

The Joseph Smith Papers for Family Historians

Objective:

Learn how you can use the vast treasure of original documents and primary sources found in The Joseph Smith Papers for your personal family histories. This session will highlight the tools and resources available at JosephSmithPapers.org, including thousands of original documents, biographies, maps, charts, and more.

Session Overview

- Collaboration with Family Search
 - Sign in to see if your family tree is already connected to the JSP
 - View details
 - Family Tree database
 - Biographies on the JSP website
 - Specific primary source documents where the individual is mentioned
 - Browse other people mentioned
 - 680 names in the collection today
 - 132 new additional bios on the JSP site as of December 2015
 - More names are added to JSP site in quarterly content updates
 - Annual updates to the Family Search collaboration tool
- Using The Joseph Smith Papers as a source for family research
 - People of the Time
 - Footnotes
 - Document Links
 - Sharing
 - Places of the Time
 - Searching
 - Keyword searching
 - Faceted searching
 - Search tips and tricks
 - Joseph Smith's Correspondence through March 1842
 - How to cite the JSP website and print volumes
- Primary source research tips from the JSP
 - Our process for verifying biographical information
 - Gauging quality and reliability of sources
 - Top 10 sources used for biographical research
 - Print sources
 - Online sources

Resources:

- Family Search – See if your ancestors are mentioned in The Joseph Smith Papers
<https://familysearch.org/joseph-smith-papers>
- The Joseph Smith Papers
<http://josephsmithpapers.org/>
- The Joseph Smith Papers – People of the Time
<http://josephsmithpapers.org/reference/people>
- The Joseph Smith Papers – Places of the Time
<http://josephsmithpapers.org/reference/places>
- The Joseph Smith Papers - Joseph Smith's Correspondence through March 1842
<http://josephsmithpapers.org/site/joseph-smiths-correspondence>
- Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel
<https://history.lds.org/overlandtravels/>
- Church History Library Catalog
<http://churchhistorycatalog.lds.org/>

Presenters

Nathan Waite is an associate editorial manager for the Joseph Smith Papers. He received a BA in English from Brigham Young University and an MA in American studies from the University of Utah; he has also completed training at the Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents and the Digital Humanities Summer Institute. He has presented papers at conferences of the Mormon History Association and the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, among others. He is coeditor of *A Zion Canyon Reader* (University of Utah Press, 2014) and has edited for *BYU Magazine*, the *Liahona*, and David R. Godine, Publisher.

Ben Godfrey is the product manager for the Joseph Smith Papers. He is responsible for coordinating the development and content releases of the josephsmithpapers.org site. Prior to joining the Church History Department, he spent twenty years as a product manager and executive vice president of product development at several firms in the high-tech industry, including Apple. He spent several years managing international teams and development relationships in Europe and Asia. As a public speaker, he has spoken across the United States and internationally on topics such as how technology can improve education, government, and public safety. He holds a bachelor's degree in communication, with an emphasis on new technology, from Utah State University.