

# CHRONOLOGY OF PAST EVENTS

## LEADING TO THE WRITING OF THE LETTERS

(Names of letter writers are boldfaced.)

- 1801 Asa and Abigail (Marks) Works, Mollie's paternal grandparents, are married. Their sons and daughters, whose birthdates follow, include Mollie's father as well as her aunts and uncles, those who raised her, taught her, and provided her homes.
- 1802 Joseph Tunnicliff Works, first child of Asa and Abigail Works, is born near Cooperstown, N.Y. After his first wife dies, he will leave his two children with her relatives and marry in Ohio.
- 1804 Abigail Works is born in Aurelius, N.Y. She will be the mother of **George** and **Deborah Rockwell**, two of Mollie's cousins who became important letter writers.
- June 7, 1806 Miriam Works is born in Aurelius, N.Y. She is Miriam ("Mollie's") namesake and will marry Brigham Young and bear his first children, Elizabeth and Vilate.
- 1809 Adaline Works is born in Aurelius, N. Y. She will be the first of Mollie's paternal aunts to offer her a home, and she will become the mother of **Joseph Bonney**, Mollie's cousin and lifelong correspondent.

- June 23, 1811 Parthenia Works is born in Aurelius, N.Y. She will become the mother of **Angeline** and **Amulek Boothe**, two more of Mollie's cousins who become letter writers and friends.
- August 22, 1814 Angeline Works is born in Aurelius, N.Y. She will be most influential in raising Mollie, and she will become the mother of **Grace Robinson**, Mollie's cousin, a lifelong letter writer, and later the mother of Mollie's daughter-in-law.
- May 19, 1815 Jerusha Works is born in Aurelius, N.Y. She will become the mother of **Charles Worden**, Mollie's cousin and a Civil War soldier.
- May 25, 1816 Ebenezer Robinson is born in Floyd, N.Y. He will marry Angeline Works and father **Grace Robinson**. His work in the Mormon Church includes editing and publishing several Mormon newspapers and an edition of the *Book of Mormon*. He gave Mollie a home.
- 1819 Asa Daniel Works is born in Aurelius, N.Y. He will marry Deborah Malcolm and father Mollie and **Perry Works**.
- October 5, 1821 James Marks Works, the youngest of Mollie's uncles, is born in Aurelius, N.Y. He is in Nauvoo, Ill., at its end, and he will live in Brigham Young's home in Salt Lake City, Ut.
- October 8, 1824 In Port Byron, N.Y., Brigham Young, he a glazier, brickmaker, and Methodist at the time, marries Miriam Works, Mollie's aunt.
- 1826 Deborah Malcolm is born in New Jersey. She will come to Illinois with her sister, Rachel, and become Mollie's mother.

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- March 27, 1827      Near Hill Cumorah, N.Y., Joseph Smith, Jr., says he is visited by the Angel Moroni and is taught from the golden plates of the *Book of Mormon*.
- April 6, 1830      In Peter Whitmer's farmhouse near Fayette, N.Y., the Church of Christ, with the Bible and the *Book of Mormon* as its scripture, is legally established. Many of the Workses become early Mormons.
- February 1, 1831      In Kirtland, O., Joseph Smith, Jr., is welcomed by Sidney Rigdon's Campbellite congregation which has converted to Mormonism.
- March 26, 1831      Cousin **Angeline**, eldest child of Lorenzo Dow and Parthenia (Works) Boothe, is born in Cayuga County, N.Y.
- September 6, 1832      In Throopsville, N.Y., aunt Jerusha Works marries the widower John Worden, while her sister Angeline Works is a witness.
- September 8, 1832      Aunt Miriam (Works) Young dies in Mendon, N.Y.
- July 23, 1833      In Kirtland, O., cornerstones are laid for the first Mormon temple. Mormons move to Kirtland.
- November 12, 1833      In Rochester, N.Y., cousin **Joseph**, second son of Amasa and Adaline (Works) Bonney is born.
- April 4, 1834      Cousin **George**, fourth child of David and Abigail (Works) Rockwell, is born in Geauga County, O.

- October 16, 1835 Joseph Smith, Jr., baptizes Ebenezer Robinson in the Chagrin River near Kirtland, O.
- December 13, 1835 Angeline Works, Mollie's aunt and teacher, weds Ebenezer Robinson in Kirtland, O., Joseph Smith, Jr., performs the ceremony.
- March 27, 1836 Kirtland Temple is dedicated in the rain; Sidney Rigdon gives a dedicatory speech; George Morey, who will later influence where Mollie will live, is one of the doorkeepers.
- May 26, 1836 Cousin **Amulek**, third child of Lorenzo and Parthenia (Works) Boothe and writer of 15 letters, is born in Geauga County, O.
- 1836 Sidney Rigdon convinces church leaders that its name should be the Church of Christ of Latter-day Saints since the end times were at hand; Church founder David Whitmer insists the full name of Christ be included.
- December, 1836 Angeline Robinson and Amasa Bonney, among others, buy shares in the Kirtland (Anti) Bank(ing) Society, an unchartered Church bank that goes bankrupt.
- Ebenezer Robinson helps set type for *Book of Mormon*, second edition.
- Spring, 1837 Financial Panic of 1837 hits.
- April 17, 1837 Ebenezer and Angeline Robinson leave for Far West, near present-day Independence, Mo. the Zion, or gatheringplace, for Mormons.
- May 1, 1837 Asa Works and his family leave Aurelius, N.Y., for Kirtland, O., and then Far West, Mo.

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- January 12, 1838 Joseph Smith, Jr., and Sidney Rigdon flee Kirtland, O., for Far West, Mo.
- July 4, 1838 At Far West, a second Mormon temple is begun; a belligerent speech against Mormon persecutors by Sidney Rigdon angers non-Mormons.
- August 6, 1838 Mormons voting in a block sway a sheriff's election; a mob attacks; Mormons are wounded.
- August 30, 1838 Missouri Gov. Lilburn Boggs orders Maj. Gen. David Rice Atchison to raise 400 armed and equipped militia for action against the Mormons.
- October, 1838 A mob kills 30 Mormons at Haun's Mill, Shoal Creek, Mo.
- October 25, 1838 Armed Mormons, including George Morey, rout a Missouri mob at Crooked Creek, Mo.
- October 26, 1838 In a letter, Missouri Gov. Boggs orders the extermination of Mormons.
- October 30, 1838 Mormon Crooked Creek warriors, including George Morey, flee north to Iowa, through the Pleasant Plains area, later a home to Mollie and many of her letter writers.
- November 1, 1838 Far West Mormons surrender to Missouri militia; many Mormons, including Ebenezer Robinson, are taken prisoner.
- April 15, 1839 Bailed or escaped Mormon prisoners find refuge in and around Quincy, Ill.

- April 25, 1839      Church committee selects the former Commerce, Ill., renamed Nauvoo, in Hancock County, as the new Mormon gatheringplace.
- Ebenezer Robinson sends for his wife, her parents and their youngest sons to come from Far West, Mo., to Illinois.
- May, 1839            The Robinsons and Asa and Abigail Works are living in a loghouse on the banks of the Mississippi River in Nauvoo, Ill; Asa Daniel Works, 20, soon to be Mollie's father, stays near Quincy in Adams County, Ill.
- July, 1839            Ebenezer Robinson and Don Carlos Smith, brother of the Prophet, begin printing *Times and Seasons*, first Nauvoo newspaper.
- March 30, 1841      In Danbury, Conn., cousin **Deborah Ann**, the seventh child of aunt Abigail (Works) and uncle David Rockwell is born. She will live in Geauga County, O.
- April, 1841            In Nauvoo, the Robinson printing business is so successful he builds brick home and office.
- January 23, 1842      Asa Daniel Works and Deborah Malcolm, Mollie's parents, are married by Rev. Elijah Reed in Millville, Ill., near Quincy.
- January 28, 1842      Joseph Smith says God wants the Church to own *Times and Seasons*, Nauvoo's newspaper.
- February 4, 1842      Ebenezer Robinson sells printing business and home/office to Joseph Smith, Jr.; Robinsons are forced to take up temporary lodging with their good neighbor, Aaron Johnson.
- March 9, 1842        Asa and Abigail Works, Mollie's grandparents, receive a patriarchial blessing from Hyrum Smith, the Prophet's brother, in Nauvoo.

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- May, 1842 Ebenezer Robinson builds a row of 11 rental tenements on Kimball Street next to his friend Austin Cowles' property in Nauvoo. Renters include Lorenzo and Parthenia Boothe, parents of cousins **Amulek** and **Angeline**, and Amasa and Adaline Bonney, parents of **Joe**.
- October, 1842 Countering newspaper reports, the Robinsons and others sign affidavits that only the marriage ceremony in the Mormon *Doctrine and Covenants* was known to them.
- July 12, 1843 Joseph Smith reveals his doctrine of spiritual wives (religious polygamy) to church leaders; Austin Cowles, father of Elvira, one of Smith's wives, resigns from the Nauvoo High Council.
- July 31, 1843 Robinsons leave for the eastern states on a Mormon mission, Angeline stopping in Ohio because of the death of her sister, Abigail (Works) Rockwell, mother of cousins **George** and **Deborah**.
- October 18, 1843 Mollie's grandfather, Asa Works, 78, with help from neighbor Aaron Johnson, applies for a Revolutionary War pension for his service at Battle of Monmouth; his pension is denied.
- December, 1843 In Nauvoo, Ebenezer and Angeline Robinson are taught the doctrine of spiritual wives by Hyrum Smith, brother of Joseph.
- May, 1844 Joseph Smith, Jr., announces his candidacy for President of U.S.
- June 7, 1844 First and only issue of *Nauvoo Expositor* is published, exposing details of how young women are enticed into becoming spiritual wives.

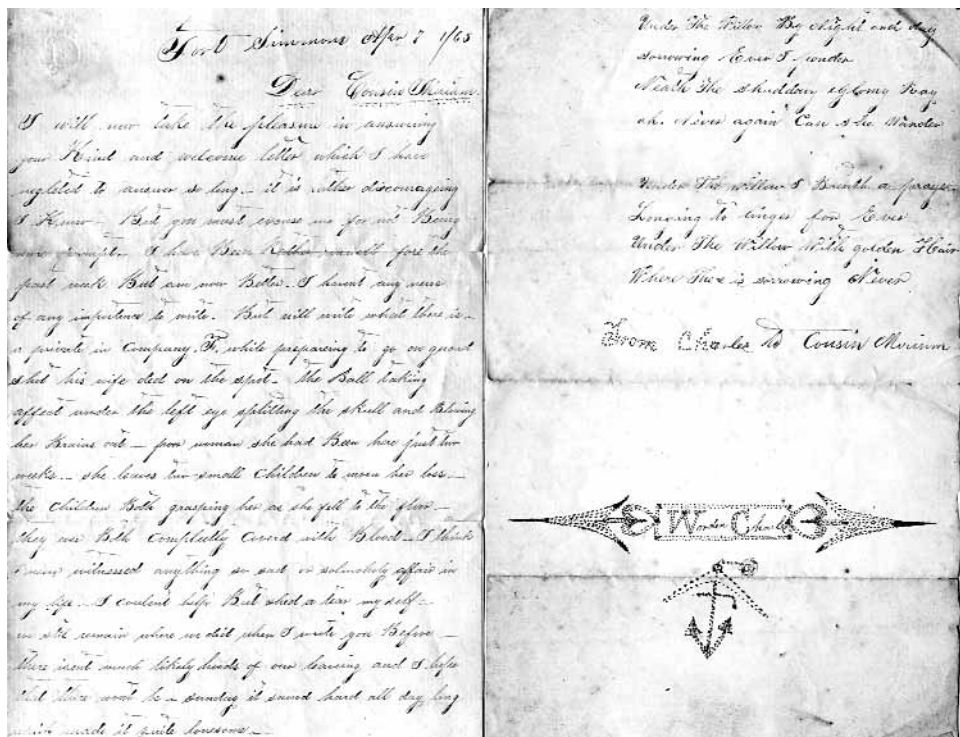
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- June 10, 1844      *Nauvoo Expositor* press and copies are destroyed; editors flee to Carthage, Ill.
- June 18, 1844      The Ebenezer Robinsons and Sidney Rigdons leave for Pittsburgh, Pa., campaigning for presidential candidate Joseph Smith.
- June 24, 1844      Joseph and Hyrum Smith, John Taylor, and Willard Richards are jailed in Carthage for their own safety.
- June 27, 1844      A mob “overpowers” Carthage jail guards, killing Joseph and Hyrum Smith, and wounding Taylor. Farm families, fearing a Nauvoo army, flee to Quincy, Ill., where church bells ring warnings of possible Mormon revenge.
- Robinsons and Rigdons arrive in Pittsburgh, campaigning for Candidate Smith.
- Miriam “Mollie” Works** is born in Millville (now Marblehead), Ill.
- August 8, 1844      Rigdon’s plan for the future of Mormon Church, including high posts for Ebenezer Robinson, George Morey, and Austin Cowles, is defeated by the oratory of Brigham Young; Rigdon returns to Pittsburgh to found his own Mormon church. Robinson publishes its newspaper, *The Latter Day Saints Messenger and Advocate*.
- February 15, 1845      Asa Works, 83, Revolutionary War soldier and Mollie’s grandfather, dies and is buried in Nauvoo, Ill.
- January 28, 1846      Abigail “Nabby” (Marks) Works, 75, Mollie’s grandmother, is sealed as a spiritual wife to Brigham Young, once her son-in-law.



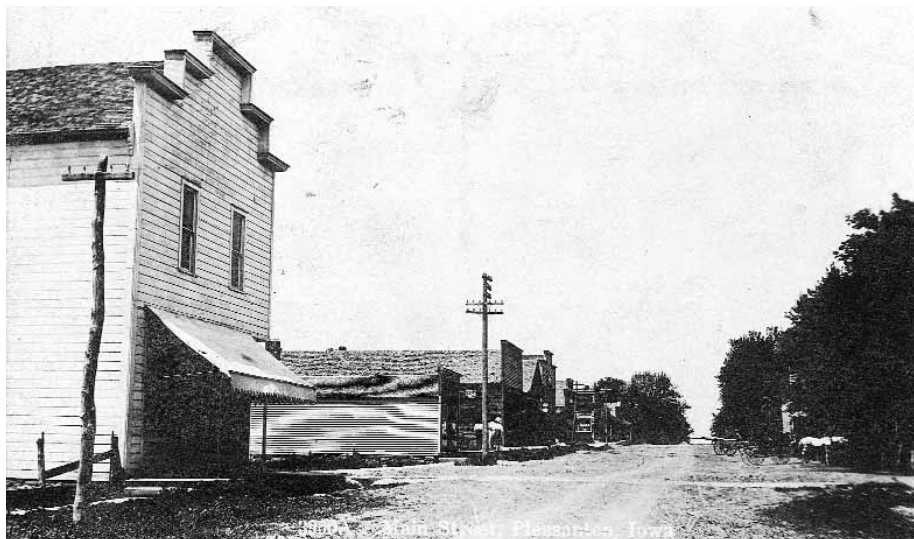
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- February 4, 1846 Federal troops, coming up the thawing Mississippi River to test Mormon allegiance in the matter of war with Mexico, are a strong incentive to many in Nauvoo to cross the river into Iowa, beginning the hand-cart and wagon trek west.
- March 17, 1846 Mollie's aunt, Parthenia (Works) Boothe, wife of Lorenzo and mother of **Amulek** and **Angeline**, dies in Nauvoo.
- Spring, 1846 Rigdonite Mormons buy a farm near Greencastle, Pa., for their New Jerusalem.
- May, 1846 Robinsons move to Greencastle, Pa., Ebenezer founding its first newspaper, *Conococheague Herald*.
- July 14, 1846 Abigail (Marks) Works, Mollie's paternal grandmother, dies of cancer; her youngest, James Marks, is the only Works left in Nauvoo to bury her.
- October 14, 1846 In Millville, Ill., **Perry Works**, Mollie's brother is born.
- January 2, 1847 Lorenzo Dow Boothe, father of cousins **Amulek** and **Angeline**, drowns while crossing the frozen Des Moines River in Iowa. Two children, cousins **Amulek** and **Angeline**, remain in Iowa while the rest of the family goes on to Utah.
- 1848 Adam Dennis marries Mollie's cousin **Angeline Boothe**, and they settle in northern Missouri.
- December 22, 1849 Cousin **Grace**, the only child of Angeline and Ebenezer Robinson, is born in Greencastle, Pa.

- 1851 “King” James Jesse Strang, leader of Mormon Strangites on Beaver Island, Mich., begins plural wife-taking; he is immediately rejected by Zenas Gurley, Sr., and other prominent members of the sect who begin prayer vigils to find a new leader.
- Winter, 1851-52 Especially harsh winter; cholera in Adams County, Ill.
- George Morey receives a letter praising the south central Iowa region, Hamilton Township, Decatur County; the Moreys, Keowns, Trumans, and Cowles prepare to move.
- January 18, 1852 Asa Daniel Works, 33, Mollie’s father, a schoolteacher and farmer, dies; Mollie’s mother, Deborah, is ill; the family moves in with Mollie’s aunt Rachel (Malcolm) and uncle Samuel Stewart.
- January 23, 1852 Mollie’s mother, Deborah (Malcolm) Works, makes her brother-in-law Samuel Stewart legal guardian of Perry and Mollie before she dies.
- June 12, 1852 Zenas Gurley leads others into signing resolutions against holy polygamy, declaring 19-year-old Joseph Smith III the true leader of the Mormons.
- September, 1852 Amasa and Adaline (Works) Bonney take the orphaned Mollie with them to Decatur County, Ia.
- 1854 Ebenezer Robinson buys 160 acres in Hamilton Township, Decatur County, Ia.
- April, 1855 The Robinsons take their niece **Deborah Rockwell** from Geauga County, O., to Iowa.

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- November 12, 1855      Cousin **Joseph Bonney**, son of Amasa and Adaline, marries **Sarah Abigail “Sallie” Johnson** in LaGrange, Mo. They will write many letters to Mollie.
- January 1, 1856        David Morey, 26, son of George Morey, marries **Deborah Ann Rockwell**, 14.
- February, 1859        Aunt Adaline (Works) Bonney dies. Her husband Amasa returns to New York; Mollie, homeless and 13, works for her cousin **Deborah (Rockwell) Morey** and their aunt Angeline (Works) Robinson.
- 1859                    **George Rockwell**, after his wife dies, brings his two children west, leaving his oldest child with his sister, **Deborah (Rockwell) Morey**.
- April 6, 1860         Joseph Smith III, 27, accepts the leadership of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (RLDS). He is ordained by Zenas Gurley, Sr. and Joseph Briggs in Amboy, Ill.
- May 6, 1860            **Joseph Bonney** writes Mollie Letter #1 from LaGrange, Mo.
- September, 1860      David Morey moves his family to Illinois to be near the new church headquarters; Mollie, 16, is with her aunt and uncle Robinson in Decatur County, Ia.
- November, 1860        Abraham Lincoln is elected president.
- December 9, 1860     **Deborah Morey** writes Mollie Letter #2 from Amboy, Ill.
- December 24, 1860    South Carolina secedes from the Union.



The first page and last insert, showing song lyrics and artwork, of Letter #17 from Charles Worden, Union soldier.



Main Street of Pleasanton (formerly Pleasant Plains), Iowa, in 1914.