer, as a needy exile from Jackson County, was one of the first Mormons to contact Arthur for help. John rented a house from him near Liberty on Nov. 16, 1833, and commenced building a "stillhouse" for him. This contact opened the way for a friendship that brought further assistance to the Saints (JWAB 5).

Arthur helped the displaced Mormons when Lyman Wight's family was camped on the river bottoms with other Saints. Lyman "went to Arther's mill about 6 miles from [our river] camp and procured a wagon load of flour, bacon and cornmeal—all on credit" and distributed it among the needy Saints, said Orange Wight. "So you see the Lord favored us" (RoOW 2).

In addition to his Withers Road property, Arthur owned the land one mile northwest of it on Little Shoal Creek in Section 23, two miles southwest of Liberty. This land was about six miles north of Wight's river camp, as Orange said, and may have been the site of the Arthur mill (JSH 5–6). Arthur employed several Mormons

6. When the Saints arrived in the county, Michael Arthur owned several hundred acres in T 51 and R 32, in Sections 14, 23, and 25. Withers Road today passes through his land in Section 25 (CDB B:396; COE T 51 and R 32; IHACC 31).

but soon paid a price for befriending them. When he sent one of his slaves to Jackson County with a shipment of whiskey, flour, and bacon, a mobster burst the whiskey barrels, scattered the flour, and threatened to kill the slave if he ever returned to the county (EMS May 1834, 7).

2. **Lyman Wight constructed a house** for Michael Arthur on his Withers Road property. The site of the house was four miles south of the courthouse in Liberty and about 200 feet southwest of the corner of the road. In January 1834, Lyman was sent to Kirtland with Parley P. Pratt on Church business and returned as the chief military officer of Zion's Camp under the Prophet. Upon Lyman's return, Arthur hired him to make 100,000 bricks and to construct a large two-story brick house on this site. Lyman asked **Wilford Woodruff**, a member of Zion's Camp, to help with the building project. "I commenced laboring at Brother Wight's about the first of July," Wilford said (JWW 1:13; spelling standardized). Milton Holmes, Heman Hyde, Levi Hancock, and Stephen and Benjamin Winchester, all members of Zion's Camp, also worked on the project (HiR 5:109). Levi said, "I went to work at my trade . . . and made the window sash for Mr. Arthur's house" (LLH 57). The house was taken down in about 1968 (MIS-P 228–29).

Wilford Woodruff later used pleasant memories of events at Arthur's place in an attempt to draw Lyman Wight back to the faith. Following the death of the Prophet, Lyman, then a member of the Quorum of the Twelve, led a



Michael Arthur home, built by Lyman Wight, Wilford Woodruff, and other Saints at the Wight Settlement near Liberty in 1834.



Bricks from the Michael Arthur home near Liberty in 1977. The contract for the bricks, made by Lyman Wight and others, called for 100,000 bricks to be made.



Author Max H Parkin at the Michael Arthur homesite, Wight Settlement, in 1977.

company of Latter-day Saints to establish a colony in Texas. He was excommunicated in 1848 for rejecting the leadership of Brigham Young. Nine years later, in correspondence with Lyman, Wilford Woodruff urged him to return to the Church. "Mormonism is as good to me today as it was when I was with you in the old log cabin in Clay County, and milking the cows for Sister Wight and making brick for Col. Arthur's house," he wrote (WWL; BYUS Autumn 1976, 109). The letter was insufficient to persuade Lyman to return to the Church.

3. **Joseph Smith spent several days** in 1834 with the brethren at Lyman Wight's log house on Michael Arthur's property near the brick house they were building. During his visit, Joseph met with the local brethren and with some members of Zion's Camp. He appealed to the young men in Zion's Camp who had no families to stay in Clay County and build Zion there. "He gave us many glorious instructions," said Wilford Woodruff, "he being clothed with the power of God" (WW 44).

4. The scourge of the **cholera epidemic** was removed from Zion's Camp by Joseph Smith at **Lyman Wight's log house** July 2, 1834. Cholera had ravaged Zion's Camp a week before at its Rush Creek campground, two miles east of Liberty. By July 2 members of Zion's Camp were no longer dying, but some of them were still

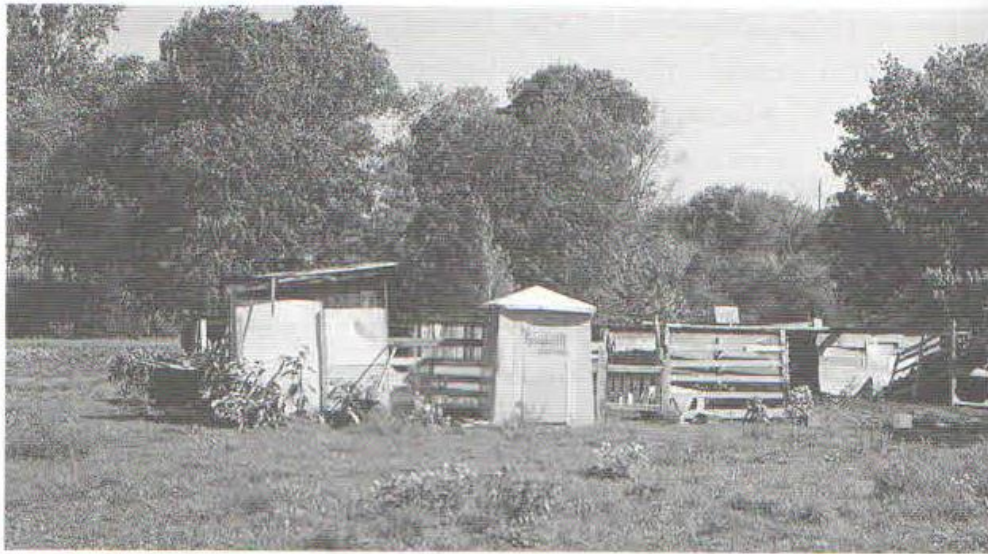
suffering from symptoms of the disease. Joseph promised that if they “would humble themselves before the Lord . . . the plague would be stayed from that hour, and there should not be another case of the cholera among them.” As a result, the Prophet reported, “The brethren covenanted . . . with uplifted hands, and the plague was stayed” (HC 2:120).

5. **Zion’s Camp was discharged** on July 3, 1834, “in the yard of Col. Arthurs,” where Lyman Wight lived in Clay County (HC 2:122). Zion’s Camp had been dispersed at its Rush Creek campground June 26, but its members were not discharged until they gathered at Lyman Wight’s house a week later. Joseph Smith’s history recorded, “I authorized General Lyman Wight to give a discharge to every man of the Camp who had proved himself faithful, certifying that fact and giving him leave to return home” (HC 2:122–23). The Prophet had named Lyman “General of the Camp” on June 8 at their Salt River Camp (HC 2:88). Nathan Baldwin said the camp never mustered again after its members were dispersed at the Rush Creek camp, but they did receive their discharge papers from General Wight. Baldwin’s certificate read as follows:

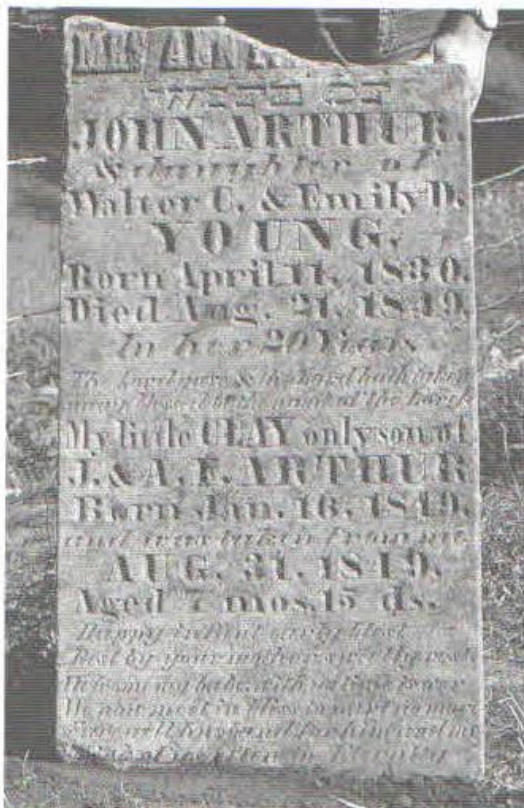
Clay County, Missouri, July 1, 1834. This may certify that Nathan B. Baldwin, the bearer of this, is honorably discharged from the army of Zion and may return to his native land. [Signed] Lyman Wight. (NBB 14)

6. **Wilford Woodruff buried the thighbone of Zelph** near Lyman Wight’s log house. Members of Zion’s Camp had found the bones of Zelph, whom Joseph Smith identified as a white Lamanite warrior, in an Indian burial mound in western Illinois. Wilford said that in Illinois “some of his [Zelph’s] bones were brought into the Camp and the thigh bone which was broken was put into my wagon and I carried it to Missouri” (JWW 1:10; spelling standardized). After Wilford arrived with the bone at Michael Arthur’s property he wrote, “I desired to bury it in the Temple Block in Jackson County; but not having this privilege, I buried it in Clay County, Missouri, near the house owned by Col. Arthur and occupied by Lyman Wight” (WW 41).

Immediately across Withers Road, south of the Arthur house but on Arthur’s property, was a pioneer cemetery. It was neglected



Area of the cemetery at the Wight Settlement, near Liberty, across the road from Michael Arthur's house and behind the Virgil Sadler house in 1977.



This tombstone is a remnant of a pioneer cemetery located across the road from where Wilford Woodruff, Lyman Wight, and other Latter-day Saints built a brick house for Michael Arthur in Clay County.



Ron Phillips, resident of the house in whose yard the long-gone cemetery is located, supports perhaps the best relic of its past. The headstone was for Anne Young, 19-year-old wife of John Arthur.

and eventually fell into ruin and was lost.⁷ It may have been here that Wilford buried Zelph's thighbone.

7. The **Clay County Stake**, the second stake of the Church, was organized by Joseph Smith "on the third of July . . . in the yard of Col. Arthur, where Lyman Wight lived, in Clay County," stated the Prophet Joseph Smith (HC 2:122). Joseph selected the stake presidency and the high council on that same day near Lyman Wight's log house and set them apart July 7, 1834 (HC 2:124–25; FWR 71; MIS-P 228). The organization of this second stake of the Church came five months after Joseph had established the first stake at Kirtland, Ohio (D&C 102).

Joseph Smith ordained **David Whitmer** as "president of the church in Zion," he said, and **William W. Phelps** and **John Whitmer** as his "assistants" in the stake presidency (HC 2:124–26). These three presidents, along with twelve counselors, or high priests, made up the High Council of Zion (FWR 70–71; D&C 102:1–2).

Some members of this high council became members of the **Quorum of the Twelve Apostles** when that quorum was organized at Kirtland the following year. They were **Parley P. Pratt**, **Orson Pratt**, **Thomas B. Marsh**, and **William E. McLellin**. **Lyman Wight**, another member of the high council, was ordained an apostle in 1841. Lyman and the Pratt brothers were in Zion's Camp, and all 15 members of the High Council of Zion were residents of Clay County, and all except Orson Pratt were veterans of the persecution in Jackson County. The other members of the high council were Simeon Carter, Levi Jackman, Christian Whitmer, Calvin Beebe, Solomon Hancock, Newel Knight, and John Murdock.

8. **David Whitmer** was designated successor to **Joseph Smith** at Lyman Wight's place (HC 2:122–24; 3:32; FWR 73–74, 151, 294; BJW 175; SC 8–9). The Prophet designated David to succeed him at the time Joseph ordained him as president of the Church in Missouri on July 7, 1834, and said that this appointment would take effect if Joseph failed in his calling or, presumably, died (D&C 43:4;

7. The author has found fragments of tombstones over the years in the yard of the house that occupies the lot. The most complete headstone, one about three feet high, was shown to him by resident Ron Phillips on May 15, 2002. Four days later the author was on the site with Dr. Alexander Baugh, who transcribed the stone to read: "Mrs Ann E [headstone broken] Wife of John Arthur & daughter of Walter C. & Emily D. Young Born April 11, 1830. Died Aug. 21, 1849. In her 20 Year."

FWR 151; HC 3:32; SH 18:555). Martin Harris, Calvin Beebe, and Leonard Rich, who were present, reported:

And while the conference was in session, Joseph Smith presiding, he arose and said that the time had come when he must appoint his successor in office. . . . **The Lord has made it known to me that David Whitmer** is the man. David was then called forward, and Joseph and his counselors laid hands upon him, and ordained him to his station, to succeed him. (ERA November 1968, 15)

Ebenezer Robinson, clerk of a high council meeting at Far West, Mo., in 1838, recorded the Prophet's comments. His minutes state, "President Joseph Smith Jr. gave a history of the ordination of David Whitmer, which took place in July 1834, to be a leader, or a prophet to this Church, which (ordination) was on conditions that he (J. Smith Jr.) did not live to God himself" (FWR 151).

The ordination of David Whitmer as successor, however, was only a temporary one. In effect, the ordination was nullified at Kirtland at a meeting Dec. 5, 1834, when Joseph Smith determined instead that **Oliver Cowdery was to succeed him**. Joseph ordained Oliver "to the office of Assistant President," he said, in accordance with a promise "made by the angel" when they received the Aaronic Priesthood (PoJS 1:20–21). Oliver, who jointly possessed the keys of authority with Joseph Smith, was the second elder of the Church and was a member of the First Presidency (HC 2:176; OAP 90–91). The office of assistant president of the Church was an early office designated as the office of succession (OAP 131; D&C 124:94–95; HC 2:176; ERA November 1968, 19).

"Every time keys were restored, two men received them," said President Joseph Fielding Smith. He added, "Had Oliver Cowdery remained faithful and had he survived the Prophet under those conditions, he would have succeeded as President of the Church by virtue of this divine calling" (DOS 1:211, 213). These appointments of David and Oliver were made in 1834 before the establishment of a Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, which later became the priesthood line of succession. Because of apostasy, however, neither David nor Oliver proved worthy of his calling.

The **Prophet left the Wight Settlement** to return to Kirtland the day after he ordained David Whitmer. He spent the night of July 8

with Thomas B. Marsh in the Morley Settlement, near the Fishing River in the eastern part of the county. Joseph and his party, including his brother Hyrum and Frederick G. Williams, left Clay County the following day in a wagon for Kirtland (HC 2:135).⁸

9. Lyman Wight's log house served as **headquarters of the Church in Missouri**. Meetings of the **Missouri High Council** and other stake meetings were held there in 1834. Wilford Woodruff said of his experience there, "I found many great and glorious privileges here as it was the place appointed for the meeting of the High Council and also the elders council and Courts to transact all their business." Stake business under David Whitmer's leadership consisted of regulating advancements in the priesthood, sending the brethren on missions, addressing problems in the Church, and otherwise directing the affairs of the Church in Missouri.

10. **Branch meetings** in the Wight Settlement were held at the log **home of Lyman Wight** during the summer and fall of 1834. "The branch of the Church . . . met together at his house on the Sabbath," said Wilford Woodruff, who attended the meetings (JWW 1:13). The sacrament was served and sermons were preached. Church priesthood advancements during this period of Church development had their start in such branch meetings.

"It was a practice for any who was to be ordained to the ministry to have the vo[ice] of the branch of the Church in which they were living before they were recommended to the high Council for ordination," said Wilford (JWW 1:13). At one such meeting, Lyman Wight recommended to the branch members that **Wilford Woodruff, Stephen Winchester, and Heman Hyde** be ordained to the office of priest (JWW 1:13–14). After the vote of approval, the names were submitted to the high council on Nov. 5, 1834, for its vote and ordination (FWR 100).

11. **Special high council meetings** were held at Lyman Wight's home to advise and inspire the Saints. Besides regular Sabbath meetings there, Wilford Woodruff said, "We had preaching occasionally through the summer" (JWW 1:13). The Prophet Joseph Smith wrote to the leaders of the Church in Missouri, "The high

8. In his daybook, John Whitmer gave the date of July 8 for "organizing of [the] High Council" and July 10 for the Prophet and his party "starting for home" (JWAB 12).

council has been organized expressly to minister in all her spiritual affairs.” To Bishop Edward Partridge, who lived one mile east of Lyman’s dwelling, the Prophet added, “The bishop and his council are set over her temporal matters” (JH June 1, 1835; HC 2:228).

12. The Church issued “**An Appeal for Peace**,” a special document concerning the suffering of the Saints, from the Wight Settlement the first week of July 1834. It was composed at Lyman’s log house by William W. Phelps or at his residence in a neighboring settlement before the Prophet left Clay County (BJW 120, n. 5). The document sought a solution to the difficulties the Saints had suffered in Jackson County. As published in the Kirtland edition of *The Evening and the Morning Star*, the document was an attempt to inform the public and appeal to its sense of justice on behalf of the Latter-day Saints (EMS August 1834, 7; HC 2:126–34). It contained a lengthy review of their problems and unsuccessful attempts at redress. It also explained the reason the Saints were unwilling to sell their land in Jackson County. It was signed by the twelve principal leaders of the Church in Clay County, beginning with William. As Church historian, John Whitmer made a copy of the proclamation for his history on July 8 (BJW 120–26; JWAB 12).

The Phelps Settlement

The Phelps Settlement, or neighborhood, was reportedly located about two miles southwest of Liberty, placing it about two miles northwest of the Wight Settlement. A number of Saints gathered around **William W. Phelps and John M. Burk**, said Edward Stevenson. “Father Burks family, W. W. Phelps, and several Mormon families formed the settlement,” he said (AES 30). Edward, who worked in Liberty, said he went to the “Phelps Settlement 2.5 miles southwest of Liberty” to visit his mother and to attend church meetings. In another reference, he said the “little branch” that he attended was “about 2 miles from Liberty” (AES 17). His brief description placed the settlement east of Michael Arthur’s land on Little Shoal Creek and just north of present-day Glenaire. In a brief journal entry for Jan. 1, 1835, William W. Phelps said, “Raised my house” near where he had been living, but he said nothing about its location (WWPD 1). He moved into his new abode two weeks

John Craig

From: Ron E Romig [rromig@cofchrist.org]
Sent: 20 December 2007 4:11 PM
To: putzron@juno.com
Cc: A M Curtis
Subject: Arthur Farm Documentation

EXHIBIT C

Christian Whitmer and Peter Whitmer, Jr. Burial, Ron Romig, 10-15-03

Following the expulsion of the Mormons from Jackson County, Missouri, John Whitmer and his wife Sarah moved to the vicinity of Liberty, Clay County, Missouri. On November 16, 1833 they were fortunate to rent a house from a local citizen, Michael Arthur.

Michael Arthur owned a large holding of land about two miles southwest of the town of Liberty, Clay County, Missouri. He apparently offered work and lodgings to quite a few displaced Mormons. Prominent Mormon, Lyman Wight, contracted with Arthur to build a large brick house on the Arthur farm. Wight employed many church men to accomplish this work. As a result, a large settlement of church members developed around the Arthur property.

Church member Joseph Holbrook wrote that by the summer of 1834, Arthur had employed a number of the church men in building a grist mill. [Holbrook Autobiography, BYU, 34-35.]

Peter Whitmer Jr. opened a tailoring shop in Liberty, and made his home there.

However, not all of the Whitmer family stayed in the immediate vicinity of Liberty. The Sr. Whitmers located about ten miles west of Liberty, in what came to be called the Hulett Settlement. Jacob and David Whitmer apparently also settled with their families near their parents.

In July 1834, Joseph Smith visited Clay County. While there he ordained David Whitmer as president of the Missouri church and formed the Missouri High Council. This event took place on the Arthur Farm. John was ordained as a counselor in the Missouri Presidency at the same time. Soon after this, Smith urged key Missouri church leaders to return to Kirtland, Ohio, for ministerial preparation and to plan for the return of the church to their Jackson County lands. David, John and Peter Whitmer spent much of the next two years in Ohio.

While in Ohio, the three Whitmer brothers learned of the death of their brother Christian Whitmer in Missouri, 27 November 1835. W. W. Phelps shared the news with the church in Kirtland. In a letter to his wife Sally, Phelps

[1]

observed, the death of Christian "made a deep impression upon his relative and the brethren." The high council

[2]

designated Peter Whitmer, Jr. to fill Christian's place on the High Council of Zion. Christian had suffered many years with a sore on his leg that would not heal. Nevertheless, his death must have been an unanticipated shock. Christian and Father and Mother Whitmer apparently made their homes among the Saints of the Hulet Settlement, west of Liberty. Christian was their eldest son, having married Anne Schott, 22 February 1825, in Fayette, New York. Among the first members of the church, Christian and Anne were baptized in Seneca Lake by Oliver Cowdery, 11 April 1830. Christian supported his family at the shoemaker trade. With his brothers away in Kirtland, Christian was buried with out much

[3]

note, in a now nearly forgotten grave, "on a farm about two miles from Liberty." Soon thereafter, Anne remarried Sylvester Hulet.

Soon after the dedication of the Kirtland Temple, the family experienced another unexpected death. Following the dedication, Peter Whitmer returned from Kirtland to Missouri in 1836. Peter, Jr., had apparently suffered from consumption for many years. At Liberty, Clay County, on 22 September 1836, he suddenly took a turn for the worse and died. He was buried beside his brother Christian.

Brother-in-law Oliver Cowdery observed the death of the two brothers in the *Messenger and Advocate*: "By many in this church our brothers were personally known: they were the first to embrace the new covenant, on hearing it, and during a constant scene of persecution and perplexity, to their last moments, maintained its truth- they were both included in the list of the eight witnesses in the Book of Mormon, and through they have departed, it is with great

[4]

satisfaction that we reflect, that they proclaimed to their last moments, the certainty of their former testimony.

John Whitmer, the church historian, provides a negative argument that these burials occurred on the Michael

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Arthur Farm, southwest of Liberty. John's daybook entries make it clear that he and his wife Sarah rented a house from Arthur on Arthur's farm. Lyman Wight, Benjamin Winchester and others undertook a contract to produce brick and construct a new house for the Arthur family. This resulted in a sizable community of church members who resided in this locale. During his residency, John's daybook contains references to visits to his brother Peter, Jr.'s home in Liberty. John also chronicles several visits to his father and mother who lived about 15 miles west of Liberty in the Hulett Settlement. On another occasion, John mentions a visit by David and Peter, Jr., to his home at Arthur's. No mention of brother Jacob occurs, however, one entry reads, "Visited Father's, Elizabeth sick." This is a reference to Jacob's wife, Elizabeth Schott, strongly suggesting that Jacob also lived in the Hulett Settlement. [In fact, Peter, Sr., and Mary Whitmer may have actually lived with Jacob].

Christian is the only sibling who is never alluded to in John's daybook. This strongly implies that Christian and Anne lived nearby John – never meriting mention of a visit to nor note of paying a visit. So, it is reasonable to assume that Christian and Anne also lived at Arthur's.

Peter, Jr.'s, death occurred after John had begun the process of acquiring land in what became Caldwell County. The family was beginning to look for improved opportunities to the north. But, during this difficult and unsettled period, the Arthur's family burial ground would have been seen as both an appropriate and safe place to bury Peter, Jr., - at the side of his brother Christian.

WHITMER, CHRISTIAN [1798 – Nov. 27, 1835] [Janet Lisonbee, *Obituaries and Life Sketches of the Early Saints Who Died in the Jackson county, Missouri Area* (Independence, Missouri: Missouri Mormon Frontier Foundation, 2007), 70-71.]

Son of Peter and Mary Whitmer.

Address by Pres. W.W. Phelps, announcing the decease of Counsellor Christian Whitmer who died on the 27th of November 1835. [Far West Record, p. 101 par. 5]

Christian WHITMER (1798-1835), a native of Pennsylvania, was baptized in April 1830. He was one of the Eight Witnesses. He moved to Missouri, where he was ordained a high priest. He was a high councilor in Clay County, where he died in full fellowship in 1835. [Far West Record, p. 294 par. 5]

Whitmer, Christian, one of the Eight Witnesses to the Book of Mormon, was the eldest son of Peter Whitmer, sen., and Mary Musselman, and was born Jan. 18, 1798, in Pennsylvania. He removed while quite young with his parents from Pennsylvania to Seneca county, western New York, where he married Anne Schott Feb. 22, 1825, and established himself as a shoemaker. He was among the number who first embraced the fullness of the gospel as revealed through the youthful Prophet, and was baptized together with his wife in Seneca lake, April 11, 1830, by Elder Oliver Cowdery. This was only five days after the Church was organized. As early as June, 1830, he held the office of Teacher in the Church and was ordained an Elder in 1831. In that year (1831) he removed with the rest of the Whitmer family and the Saints generally from New York State to Ohio, and the following year to Jackson county, Mo., where he at a council meeting held Sept. 15, 1832, was appointed to preside over the Elders in Jackson county. In a council of High Priests held Aug. 21, 1833, he was ordained a High Priest by Simeon Carter. He passed through all the scenes of persecutions and mobbings which took place in that part of the country until he, in connection with the rest of the Saints, was driven out of Jackson county in November, 1833. He settled temporarily in Clay county, where he was chosen as one of the High Councilors of the Church in Missouri, July 3, 1834. This position he occupied until his death, which occurred in Clay county, Nov. 27, 1835. For several years before his demise he suffered considerably from lameness, having an ugly sore upon the leg, which was the direct cause of his early death. He was faithful and true until the last, and always bore a strong testimony of the divinity of the Book of Mormon. He left no children. After his demise his wife returned to her parents in New York State, where she married again, but was divorced from her second husband. She died many years ago in Seneca county, N.Y. [Andrew Jenson, *LDS Biographical Encyclopedia*, Vol. 1, p. 276.]

Obituary-In Clay co. Mo. the 27th of November last, Christian Whitmer, one of the first elders of the church of Latter Day Saints, aged about 38 years. He died of severe affliction upon one of his legs, which he bore for a long time with great patience. He has gone home to his Creator rejoicing in the new and everlasting covenant. "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord." *Messenger and Advocate* 1 (Dec 1835) John Whitmer, ed., 240.

WHITMER, PETER, Jr. [Sep. 27, 1809 – Sep. 22, 1836] [Janet Lisonbee, *Obituaries and Life Sketches of the Early Saints Who Died in the Jackson county, Missouri Area* (Independence, Missouri: Missouri Mormon Frontier Foundation, 2007), 71-72.]

Peter WHITMER (1809-36), son of Peter Whitmer, Sr., and a native of Fayette, New York, was one of the Eight Witnesses. He served with the early Lamanite mission in 1830. He was appointed a member of the Clay County high council in 1836. He died in full fellowship in 1836. [Far West Record, p. 295 par. 2]

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Whitmer, Peter, Junior, one of the Eight Witnesses to the Book of Mormon, was the fifth son of Peter Whitmer, sen., and Mary Musselman, and was born Sept. 27, 1809, in Fayette Seneca county, New York. Soon after Joseph's arrival at Fayette from Pennsylvania in the summer of 1829, Peter became a zealous friend of the Prophet and an able assistant in the work of God, and he desired most earnestly that Joseph should inquire of the Lord for him in order that he might know his duties and the Lord's will concerning him. The Prophet did so through the Urim and Thummim, and received a revelation commanding Peter to preach repentance to this generation. (Doc. and Cov., Sec. 16.) This was in June, 1829. About the same time he was baptized by Oliver Cowdery in Seneca lake, being at that time less than twenty years old. In September, 1830, he was called by revelation (Doc. and Cov., Sec. 30) to preach the gospel, together with Oliver Cowdery, and in the following month he was chosen by revelation to accompany Parley P. Pratt, Oliver Cowdery and Ziba Peterson on a mission to the Lamanites. (Doc. and Cov., Sec. 32.) They started for the West soon afterwards, and had an eventful journey, fraught with many hardships and much suffering. In Kirtland, Ohio, they raised up a large branch, after which they traveled nearly one thousand miles through mud and snow, mostly on foot, to Jackson county, Missouri, where they arrived in the early part of 1831. While Parley P. Pratt and Oliver Cowdery commenced a mission among the Lamanites across the borders, Peter Whitmer, jun., and another missionary companion found employment as tailors in the town of Independence, remaining there until the arrival of Joseph Smith and a number of the brethren in July following. Subsequently Peter Whitmer, jun., took an active part with the Saints in Jackson county, where he was ordained a High Priest Oct. 25, 1831, by Oliver Cowdery. He suffered together with the rest of the Saints during the Jackson county persecutions in 1833, and was among those who found a temporary home in Clay county. He took sick and died on a farm about two miles from Liberty, Clay county, Sept. 22, 1836, and was buried by the side of his brother Christian, who died about ten months previously. He had been consumptive for a number of years previous to his demise. He left a wife and three children, all daughters, one of them being born after his death. One of his daughters lived in Richmond, Missouri in 1888, another in Fort Scott, Kansas, and the third one in Moberly, Randolph county, Missouri. Like all the other witnesses to the Book of Mormon, Peter Whitmer, jun., was true and faithful to his testimony till the last. [Andrew Jenson, *LDS Biographical Encyclopedia*, Vol. 1, p.277]

The case for the burial of the two Whitmer brothers at the Arthur Farm draws heavily upon the information provided in Jenson, that Christian "took sick and died on a farm about two miles from Liberty, Clay county, Sept. 22, 1836, and was buried by the side of his brother Christian, who died about ten months previously. [Jenson, *LDS Biographical Encyclopedia*, Vol. 1, p. 277.]

This description best describes the church settlement at Arthur's Farm. There is no other known church settlement in Clay County that fits the description "a farm about two miles from Liberty." One settlement was about a mile east of Liberty and the rest were all further than two miles away from the town.

That Christian apparently lived near his brother John on the Arthur Farm and that there is a known cemetery on the Arthur farm also add weight to this conclusion. Peter was probably still living in Liberty at the time of his death. That there were relatively few members living in Liberty, and the continuing presence of church members at Arthur's may have complemented his family's desire to bury him next to his brother's grave.

Many thanks to the Sadler family who have cared for the property in recent years.

[1]

W.W. Phelps, letter to Sally Phelps, 5 January 1836, LDS Archives.

[2]

HC, 2:5

[3]

Christian Whitmer was born 18 January 1798, at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Jenson, *L.D.S. Biographical Encyclopedia*, 1 (Salt Lake City, UT: *Deseret News*, 1901), 276-77. As the Hulett settlement was about nine miles west of Liberty, the Michael Arthur farm, about two miles southwest of Liberty, on Whithers Road, section 25, range 32, township 50, better fits the description of the location of his grave.

[4]

Messenger and Advocate, 3 (1836): 426.

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Virgil Sadler Interview

(See especially PP 13-15)

Ah, today is November 18, 2003, this is Ronald Putz. I'm going out with Elder and Sister McKay (former director and wife of the LDS Visitors Center, Liberty, MO), we're going to see Virgil Sadler who owns the property where we believe the cemetery, or I should say the gravesite, where Christian Whitmer and Peter Whitmer, Jr. were buried and we're going to interview him and/and ah to kind of validate that we may have the right location.

(inaudible)

Brother McKay: Did you farm this area then?

V. Sadler: No, I never farmed it, I worked for a dairy for 37 years.

R. Putz: What did you do there?

V. Sadler: Salesman.

R. Putz: Oh is that right –

V. Sadler: yah.

R. Putz: Yah, I'm from Wisconsin, there's a lot of dairies up there yah.

V. Sadler: Where all the good cheese comes from.

R. Putz: Yah, every little corner up there had a cheese factory uh there all over the place.

Brother McKay: What was your dairy here, what was the name of the dairy?

V. Sadler: Foremost.

Brother McKay: Foremost.

R. Putz: Oh their still around.

(Inaudible)

Brother McKay: Well, when were you born?

V. Sadler: 1920.

Brother McKay: 1920 (inaudible), you've got a few miles under you haven't you.

V. Sadler: Quite a few.

Brother McKay: When did you first move to this area?

V. Sadler: 30 years ago.

Sister McKay – 30 years well you've/you've got deep roots then.

V. Sadler: I moved out here in '72. (Inaudible)

Brother McKay: Who owned this place before you did?

V. Sadler: I forget his name, there was a little house built here in 1972, I mean 45 then when I bought it I gutted the old house ... built around it.

R. Putz: So you built this house then?

V. Sadler: Yes.

Sister McKay: Wonderful.

V. Sadler: I didn't do anything (inaudible). I have got 6 brothers, did have. (inaudible)
Well I would like to get out of here. (inaudible)

R. Putz: Yah, ah I used to operate rest homes and uh, my wife would never want to go to one but it wouldn't bother me that much.

Sister McKay: A lot of good service there.

R. Putz: Yah

V. Sadler: (inaudible) Bring you meals have your own meals. (Inaudible).

(Inaudible)

R. Putz: So when you came here these tombstones I see laying around, were over on that grave site over on that little flat area over there?

V. Sadler: Yah.

R. Putz: They were. Oh would you mind if she records what we say about that?

V. Sadler: No

R. Putz: Is that okay?

Sister McKay: Is that alright?

V. Sadler: Yah

R. Putz: So ah so when you came there were gravestones over in that flat little area over there that uh Ronnie showed me and

V. Sadler: If I remember right, they was.

R. Putz: Pardon,

V. Sadler: If I remember, there was at least some laying around the house here but somebody took them and Mr. Arthur's tombstone is right there

R. Putz: yea

V. Sadler: but I don't know where he was buried at, how it got there and there was some tombstones in the basement, or I thought there was but the boys said there wasn't any so.

R. Putz: Okay. What ah what makes you feel that that is a gravesite over there on the flat part, what evidence do you have?

V. Sadler: Well I really don't have no evidence but I called the real estate people to ask them where the cemetery was, they didn't know either, said it might be at the back, they figured it was over, clear on back but I don't think, don't look like, this looks like it would be the most, the most umm legal or ah

R. Putz: Logical

V. Sadler: Logical place.

Sister McKay - Where were the tombstones found?

V. Sadler: Just laying around on the ground

Sister McKay - Out in this area?

V. Sadler: Yah, back in there, you know where it is at.

R. Putz: yah, so they were laying on the ground out there?

Sister McKay - So they would have been laying near where the cemetery was, they would have just blown over or been pushed over perhaps?

V. Sadler: Well, they were just little flat pieces.

Sister McKay: they, they were flat pieces, not tall ones.

R. Putz: What did you say, flat bases or pieces

V. Sadler: Just pieces, just flat - don't even have no names on some of them

R. Putz: yah. Did ... Was ah Michael Arthur's building still standing when you came here 30 years ago?

V. Sadler: yah

R. Putz: Up on the other side?

V. Sadler: Yah they pushed it in, pushed it down after I came down here.

R. Putz: uh, huh. Do you own that side of the road?

V. Sadler: No I just own 7 acres here, 6.11 acres and there's a brick factory guy told me in where my garden is.

R. Putz: That's where the brick factory was?

V. Sadler: Yah

R. Putz: That's interesting, where your garden is.

V. Sadler: See whenever I put a garden in and I keep finding old bricks –

Sister McKay: uh huh.

R. Putz: You had a brick garden.

V. Sadler: yup.

Sister McKay: Who picked up the stones, I ... the tombstones, who picked them up and cleared them off?

V. Sadler: I don't know they was cleared off when I moved out here. I wasn't ... I picked them up so I could mow.

Brother McKay: You said that the real estate people told you about, what did they say?

V. Sadler: Well, ah, the guy I called, I asked him where the cemetery was and he said he didn't know, probably down in the back.

R. Putz: By back you mean where?

V. Sadler: Well back in there, I guess.

R. Putz: oh, oh, yah. (inaudible - both talking at once).

V. Sadler: Yup I think it was slaves but they said is buried ... buried out here. Mr. Arthur I guess was buried here.

R. Putz: Actually, hum

Brother McKay: Who indicated that Mr. Arthur was buried here?

V. Sadler: Well that tombstone out there.

Sister McKay: has his name.

V. Sadler: Right

R. Putz: that's one of the Arthur's yah

V. Sadler: it's leaning up against ah ...

R. Putz: yah, It's John.

V. Sadler: It's leaning up against ah the tree down there.

R. Putz: yah.

Brother McKay: How many tombstones were there that you know of?

V. Sadler: I don't, I don't have any idea, probably 15 or 20,

R. Putz: Wow

Sister McKay - And you don't know where they went?

V. Sadler: No ... No I just judged they went there where the level ground is, you know.

R. Putz: Yah, where they were found. yah.

Sister McKay - And you don't know where they were carried or placed after they were found?

V. Sadler: No, No I just ... I don't remember what they done with them.

Brother McKay: Did anybody ever see names on them other than Arthur's?

V. Sadler: That's all I have ever seen. But his is about ... about this about this...

Brother - That's 3' x 2'

V. Sadler: Yah.

R. Putz: yah, we'll see it leaning against there when we go out. yah.

Brother McKay: Do any of the neighbours or any of them around here ever talk about the... ah ... who's buried there?

V. Sadler: The old neighbour up there is gone now, he's the one who told me about the brick factory being out here but otherwise he never did talk anything about who was buried or what is buried.

R. Putz: or where the cemetery is.

V. Sadler: Yah.

Brother McKay: But you think that the ah maybe the slaves were buried on the back of the property or way back, not where Mr. Arthur was buried?

V. Sadler: No I don't really know where he was buried.

R. Putz: But what he's saying is that the real estate person said it was back but there really isn't any place for a burial ground further back?

V. Sadler: No not back there, there's a ditch running down through there.

R. Putz: yeh, it's just ...

V. Sadler: and I had a pond I filled it in there a couple of years ago.

R. Putz: uh huh.

V. Sadler: All I know is he wasn't buried around it.

R. Putz: mmm, huh

Sister McKay - So the logical place is that flat area that we see?

V. Sadler: Yah, some guy, some woman and man came here and said they found some ah name down in... in the back somewhere.

R. Putz: On this property?

V. Sadler: Yah.

R. Putz: A tombstone?

V. Sadler: Somebody claimed it was a tombstone but I forget now what the name was.

Sister McKay – Do you know of anyone else who would know about this cemetery?

V. Sadler: No I don't... I don't know a soul, I've had a lot of people come here look, they even pulled over and took a picture of it.

R. Putz: Mostly recently?

V. Sadler: No that's been right after I moved out.

R. Putz: Oh is that right?

Sister McKay – Oh, people came right after you moved to take a picture of the cemetery.

V. Sadler: They took picture of the ground.

Sister McKay – I see.

V. Sadler: There was no cemetery, if there was, they didn't know where

(Inaudible)

V. Sadler: Yah, he lived in a brick house across the road over here, they pushed it in, buried it (inaudible).

V. Sadler: That's right after I moved out here or just before I moved out here.

Sister McKay – And these people who wanted to take a picture of the ground, do you feel they wanted it because they knew it had been a cemetery?

V. Sadler: Yah, they knew it was some historical place.

Sis McKay – significant.

R. Putz: Yah, there are 2 people buried on this farm named Whitmer, that we're real interested in.

V. Sadler: Whitmer, I never did see anything I never did see that name.

R. Putz: ya uhm

Brother McKay: Did any of the old timers ever talk about ah who might have been buried here other than Arthur?

V. Sadler: no, never, never that Ban up there that lived up here he never did say anything course I don't know when he moved there.

Brother McKay: Well I guess none of them would know but ah they might repeat stories. Did they ever repeat stories they heard from other people?

V. Sadler: No. All I remember hearing is about the brick factory out here, that's the only thing I remember talking about.

R. Putz: Hmm, were there other buildings besides Michael Arthur's ah house up there, were there some other, there was this building built in 1947 you told about, were there any other buildings from that period back in those earlier days?

V. Sadler: I don't think so.

R. Putz: No log cabins or anything like that?

V. Sadler: They wasn't here when I come.

R. Putz: yah

Sister McKay - Do you have any other ah friends who are still living who might remember something.

V. Sadler: No I don't know of anybody that lived out here or lived around here. I don't know.

R. Putz: If you don't mind asking, you don't have to answer if you don't want to, but if you did sell the farm ah would you mind you know how much you would want for it?

V. Sadler: I wouldn't have any idea.

R. Putz: Yah, I know, some times it's hard to figure out.

Brother McKay: Well you would have to check what other prices are.

R. Putz: Yah

V. Sadler: Yah and what the house would be worth.

R. Putz: Yah

Brother McKay: but in the community did anybody ever tell you any of the history of this area, about the Arthur's or about anything.

V. Sadler: No nobody told me of anything. Only Mr. Marshall who lived up there on the corner, he's the one who told me about the brick factory.

Brother McKay: I thought all the communities everybody talks about the old history of what happened?

V. Sadler: Ya that's right.

Brother McKay: back in the pioneer days, but they didn't tell you any of it huh?

Sister McKay - What is Mr. Marshall's first name? (inaudible)

V. Sadler: Marshall ... what's his first name (chuckles) I don't remember – Hazel I know was his wife.

Sister McKay - Hazel Marshall was his wife. Did they have children?

V. Sadler: Had one I think.

R. Putz: Now to, to clarify this, you did have some of the tombstones were out on the that little ah little piece of land though.

V. Sadler: which ... I think so, yah.

R. Putz: Yah, that was your understanding was that, that's where the tombstones came from, was from that little piece of land out there?

V. Sadler: See they had a hog shed was down there.

R. Putz: a huh.

V. Sadler: Who ever lived here before I did had a hog shed or, years ago they had a hog shed, you know I finally tore it down.

Brother McKay: That little piece of land is about ah 50-75 yards north of the road, is that about how far out there?

V. Sadler: Yah about that.

R. Putz: Yah well ... I'll show it to you. (Inaudible).

Brother McKay: And it's just to the east of your present house.

R. Putz: North.

Brother McKay: east and north?

V. Sadler: Yah mostly north ... north and west, see this is west, here's the house back that away.

Brother McKay: Has the ah ..., Okay, ... so the little piece is ah north and west of your house?

V. Sadler: yes.

Brother McKay: okay. I'll get it straight ... and about

V. Sadler: About really due really north.

Brother McKay: about due north

R. Putz: Yah that is what I thought. Yah.

Brother McKay: Maybe 40 yards north of your house?

V. Sadler: I don't know it might be, a little more than that See there's a ditch runs down in there and then there's a ... where the level piece is ... it's right behind that little old house down there, little old chicken house there's about half of it left there I think.

Brother McKay: Now there were, you said, maybe as many as 15 different ah tombstones out here at one time?

V. Sadler: Something like that.

Brother McKay: Do you know what happened to those, all of them or ...

V. Sadler: there all down there I guess? Stacked up or something

R. Putz: down where,

V. Sadler: down there behind that chicken house.

Brother McKay: Oh they are there, stacked up down there?

V. Sadler: If I can remember right it's there, they might have been hauled off now.

R. Putz: Now your grandson knows where quite a few of them are, ... hum, he showed me some the other day... well... a few months ago.

Brother McKay: But you don't remember ... ah, Do you remember any of the names on any of those tombstones?

V. Sadler: Was no names on them, just.

Brother McKay: They're just worn off huh.

V. Sadler: I don't remember all them names, I remember only Mr. Arthur, it's pretty nice looking.

R. Putz: beautiful.

Sister McKay - And you were the only one living out here other than the Marshall's, is that correct, you were, you pioneered this area?

V. Sadler: Well he moved out here a little before I did.

Sister McKay: I see.

V. Sadler: then a guy next to him, Dando, he come quite a few years after I did, probably 10 years anyway, 5. Whether he knows anything about anything or not. He never said anything to me.

Sister McKay - Is he still here?

V. Sadler: He still lives up there.

Sister McKay – And what is, and what was his name?

V. Sadler: Dando.

Sister McKay: Dando.

V. Sadler: You go to the corner, the Marshall's lived the first house then you turn the corner Dando lives the next house. Then that's all the houses is out here is except you get back up in there.

R. Putz: Do you have the abstract is for this ah property?

V. Sadler: No.

R. Putz: Would an abstract company have it?

V. Sadler: Probably would, probably would.

R. Putz: Do you know which company?

V. Sadler: No I don't even know that.

R. Putz: Uh huh, well we can check and find out where's the abstract.

Brother McKay: Yah that would be interesting to know the history of who owned the property yah.

V. Sadler: Yah you get the names I guess ... get their names which I don't know any of their names. The guy that owned before I bought it was ah..., Gad I can't forget his ... forgot his name ..., some guy comed, wanted to buy it off of me, offered me a thousand dollars more than I get for it when I bought it. The only bad part out here is I have to haul my own water.

R. Putz: Oh you do! ...

V. Sadler: yah

R. Putz: that's tough.

V. Sadler: I've got no water line here ... I didn't mind it when I was able to get up and get it myself but now I've got to depend on somebody else.

Sister McKay – So what year did you move out.

V. Sadler: '72.

Sister McKay – '72, that's right you told us. Were you married at the time?

V. Sadler: Oh yah. Yes I lost my wife 3 years ago, 4 years ago. She was here when there was a lot of people coming out here looking you know she wasn't working.

Sister McKay – And uh, you don't have to answer this one either but do you remember what you paid for it in '72?

V. Sadler: Very cheap, little house here, I gave \$14,500. Of course property jumped up right after that.

Sister McKay – I'm sure.

V. Sadler: I had a house up in Claycomo, I sold for \$15,000 dollars 2 years after I moved out here, I could have doubled my money on it.

R. Putz: Wow, Oh yah because that Ford plant up there.

Sister McKay: Good investment.

Brother McKay: In the 1970, in the '70's all the land went up.

V. Sadler: Yah.

Brother McKay: In the 70's (inaudible) But when you bought it, didn't they give you an abstract uh to show your title, a little book?

V. Sadler: No I don't remember getting anything.

Brother McKay: You don't, I guess they gave you title insurance, is that what they gave you?

V. Sadler: They gave me something, I don't ... (everybody laughs).

Brother McKay: Well those abstracts tell uh quite a uh history.

V. Sadler: (Inaudible) In Liberty Roberts is an abstract place and they can probably go back and tell you.

R. Putz: Yah

Sister McKay – Well this is a wonderful area, what attracted you to this area?

V. Sadler: I don't know kinda out here in woods by myself ..., pretty quiet, I used to sit outside and listen to the hoot owls, coyotes howling, foxes running through here, deer, we got lots of deer.

R. Putz: Did you go to deer hunting too around here?

V. Sadler: Nah I never did, grandsons did that, killed quite a few deer out here ... on a account of my hips it's too much for me to walk, see ...

R. Putz: Yah, do you have any more questions?

Sister McKay – Did you have any children?

V. Sadler: We had 3 step children.

Sister McKay: 3 step children, and how many grandchildren do you have?

V. Sadler: I've got 7 or 8 ... let's see I've got 2, 3 ... 2, 4 ... 2, 4 5, 6, 7 ...I say great grandchildren that's what I have got 4 of (all laugh).

Sister McKay: That's wonderful.

V, Sadler: Grandchildren, I guess I've got 8 or 9 of them.

Sister McKay: That's wonderful, great family.

Brother McKay: Well they come and take care of you do they?

V. Sadler: Yah I got a grandson lives with me.

Brother McKay: Oh, do ya.

R. Putz: Yah, that's Ronnie, yah Ronnie Phillips.

V. Sadler: I have a great grandson, his son lives with us too.

Brother McKay: Oh.

Sister McKay – That's great and, and so did your children farm or ...

V. Sadler: No

Sister McKay – Just chose to live here eh.

V. Sadler: Yah (inaudible). My one grandson he works as a building contractor and I've got a boy that's a contractor, he lives over in Pleasant Valley.

Brother McKay: Well now you're the, you're the old patriarch, you're the one who knows all the old things.

V. Sadler: I don't know much either (everyone laughs).

R. Putz: So do you want to go out and see the ...

Brother McKay: Yah, do you mind if we go out and look.

V. Sadler: No, no, help yourself.

Sister McKay – Thank you so much.

Brother McKay: Well you've been ... been very kind to visit with us and give us a little feel for this, we're quite interested in who was buried out here.

V. Sadler: Well I wish I could help you more.

080164 NOV 15 2001
Clay County, Missouri
Unofficial Document DEED

BOOK 3464 PAGE 658
STATE OF MISSOURI
CLAY COUNTY
I CERTIFY THIS INSTRUMENT
01 NOV 15 A 8:37
BOOK# 3464 PAGE# 658
RECORDED BY
Key D. Sadler
Deputy

THIS DEED, executed on November 1, 2001, wherein Grantor, VIRGIL D. SADLER, a single person, whose post office address is:
2500 South Withers Road
Liberty, Missouri 64068

without consideration does by these presents GRANT AND ASSIGN, CONVEY AND CONFIRM unto GRANTEE BENEFICIARIES named as follows:

RONNIE H. PHILLIPS, SR., until RONNIE H. PHILLIPS, JR. attains 30 years of age and subject to a life estate for RONNIE H. PHILLIPS, JR. Upon RONNIE H. PHILLIPS, JR. attaining 30 years of age or upon the death of RONNIE H. PHILLIPS, SR. (whichever occurs first), then title shall vest in RONNIE H. PHILLIPS, JR.
2500 South Withers Road
Liberty, Missouri 64068

The following described Real Estate, situated in the County of Clay, State of Missouri, to wit:

Beginning at a point in the center of a public road, said point located 343 feet South and 2019.5 feet East (originally survey was 121 poles) of the Northwest corner of Section 25, Township 51, Range 32, west, thence South 2 1/4° west a distance of 660 feet; thence North 84° west a distance of 413.8 feet, thence North 0 35° East a distance of 524.2 feet, thence East a distance of 438 feet to the point of beginning, EXCEPT one fourth of an acre that is included in this inclosure that is used as a cemetery, also EXCEPT any part in roads, all in Liberty, Clay County, Missouri.

Subject to easements, restrictions, covenants, and reservations of record, if any.

AFFIDAVIT OF DEATH

VIRGIL D. SADLER does hereby affirm that his spouse, M. ALICE SADLER died on June 17, 2000, that he was continuously married to M. ALICE SADLER until her death, and that he is the sole owner of the above described property.

It is my intention that title in the above-described real estate not vest in RONNIE H. PHILLIPS, JR. until he turns 30 years of age.

To Have and to Hold the same together with all rights and appurtenances to the same belonging unto the said Grantee Beneficiaries, their heirs and assigns forever.

THIS BENEFICIARY DEED is executed pursuant to R.S.Mo. 1986 § 461.025. This beneficiary deed replaces that beneficiary deed executed on January 29, 2001 and recorded in Book 3256 at Page 429 on February 6, 2001. It is not effective to convey title to the above described real estate until the Grantor's death. This deed is subject to revocation and change while a Grantor is still living in any manner specified by R.S.Mo.1986 § 461.033.

In Witness Whereof, Grantors execute this Beneficiary Deed on November 1, 2001.

Virgil D. Sadler
VIRGIL D. SADLER

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss.
COUNTY OF JACKSON)

On this November 1, 2001, before me personally appeared VIRGIL D. SADLER, known to me to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing Beneficiary Deed as Grantor and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free act and deed for the purposes therein stated.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I set my hand and affix my official seal in the County and State aforesaid, on November 1, 2001.

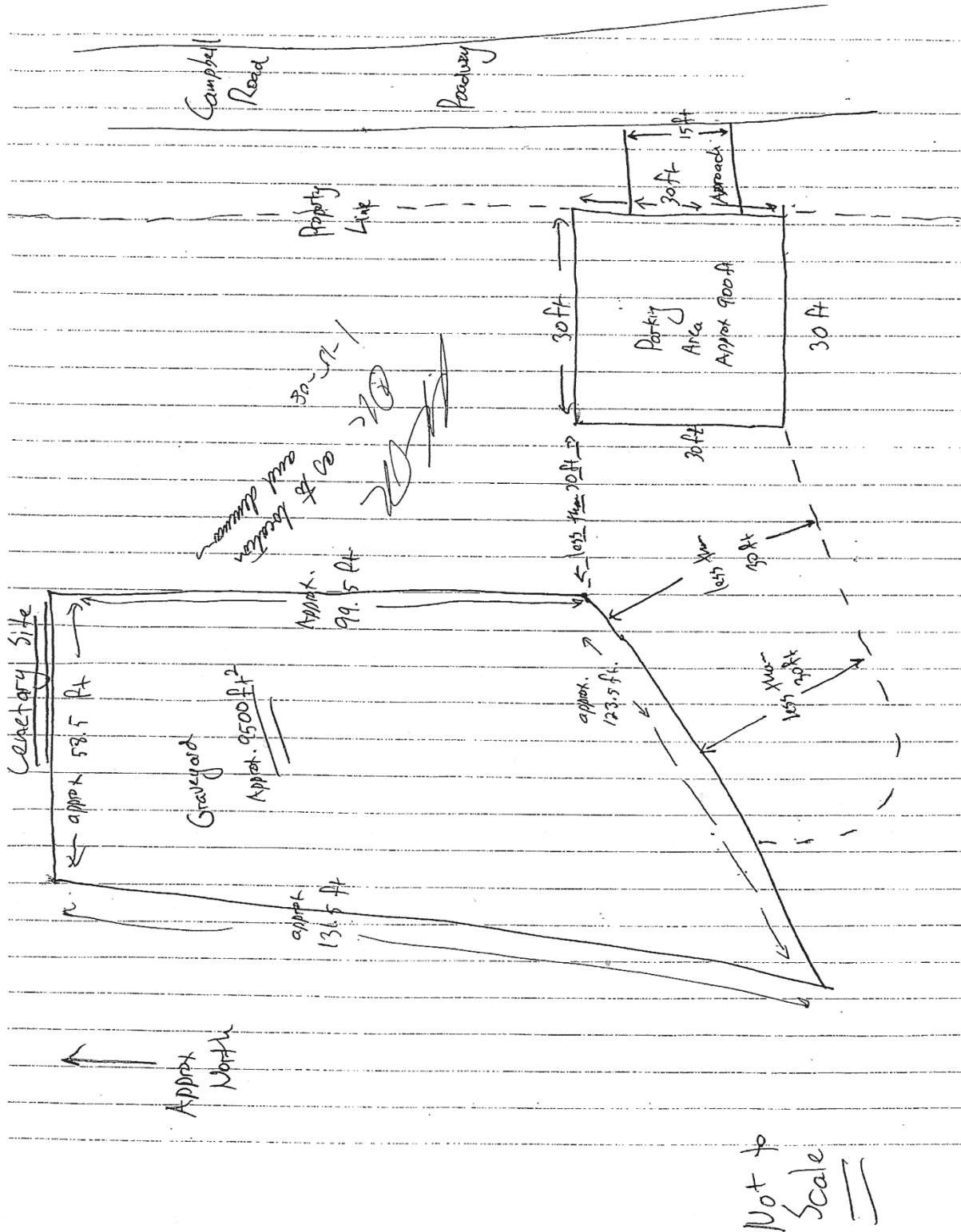
Thomas E. Gackle
Notary Public
My Commission Expires:

THOMAS E. GACKLE
Notary Public - Notary Seal
STATE OF MISSOURI
Jackson County
My Commission Expires: September 20, 2004

EXHIBIT "E"

<http://recorder.claycogov.com>

Nov 2001- BD1



CIRCUIT COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, MISSOURI
PROBATE DIVISION

EXHIBIT

"H"

NO. 08CY-PR00144

Matter of: VIRGIL DALE SADLER, deceased

JUDGMENT AND DECREE DETERMINING HEIRSHIP

On this 7th day of May, 2008, hearing is held on the application for determination of heirs of VIRGIL DALE SADLER. The applicant is present in person and by attorney Rodney A. Ames.

The Court finds that the notice of the time and place of the hearing has been given as provided by law and proof thereof duly filed. Thereupon, evidence is produced upon said petition and, after hearing and considering the same and being duly advised in the premises, the Court find:

1. That the matters and facts stated in the petition are true;
2. That VIRGIL DALE SADLER, deceased, age 85, died on July 21, 2005, domiciled in Clay County, Missouri, and residing at 2500 S. Withers Road, Liberty, MO 64068;
3. That no administration has been commenced on decedent's estate in this State nor has any Will of the decedent been offered for probate in this State within the statutory time limitations;
4. That the decedent at the time of death owned the following described property locating and having a situs in this state, as described in exhibit on the reverse side of this judgment, and was used as a cemetery and the financial value of this property is very low, in fact the liabilities of this property may be greater than its financial value; and
5. That the heirs of the decedent and their interests in the property of the decedent, at the decedent's death, according to the Missouri laws of descent and distribution, are as described herein.

Form 573-D
Revised 3/17/2003

Page 1 of 2



PROPERTY TO BE DISTRIBUTED

1	Real property located in Liberty, Clay County, Missouri, pursuant to the Beneficiary Deed executed November 1, 2001, by VIRGIL D. SADLER and recorded on November 15, 2001, as document #Q80164 in Book 3464, Page 658 with the County Recorder of Clay County, Missouri, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference; and as more particularly described in the "Property Boundary Survey Campbell Road Cemetery NW ¼ of Sec 25, T. 51, R. 32 in Liberty, Clay County Missouri, dated February 6, 2008, Job #3677, from Weiskirch and Parks Engineers, Inc., a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.
---	--

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	INTEREST
LEROY SADLER	Brother	1/6 (16.67%)
EUGENE SADLER	Brother	1/6 (16.67%)
J.C. SADLER	Brother	1/6 (16.67%)
JEWELL WALLEY	Sister	1/6 (16.67%)
CARL RONNIE SADLER	Nephew (son of deceased brother, Carl Sadler)	½ of 1/6 (8.34%)
CHARLES SADLER	Nephew (son of deceased brother, Carl Sadler)	½ of 1/6 (8.34%)
DONALD SADLER	Nephew (son of deceased brother, Guy F. Sadler)	¼ of 1/6 (4.16%)
PATRICIA CREGAN	Niece (daughter of deceased brother, Guy F. Sadler)	¼ of 1/6 (4.16%)
KATHLEEN AMBOREE	Niece (daughter of deceased brother, Guy F. Sadler)	¼ of 1/6 (4.16%)
MARY A. THOMPSON	Niece (daughter of deceased brother, Guy F. Sadler)	¼ of 1/6 (4.16%)

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the above described property, upon the death of VIRGIL DALE SADLER, became the property of the heirs and in the portions set out above.

FURTHER, IT IS HEREBY ADJUDGED AND DECREED that each of the above named heirs have consented to transfer of their interest in the above-described property to the Co-applicants, JOHN CRAIG and KIPP CRAIG.



 JUDGE

Evidence of Gravesites

Wednesday, February 06, 2008

EXHIBIT

"I"



Phone: 913-879-2200
Fax: 913-879-2213
Toll Free 800-514-5109
mdeschepper@construction-solutions.com

24564 Lackman Rd
Paola, KS 66071

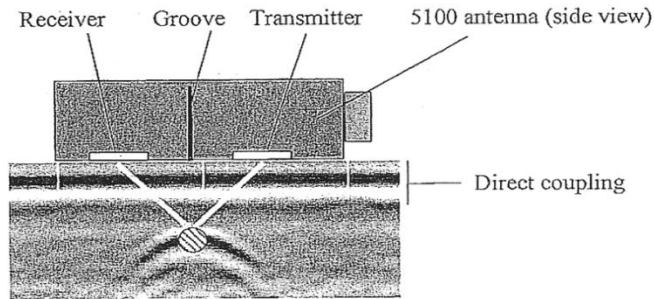
Kipp & John Craig
Kipp@craiglawfirm.ca

Executive Summary:

Construction Solutions performed a GPR scan at 2500 S Withers Rd, Liberty, MO on 1/11/08. Three separate areas were scanned to locate for evidence of gravesites below the surface. The three areas are identified in the Project Layout section below. It is of my opinion that the first area is most consistent with disturbed soil conditions similar to graves. This area contained more radar targets and were at appropriate depths that were consistent with graves than the other two sites. Site #1 was marked out with flags and paint in the areas that corresponded to the radar targets.

GPR Information and Background:

GPR has been used extensively in the past for geological and archeological exploration and mapping; however, it has only been since 2001 that GPR had the capability to image shallow targets. The system used for this project has the ability to image targets to a depth of 12 feet with an accuracy of ± 2 inches. The 400 MHz antenna broadcasts a microwave energy pulse of less than $1/6^{\text{th}}$ watt at a rate of 100 ns. This energy pulse is timed as it propagates through a material noting when a return pulse arrives. The time and strength of the return pulse is captured and analyzed and interpreted graphically. This process is shown in the figure of a 1500 MHz antenna below.



Project Layout:

As described in the summary three separate areas were scanned to locate graves beneath the soil. The first area was the area southeast of what was described to us as the old pond. This area was described at one time being an old coral. This area was also north of the existing house and small ravine. The second

John Kipp Craig (2).doc

1 of 2

Wednesday, February 06, 2008



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Toll Free 800-514-5109
mdeschepper@construction-
solutions.com

24564 Lackman Rd
Paola, KS 66071

area was near an existing shed, which was located northeast of the existing house but south of the above described ravine. The last site was east to southeast of the existing house, located close to the roadway. The scans were performed between 2 very large trees and bush/shrub row.

Project Results:

All three sites showed clear disturbances consistent with gravesites. Site #2 only contained three possible locations, of which only one of the three was considered being consistent with a grave. Site #3 contained disturbances but were shallower than the other two sites. These disturbances were also near the drip line of the two large trees, giving evidence that these disturbances are a result of the tree's root system beneath the ground. Site #1 was most evident of being the gravesite described to me. This area, where scanned, contained the most voids at the appropriate depths consistent with graves. The radar data was confirmed when a sample core sample was taken and a small void was discovered at approximately the same depth as the radar signal indicated.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M DeSchepper', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark S DeSchepper
Construction Solutions

MEMO

TO: Memo to File
DATE: January 16, 2007
FROM: R. Kipp Craig
RE: Missouri Project (Misc-Missouri)

On January 11, 2007 I spent the majority of the work day at the Arthur Farm at 2500 S. Withers Road, Liberty, Missouri. Our purpose at the farm that day was to determine the most historically probable location for the graveyard at the farm.

We had contacted Alex Baugh prior to attending at the farm to inquire as to his knowledge of the location of the graveyard. He indicated he did not have strong knowledge of it. Ron Putz spoke with MMFF personnel, including Ron Romig who likewise did not know the exact location.

We worked, as a starting point, off of the book "Sacred Places" by LaMar Barrett. With the book in hand we discussed the matter with the occupant of the property, Ronnie Phillips (who is in Barrett's Book). Ronnie indicated that he had lived on the farm for approximately 35 years, he moved there when he was 9 years old and his grandfather owned the property. He indicated that his recollections were his grandfather told him there were 2 graveyards on the property. There was a slave graveyard at the very north end of the property just north of where the old pond was and near where the big tree is presently located. There was a second graveyard which was the Arthur Family graveyard was closer to the present house that he resides in. He indicated his recollection was that he was told that the location of the Arthur family graveyard was just southeast of the old pond, (pictured by the corral in the Sacred Places book). He further stated that the vast majority of the headstones that littered the property were located at this spot. Most of the headstones were stacked up against the edge of the corral. He took us out and showed us where the corral had been. The corral was removed several years ago but was north of the house and southeast of the old pond. This placed us in the middle of the area just southeast of the old pond. He further indicated that this area had been a pig roost for a number of years and that was why the headstones had been moved to the side. He indicated some of the headstones had been moved further south, closer to the house and

clf-Misc.-Missouri

were east of the house and a little north. This collection of headstones was not as big as the collection of the headstones which was near the corral further north.

We brought in ground penetrating radar and radared three locations on the property, Location 1 being just southeast of the old pond and in the area of the old corral. Location 2 was the area northeast of the house adjacent to the road and south of the ravine. The second headstone location. Location 3 was the area east of the front yard of the house. We scanned for almost 4 hours. The fellow running the scan machine indicated that the most probable location for the graves was the location 1 (south of the old pond in the area of the corral). He indicated he had more hits in this area of ground disturbances and subterranean debris and that the quality of the hits was the best that he encountered at the Arthur farm. He encountered 2 or 3 areas which were approximately 5'-6' deep and showed voids consistent with a grave. Ground debris prevented the scanning of the entire area. The area the graves were located were on the outer ridge of the debris and the location of the old pig pen. It is my understanding that the pig pen would disturb the soil sufficiently so that ground penetrating radar would not be as accurate but this would not affect the areas bordering it where we located the probable graves. Location 2 showed 1 reasonable hit for a grave which was not a strong hit and was very shallow and two small hits for debris. This was considered the least probable of the 3 locations. Location 3 presented with 2 very strong hits but these hits were immediately adjacent to large trees and could be roots and further the hits were only approximately 3' deep. The lack of debris in this area and the shorter grass made it considerably easier to do a complete scan in this area. The limited number of hits and the shallowness of the hits made this location not as probable as location 1. This was discussed in detail with the operator of the ground penetrating radar, Mark deSchepper.

Ronnie Phillips, Sr. while retrieving a shovel and clearing some of the debris at location 1 located and dug out for us another headstone which was photographed and removed from the property.

All of the remaining headstones were removed from the property and moved to the Liberty Jail Visitor's Centre for safe storage (with Mr. Phillips permission).

In summary it was felt that location No. 1 was the most probable location of the graveyard for the following reasons:

1. According to Ronnie Phillips Sr. this is where the largest concentration of headstones existed.
2. This area was most consistent with the advice of Ronnie Phillips Sr. in my discussions with him.
3. That was the area most consistent with the advice of Ronnie Phillips grandfather in an interview with LDS missionaries prior to his death.
4. This was the area with the best penetrating radar results based upon number of hits and quality of hits. This presented the most clean voids which were approximately 5-6' deep. We took a manual core sample on one of the locations. The core sample demonstrated a small shallow void.

clF-Misc.-Missouri

5. Logically, to me, this was the area most presentable for a family graveyard. It was away from the productive fields of the farm. If I was setting up a family graveyard while wresting productive land from the wilderness I would tend to put my graveyard near a coulee on the edge of the productive land so as to intrude on to the productive land as little as possible. Of the 3 locations this concept would be best born out in Location No. 1.
6. The finding of the headstone buried in location No. 1. This could be consistent with the graveyard being there or headstones being there once removed from the graveyard. Either or both possibilities exist.

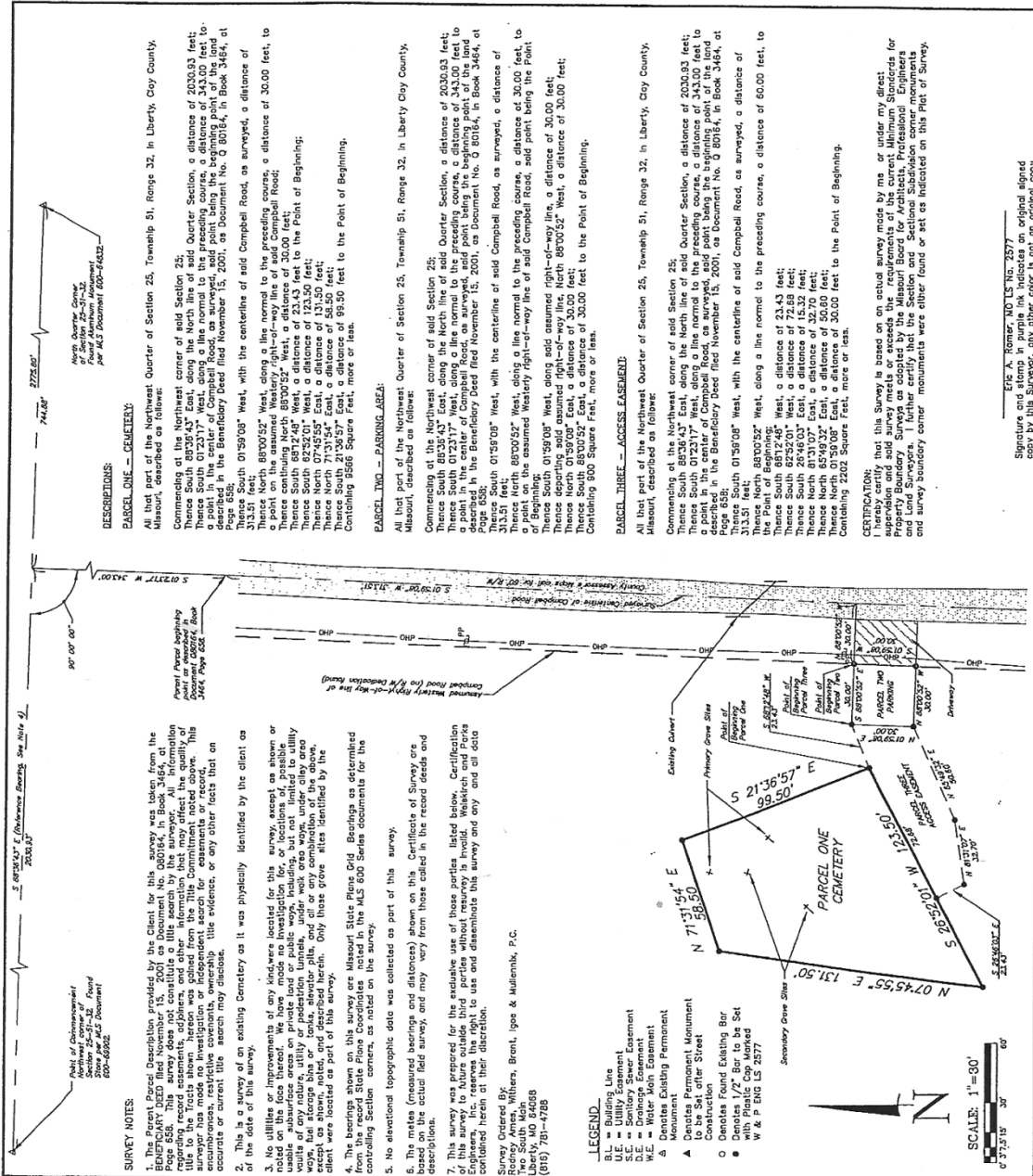
February 7, 2008 postscript

On January 12th, 2008 we staked Location #1 with the assistance and agreement of Ronnie Philips Sr. and Ron Putz. We later arranged a legal survey of Location #1. We asked the surveyor to show the 4 most prominent radar hits on the survey, which the surveyor did. We did not have all the hits put on the survey, (there were numerous other hits) just the 4 most prominent. The other hits were generally in the area of the 4 prominent ones.

cc: John Craig – e-mail craigj@bennettjones.ca

clf-Misc.-Missouri

EXHIBIT

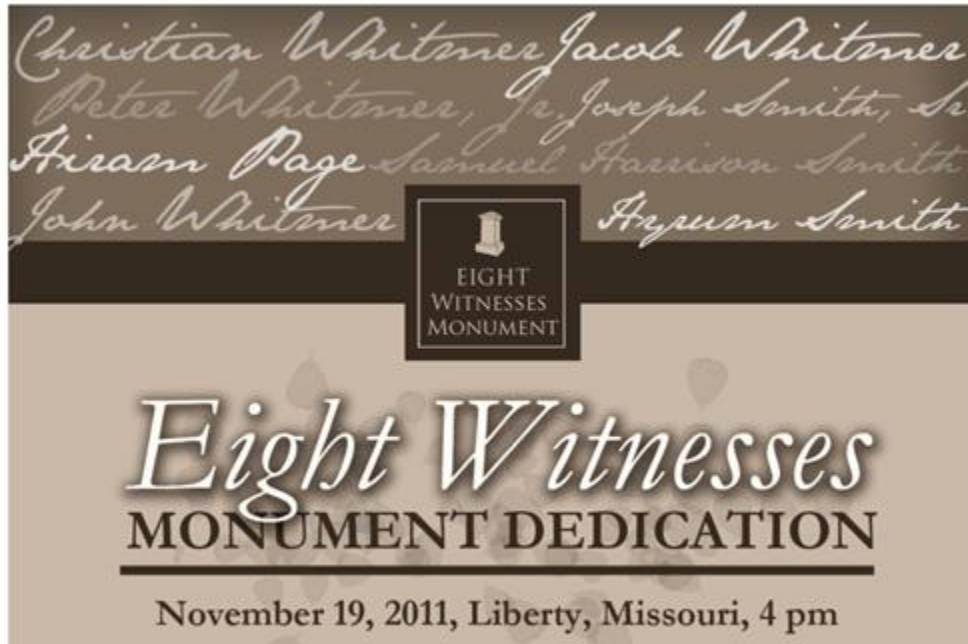


WEISKIRCH & PARKS ENGINEERS, INC.
 111 NORTH MAIN, SUITE #10
 INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI 64050
 (916) 254-5000 FAX: (916) 252-9712
 WPC@WPC-ENG.COM

PLANNING'S EXHIBIT
 3 Copy
 1513 No. 15th
 No. 3677

**PROPERTY BOUNDARY SURVEY
 CAMPBELL ROAD CEMETERY
 NW 1/4 OF SEC 25, T. 51, R. 32
 IN LIBERTY, CLAY COUNTY, MISSOURI**

JOB NO.	3677
FILE	JOB3677
DATE	2/6/08
DRAWN BY	E.A.P.
CHECKED BY	E.A.P.
REVISIONS	
SHEET NO.	1 of 1



Placement of
The Eight Witnesses
Monument
November, 2011











































Dedication of
The Eight Witnesses
Monument
November 19, 2011

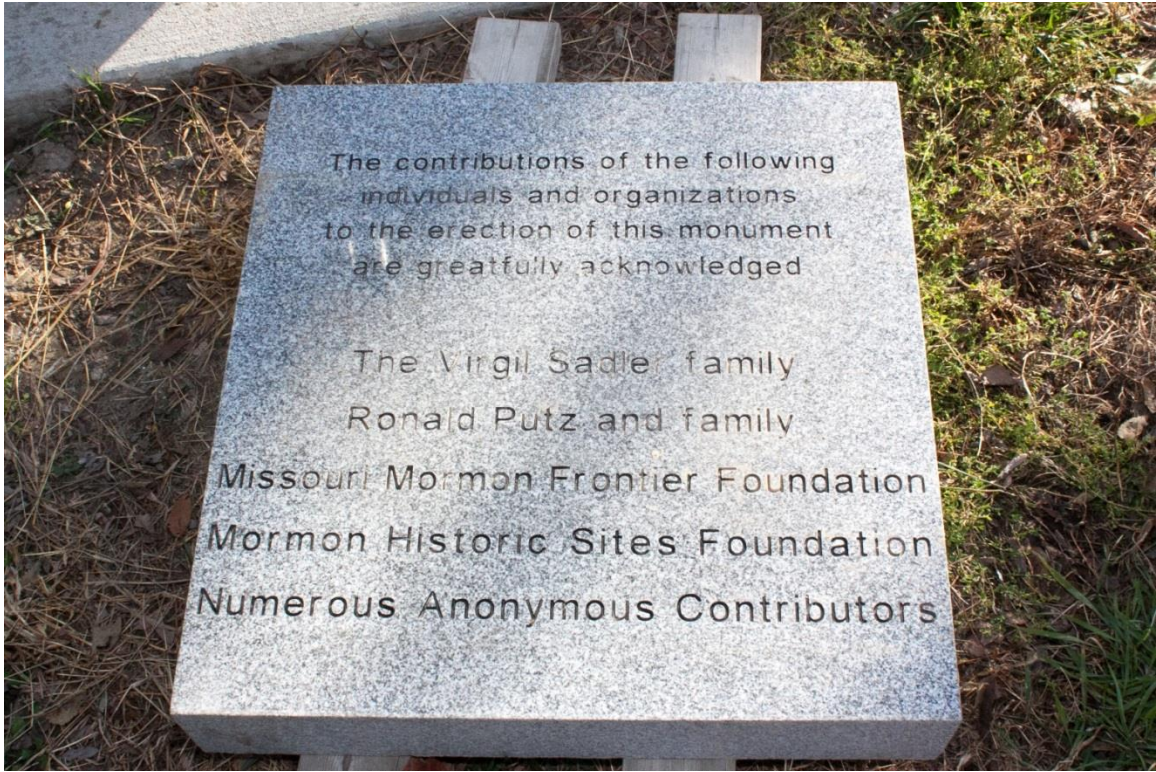








Placement of the Time Capsule
November 10, 2012







WOOD.
DIED
Sept. 3, 1860.
Aged
Ayr. Ams. 12 ds.

CLAY ARTHUR
Born July 28, 1856
Died Sept. 23, 1897

THERE IS REST IN HEAVEN!

FLORENCE
DAU. OF
JOSEPH & MARY F.

MRS. A. D. YOUNG

THE DECEASED

JOHN ARTHUR,
S. daughter of
Walter C. & Emily D.
YOUNG.

Born April 11, 1830.
Died Aug. 21, 1849.

In her 20th year.

The Lord gave & the Lord hath taken
away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

My little CLAY only son of
J. & A. F. ARTHUR

Born Jan. 16, 1849.

and was taken from me

AUG. 31, 1849.

Aged 7 mos. 15 ds.

Happy infant early lost

Rest by your mother sweetly rest.

We bid my little with us time is over

We do not meet in bliss to part no more

Farewell husband for him & but not

forget you often in remembrance

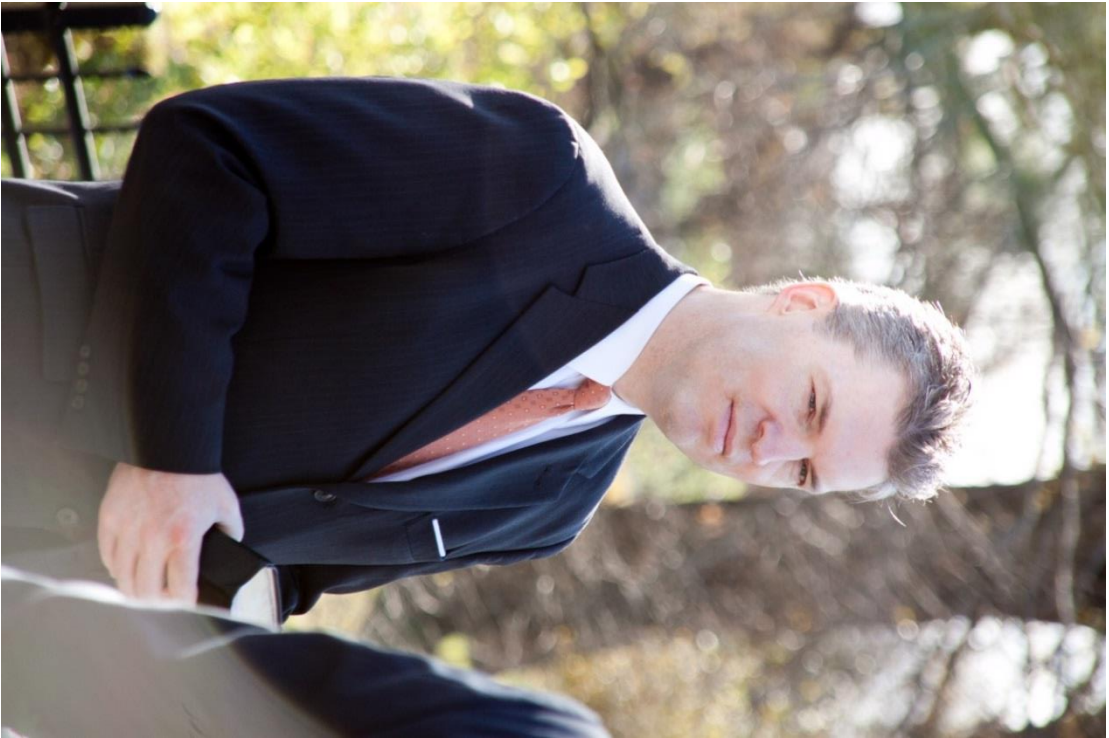
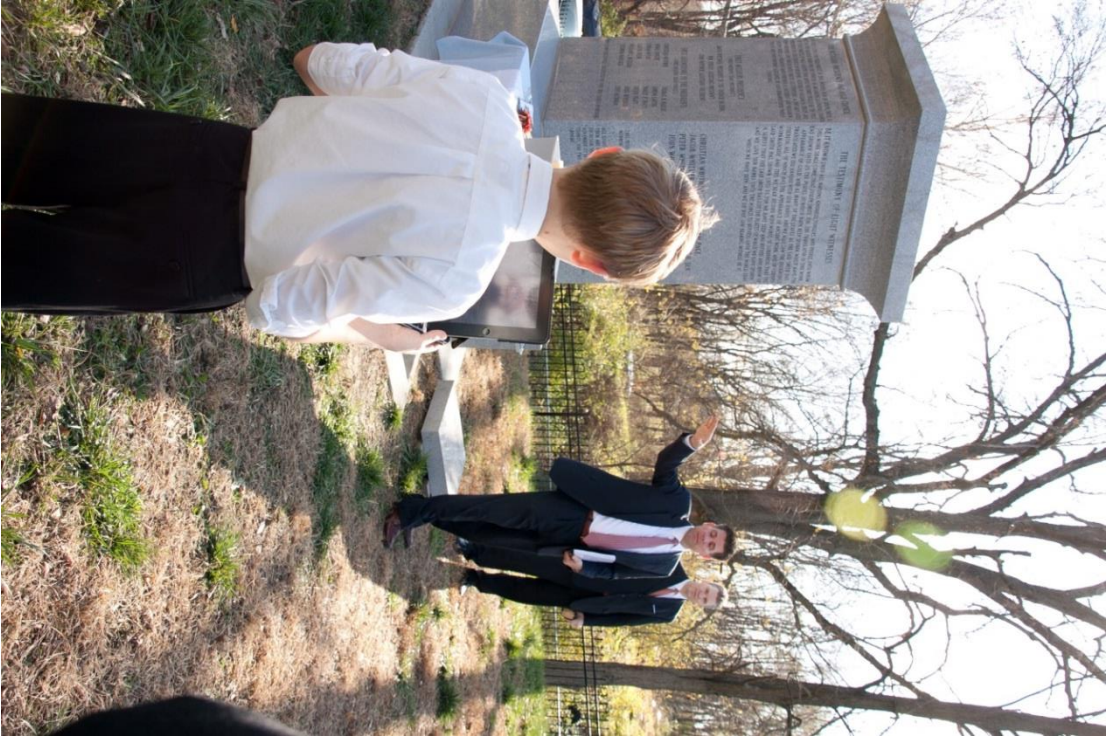




















List of Items in Time Capsule

Items in Time Capsule Placed November 10, 2012

- ❖ Book of Documents regarding the acquisition of land for the Eight Witnesses Monument by: Rodney A. Ames, Compiled November 9, 2012. (Note: Similar to this book).
- ❖ Testimony Letters from 173 youth from their YM/YW summer 2012 Youth Conference in Liberty, Missouri
- ❖ 2011 Church Almanac
- ❖ Liberty Stake History ~ 2010
- ❖ Hymn Book
- ❖ Liberty For All Book ~ History of Liberty, Missouri
- ❖ Kansas City Missouri Temple Book ~ For Such A Time As This
- ❖ CD LDS Magazines 1971-1999 ~ Selected text and selected visuals
- ❖ Faith In God Pamphlet For Girls
- ❖ Faith In God Pamphlet For Boys
- ❖ Picture of the First Presidency
- ❖ Picture of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
- ❖ Temples of The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter - Day Saints Magazine
- ❖ The New Era Magazine, March 2007 Missionary Preparation Issue
- ❖ The New Era Magazine, October 2008 Special Issue: You Can Stand Strong
- ❖ The New Era Magazine, April 2009 Education: Learning and Earning
- ❖ The New Era Magazine, April 2010 Special Issue: Dating For Beginners
- ❖ The New Era Magazine, November, 2011 Special Section: General Conference is for You
- ❖ Ensign Magazine, November 2011 General Conference Addresses Six New Temples Announced
- ❖ Ensign Magazine, October 2006 Special Issue: Welcome to the Church of Jesus Christ
- ❖ Ensign Magazine, December 2011
- ❖ Ensign Magazine, November, 2012
- ❖ The Friend Magazine, November 2011
- ❖ For the Strength of Youth Pamphlet
- ❖ Fulfilling My Duty to God ~ For Aaronic Priesthood Holders
- ❖ Young Women ~ Personal Progress ~ Standing As A Witness Of God
- ❖ One sheet of "pass along cards"
- ❖ Green shield CTR ring
- ❖ The Family ~ A Proclamation To The World
- ❖ The Faith of an Emigrant, by: Carl D Kallstrom
- ❖ Tell Me About Your Family Card
- ❖ Ministerial Alliance Thanksgiving Service Tuesday, November 22, 2011 ~ admission ticket
- ❖ Ministerial Alliance Thanksgiving Service Tuesday, November 22, 2011 ~ program
- ❖ Preparing the Way for the Temple ~ member handout card
- ❖ Alexander Doniphan Community Service Award Ceremony, July 9, 2010
- ❖ Alexander Doniphan Community Service Award Ceremony, September 13, 2012 ~ invitation, map in envelope
- ❖ Alexander Doniphan Community Service Award Ceremony, September 13, 2012 ~ program
- ❖ Alexander Doniphan Community Service Award Ceremony, September 13, 2012 ~ Photographs
- ❖ The Temple ~ A poem written by: Savannah Jane Morgan (Stake President's daughter)
- ❖ The Liberty Jail Experience brochure
- ❖ Historic Liberty Jail Pamphlet
- ❖ Historic Liberty Jail (book) ~ Historic Site Guide
- ❖ Independence Visitor's Center ~ The Healing Power of Christ, brochure

- ❖ Temple Run volunteer sign up sheet
- ❖ Mormon History Room Opening, May 30, 2010 invitation
- ❖ Mormon History Room Opening, May 30,2010
- ❖ The Mormon History Room in the Ray County Museum Pamphlet
- ❖ Lumber for the Lord: Carpenter 'awed and humbled'
- ❖ Monumental Celebrations, November 19, 2011 ~ Three Witnesses, Old Log Cabin Jail, Reception at Ray County Library
- ❖ Monumental Celebrations, November 19, 2011 ~ Three Witnesses, Old Log Cabin Jail, Reception at Ray County Library ~ signed by guests
- ❖ Monumental Celebrations, November 19, 2011 ~ Richmond Celebration & Liberty Celebration Map
- ❖ Church News Issue: Three Witnesses Monument Commemorated, November 26,2011
- ❖ Program of the Dedicatory Service and Unveiling of the Oliver Cowdery Monument ~ 22 November, 1911 ~ Richmond , Missouri
- ❖ Dedicatory Prayer of Eight Witnesses Monument, November 19, 2011, Given by Donald D. Deshler of the Seventy
- ❖ Eight Witnesses Monument commemorative piece of granite, November 19,2011
- ❖ Eight Witnesses Monument, November 19,2011 ~ Photographs
- ❖ Kansas City Temple Open House Invitation List ~ for members
- ❖ Temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints "Welcome" brochure
- ❖ Kansas City Temple Book Promo piece and small reminder card
- ❖ Historic Sites in the Northwest Missouri area brochure
- ❖ Liberty Stake Center Open House, November 5, 2011 ~ invitation
- ❖ Liberty Missouri Stake Center ~ Dedicatory Prayer, November 6, 2011
- ❖ Liberty Stake Center floor plan and capacity index (2 pages)
- ❖ Kansas City Missouri Temple open house ~ public invitation
- ❖ Kansas City Missouri Temple open house ~ special invitation sealed in envelope
- ❖ Kansas City Missouri Temple open house ~ special invitation letter, map & blue parking pass, May 5, 2012
- ❖ Kansas City Missouri Temple open house ~ guest badge
- ❖ Let Zion Rejoice~ An Anthem for the Liberty, Missouri Stake, Performed at the Kansas City Temple Dedication ~ written by: Daniel McDavitt
- ❖ Kansas City Temple Dedication: May 6, 2012 music card "The Spirit of God"
- ❖ Church News Issue: Kansas City Temple, May 13, 2012
- ❖ Kansas City Temple piece of interior tile baseboards
- ❖ Kansas City Missouri Temple Pin ~ worn by missionaries and leaders throughout the open house
- ❖ "How Can Church Members Assist in Public Affairs Work? ~ instructional
- ❖ Public Affairs and Youth~ instructional
- ❖ Pages 17-23 out of the Handbook of Instructions
- ❖ Relief Society Purposes ~ card
- ❖ Community Connection ~ Third Quarter 2011
- ❖ Community Connection ~ Second Quarter 2012
- ❖ Romney/Ryan yard sign from November, 2012 election
- ❖ J. Rueben Clark Law Society 2012 Annual Dinner Program
- ❖ J. Rueben Clark Law Society 2013 Annual Conference Program Invitation ~ Verbal announcement that Kansas City will host the 2014 Annual Conference
- ❖ Sacred Places of Missouri (book)~ A Comprehensive Guide to Early LDS Historical Sites Volume Four

- ❖ CD of Encyclopedia Britannica 2003 Ready Reference
- ❖ Letter To Kansas City Missouri Temple District from Temple President John W Hardy & Matron Nancy S Hardy
- ❖ Letter to Liberty Stake from Liberty Stake Public Affairs Director Cindy McDavitt
- ❖ Letter from: Huntsman
- ❖ Letter from: Hanks & Karpowitz
- ❖ Letter from: Mary Diane Whitmer Rauser
- ❖ Letter from: Rodney A. Ames
- ❖ Letter from: Stake Patriarch Richard and Linda Trekell
- ❖ Letter from: David and Wendy Dyck
- ❖ Letter from: Bryan and Debra Youd
- ❖ Letter from: Bill and Terri Tervort
- ❖ Letters from: Matthew and Jackie Jameson (3)
- ❖ Letter from: G. Lane and Sandra Vance
- ❖ Letter from: Rodolfo and Lori Garcia
- ❖ Letters from: Ben and Michelle Bond (3)
- ❖ Letter from: MaryJane Davis
- ❖ Letter from: Phyllis Caldwell
- ❖ Letter from: Matt and Annette Argyle
- ❖ Letter from: Scott and Anaise Robertson
- ❖ Letter from: Morgan James and Bryanna Wong Rainey
- ❖ Letter from: Judy White
- ❖ Letter from: GerryAnn Robins
- ❖ Letter from: Peggy Sue Bowman
- ❖ Letter from: Sara Woodward
- ❖ Letter from: Bradley and Rebecca Ethington
- ❖ Letter from: Steffan and Caryn Williams
- ❖ Letter from: Kylie and Jamie Ziegler
- ❖ Letter from: Sheila Bruns
- ❖ Letter from: Bessie Woodard and Phillip Woodward
- ❖ Letter from: Brian and Meredith Burnham
- ❖ Letter from: Helen P Davis
- ❖ Letter to: Sicily Dawn Lewis
- ❖ Letter from: Sharon Shull
- ❖ Letter from: Mary Elaine Richardson
- ❖ Letter from: Michael J. Andersen
- ❖ Letter from: Daniel and Sarah Messick
- ❖ Letter from: Janelle Jenkins
- ❖ Letter from: Sheri Brown
- ❖ Letter from: Patrick and Leslie Rainey
- ❖ Banner from: Young Women's Camp 2010 by: Sage Foley
- ❖ Testimony from: Sage Foley
- ❖ Picture of Sean Foley Family, 1st Councilor in the Liberty, Missouri Stake
- ❖ Illustrated Historical Atlas of Jackson county Missouri
- ❖ Items from: Morgan Family, Jeremiah Morgan, Liberty Missouri Stake President
- ❖ Letter about youth, Stephen Lehnardt
- ❖ Letter from: Hars Henriquez & Amanda Henriquez
- ❖ Song sheet from: the Eight Witnesses Monument Time Capsule Interment November 10, 2012