

NAUVOO SCHOOL RECORDS

Lyman D. Platt

Beginning in the spring of 1842, an attempt was made on the part of the city officials to meet the growing need to educate the children of the hundreds of families that were moving into Nauvoo. Trustees were hired to handle this growing problem.

The school records for the year 1842 have all been transcribed at this time. Many of the children appearing in these records do not appear in any other record found during the Nauvoo period. Some of them do not appear on the family group records on file for their parent's families at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. A careful review of the attendance records kept for some of the children will show when they died or became sic, when they quit school to move elsewhere with their families, or when they were forced to drop out of school for work or other reasons.

The school records for the years 1843, 1844, and 1845 will appear in subsequent editions of *The Nauvoo Journal*.

ABIGAIL SMITH ABBOTT

The first school to receive our attention was taught by Abigail Smith Abbott. She was born 11 September 1806 at Williamson, Ontario, New York, the daughter of James Smith and Lydia Lucinda Harding. She married 1 December 1825 at Dansville, Livingston, New York to Stephen Joseph Abbott. She joined the church at Perry, Pike, Illinois in March of 1839 and lived there until March of 1842 (she had her last child on 3 February 1842 at Perry.) From April to July of 1842 the family lived in the Nauvoo First Ward on lot 23 in a log house, near the upper stone house in Old Commerce, where she taught school "at her residence."

There were forty-six students attending this little log-house school during all or part of a period of time running from 19 April 1842 to 29 July 1842. There were the following:

Franklin Clapp, William Clapp, Joseph Clapp, Mary J. Heure, Uriah Cory, Elizabeth Pack, Jesse Brown, Daniel Brown, James Brown, William

Brown, Freeman Derby, Sidney Derby, William Garland, Eveline Alexander, Nancy Brown, Ephraim Dimick, Albert Dimick, Milim Packard, Nephi Packard, Olive Packard, Alma Fairchilds, Moroni Fairchilds, James Dimick, Jane Terry, Elizabeth Cory, John Allen, William Allen, Aaron Niswanger, Catharine Niswanger, Joseph Allen, Hannah Henderson, Martin Henderson, Thomas Henderson, Abigail Henderson, Lehi Curtis, Uriah Curtis, Jane Curtis, William Jones, Charlotte Jones, Mercy Jones, Mary Jones, Anna Jones, Charilla Abbott, Phebe Abbott, Lidie Abbott, Abial Abbott.

I certify that the foregoing schedule of the names of the scholars therein named residing in township seven north range nine west is correct. Given under my hand this the twenty-seventh day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-two.

Signed by Abigail Abbott

We certify that we as trustees of said school have examined the within and foregoing schedule and find the same to be correct and that the scholars at the dates of their attendance were residents of township 7 north of range 9 west of the fourth principal meridian, that the compensation of said teacher is one dollar and fifty cents per scholar. Witness our hands and seals this 31st day of December, A.D. 1842.

Signed by Elias Higbee and Charles C. Rich

In fact, some of the children in this school may actually have lived in the second ward at the time they were attending school. The Browns and Eveline Alexander were all listed in the 1842 census taken in February and March as living there. Seventeen of the forty-five children do not appear in the 1842 census. The dates they began attending school probably indicate a time fairly close to when their families arrived in the city.

This type of study needs to be carefully done on all of the school records to determine more precisely the demographic development of the city. However, for the

purposes of this article, the rest of the school records will be given in a more straightforward manner.

CAROLINE CROSBY

Schedule of a common school kept by Caroline Crosby at her residence, in township seven north, and range nine west of the fourth principal meridian in the county of Hancock and state of Illinois.

There were twenty-five students attending this school during all or part of a period of time running from 7 November 1842 to 27 December 1842. They were the following:

Mary Jane Huett, Azariah Smith, Emily Smith, Candace Smith, Martha Ann Abbott, Caroline Arnold, Orson Arnold, James B. Gully, Elizabeth Cory, Helen Cheney, Jane Cheney, Elizabeth Pack, Clark A. Huntington, Lot Huntington, William Allen, Joseph Allen, Martha Jane Gully, Ellen S. Pratt, Frances S. Pratt, Robert Wilber, Alma Crosby, Dudley Allen, Mary Ann Willard, Eliza Willard, Guy Foot.

The same certification as shown on the first school record was also recorded here.

LORIN FARR

Schedule of a common school kept by Lorin Farr in the house of Mr. McIntire situated on Main Street north of the Masonic Hall on the same block, in township six north, range nine West, in the city of Nauvoo, Hancock County, state of Illinois.

There were twenty-seven students attending this school during all or part of a period of time running from 12 December 1842 to 30 December 1842. There were the following:

William Kimball, Helen Kimball, David Sessions, Olive H. Farr, Diantha Farr, Winslow Farr, Henry Cooledge, William Walker, Lucy Walker, William Hibbard, Lovina Hibbard, Thomas Miles, Margaret Moon, Lydia Moon, William Hume, Mary Susan Henry, Jane Moses, Martha Sessions, Fanny Merrick, Elisha Goff, Sarah Goff, Milton Olney, Sarah Jane Angel, Martha Angel, Alfred Billings, Eunice Billings, George Billings.

LUCY GROVES

Schedule of a common school kept by Lucy Groves in the city of Nauvoo on Back Street cornering on Joseph Street in fractional township seven north range nine west.

There were thirty-six students attending this school during all or part of a period of time running from 31 October 1842 to 22 December 1842.

Those who signed as the employers of Lucy Groves were Joseph Parker, Waldo Littlefield, Horace Evans, John L. Butler, and James Huntsman. They appear to be the fathers of some of the children named below.

O. Evins, J. Tomlinson, M. Tomlinson, D. Littlefield, J. Littlefield, E. Hill, S. Hill, M. Hill, S. Huntsman, M. Huntsman, J. Davis, C. Davis, S. Davis, E. Davis, A. Potts, J. Potts, A. Parker, W. Davis, R. Chapman, E. Chapman, J. Edwards, James Edwards, C. Butler, E. Tomilson, [?] Fuller, B. Fuller, J. Fuller, S. Fuller, T. Butler, H. Littlefield, G. Davis, R. Davis, W. Teeples, D. Brown, M. Groves.

PAMELA M. MICHAEL

Schedule of a common school kept by Pamela M. Michael in township six north, range nine west, city of Nauvoo.

There were ninety-one students attending this school during all or part of a period of time running from 3 January 1842 to 1 July 1842. The original manuscript is extremely small in print, and even with magnification is very difficult to read in places due to fading of the ink. The students were as follows:

Lovina Smith, John Smith, Jerusha Smith, Catherine Niswanger, Fanny Merick, Vilate Young, Joseph Young, Brigham Young, Willis Johnson, Marsela Johnson, Emma Johnson, W. M. Marks, Llewellyn Marks, Orson Whitney, John Whitney, Joe Whitney, Mary Young, James Lawrens, John Felshaw, George Thompson, Harriet Parish, Esther Parish, Clark Carter, Lydia Carter, Orlando Carter, Lydia Partridge, Edward Partridge, Abigail Haws, Albert Haws, Lawly Haws, Charlotte Haws, Katherine Haws, Martin Gillet, George Gillet, Vincent Knight, Adaline Knight, W.M. Gillet, Agnes Smith, Sophrina Smith, Chauncey Webb, Enoch Parish, Jared

