

Learn more about the Joseph Smith Papers project.

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Greetings

We are pleased to share with you our latest newsletter. This issue highlights new web content published in November, including records from the [Book of the Law of the Lord](#) and [documents](#) for the trial of the accused murderers of Joseph Smith. Also featured is a behind-the-scenes article from an editor who worked on the Book of the Law of the Lord.

Sincerely,

Matthew C. Godfrey, R. Eric Smith, and Ronald K. Esplin
General Editors



Dates of Interest

December 2023: New entries in the [Journal of George F. Richards](#) released.



New Content on the Joseph Smith Papers Website

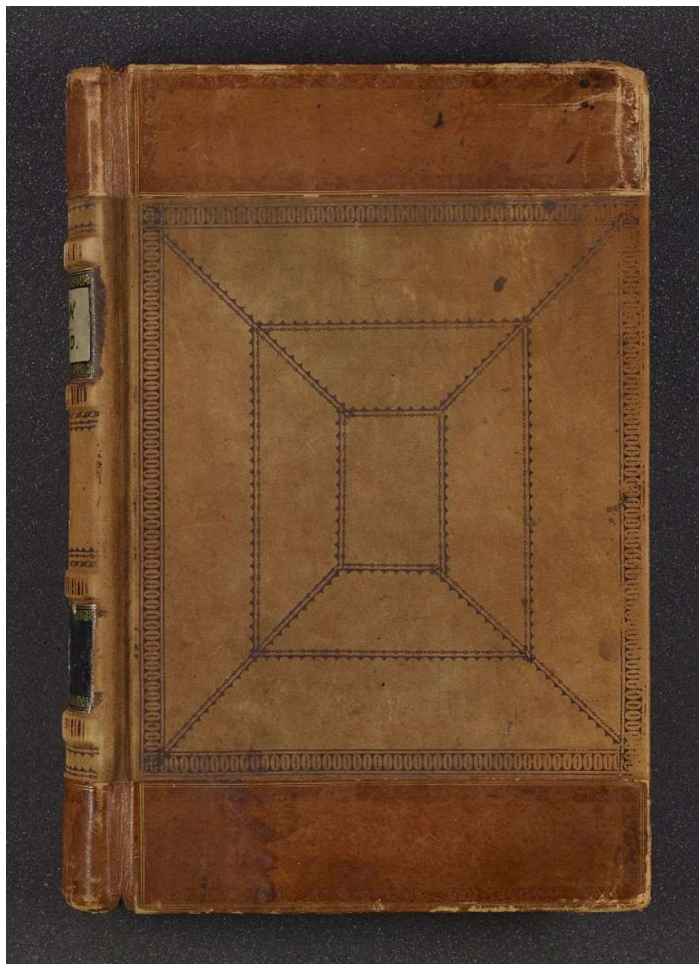
The Joseph Smith Papers is pleased to announce its latest web publication. This release features tithing and other donations recorded in the Book of the Law of the Lord from 1841 through 8 August 1845, along with an [introduction](#) to the records associated with Joseph Smith as trustee-in-trust for the church. It also includes an [introduction](#) and documents for the trial of the accused murderers of Joseph Smith; an [introduction](#) and documents for another of the legal cases about Joseph Smith's estate; additional sets of [photographs](#) of the original manuscript of the Book of Mormon; and over fourteen hundred new [biographical entries](#).

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“The Names of the Faithful”: Publishing the Book of the Law of the Lord

By Naomi Raffensparger, Assistant Editor



Ornate front cover of Book of the Law of the Lord, Book A

The [Book of the Law of the Lord](#) is a record book kept by scribes of Joseph Smith under his direction. It contains a variety of record types, from Joseph Smith journal entries to revelations to tithing records, and it was a crucial record to include in the Joseph Smith Papers Project.

The significance of the Book of the Law of the Lord is tied not only to its history as an artifact, but also to the spiritual value it was given in its time. This book stands as a witness of the early Saints' sacrifice and devotion, and that testimony can speak volumes to Latter-day Saints today.

Getting a record of this size ready for digital publication was no easy task. It took years of effort by historians, editors, and volunteer missionaries to transcribe, research, annotate, stylize, and format the Book of the Law of the Lord.

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