



The Nauvoo Community Project



This project is an effort to reconstruct the lives of all individuals who were residents of the frontier community of Nauvoo, Illinois, between 1839-1846.

During the nineteenth century, frontier towns started appearing in the Midwestern and Western United States. One of these frontier communities was a town called Nauvoo in Hancock County, Illinois.

This town was home to a religious group of people, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. For religious and political reasons, this frontier town kept more records than other frontier towns during this time.

Using these records, we are identifying each resident of Nauvoo from 1839-1846. This will allow us to obtain statistics and data for the entire town. These statistics can be used to compare and study other Midwestern areas of migration. Some of these statistics include birth locations for residents, where the residents eventually settled, and age and gender demographics for this frontier community. Currently, there are over 10,000 residents in the database, and the number will continue to grow over the next several years. Student researchers are adding research and information every day.

All of the genealogical data and acquired documents appear on the project website at: nauvoo.bry.edu. Project research logs are uploaded to [FamilySearch® Family Tree](#) so that patrons can view the results of searches, both positive and nil.

The Nauvoo Community research has been divided into 3 phases. The objective of our first phase is to uniquely identify all residents of Nauvoo and surrounding areas. This includes searches for census, death, burial, and migration information.

BYU student research on residents of the community of Nauvoo will assist descendants with genealogical research, as well as assisting historians of frontier towns in learning more about westward migration and life in frontier societies. By studying this Mormon pioneer community where many records were kept, historians have the unique opportunity to learn more about 19th century migrants.

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