

EPISODE 22 • PART I

Dr. Alexander L. Baugh



D&C 58-59

- Hank Smith: [00:01](#) Welcome to Follow Him, a weekly podcast dedicated to helping individuals and families with their Come Follow Me Step. I'm Hank Smith.
- John Bytheway: [00:09](#) I'm John Bytheway.
- Hank Smith: [00:11](#) We love to learn.
- John Bytheway: [00:11](#) We love to laugh.
- Hank Smith: [00:13](#) We want to learn and laugh with you.
- John Bytheway: [00:15](#) As together, we follow Him.
- Hank Smith: [00:18](#) Hello and welcome to another episode of Follow Him. My name is Hank Smith and I'm here with my cohost, the unequaled John Bytheway. Welcome, John.
- John Bytheway: [00:30](#) It's always fun to hear the new adjective.
- Hank Smith: [00:33](#) I want to mention to everybody listening that you can find us on social media, on Instagram and Facebook. You can get show notes, transcripts, any references for quotes from our episodes on [followhim.co](#), not [followhim.com](#), but Follow Him dot C-O. You can rate and review the podcast.
- Hank Smith: [00:53](#) Then I failed to mentioned something early on, John, that I wanted to mention. We have some music that comes in when we start our episodes and then finishes our episodes, and I never mention that that is a song composed by Marshall McDonald, one of my good friends out of seminaries and institutes. So, Marshall McDonald, look him up. He's just a talented, talented musician.
- Hank Smith: [01:17](#) Well, John, I'm pretty excited for today. I'm excited for every episode, to be honest, but today, I've been looking forward to for a long time. Who's with us today? Who's our expert?

- 6ohn Bytheway: [01:26](#) Oh, I'm excited, too. I remember when I used to go to faculty meetings and the booming Amen said after every prayer was from Brother Baugh, and to me, it was not just something you say after the prayer, it was like a testimony when Brother Baugh said, "Amen." So, I'm going to read his bio here.
- John Bytheway: [01:49](#) Alexander L. Baugh is Professor and Chair of the Department of Church History and Doctrine at Brigham Young University, where he has been full-time faculty member since 1995. He received his bachelor's from Utah State University, his master's and PhD degrees from Brigham Young University. He specializes in researching and writing about the Missouri period of early church history, 1831 to 1839. He's the author, editor or co-editor of 10 books including three volumes of the document series of the Joseph Smith papers, which are volumes four, five, and six.
- John Bytheway: [02:28](#) He's also the past editor of Mormon Historical Studies and past co-director of research for the BYU Religious Studies Center. He's married to the former Susan Johnson. They are the parents of five children. Alexander's wife reside in Highland, Utah. Brother Baugh, welcome to our podcast today. Thanks for being with us.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [02:47](#) Thank you so much. I've been looking forward to this. Anytime we talk about Missouri, I'm in. Yeah. I like to tell my students, gosh, it has an ancient past, it has a more current history, if you will, with the settlements of the saints in Missouri in the decade of the 1830s, but it has a glorious future, and it's a pretty special place. All of the places where the saints lived and dwelt is remarkable, but Missouri hits right at home.
- John Bytheway: [03:30](#) That's very special.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [03:31](#) So, thanks for giving me this opportunity to share.
- John Bytheway: [03:34](#) We're so happy to have you.
- Hank Smith: [03:36](#) Now, I have a couple of things to say. One, no one should enjoy cemeteries as much as Alex Baugh, but I'll tell you this, John. As we walked through a couple of Missouri cemeteries, he could not only point out the saint, he could point out those who lived during the times of the saints and how they felt about the Latter-day Saints. So, he'd say, "Oh, that guy, he was a friend of the church. That one over there, no, he was not. He did not like the church," and he's told me stories about his children saying, "Another cemetery? Really, dad?" Right?
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [04:09](#) So true. So true.

Hank Smith: [04:11](#) He not only knows the history, but he's felt it. He puts himself in the position of these people, and not only the saints, but also their enemies. He'll put himself in those positions and say, "This ..." He's very merciful to everyone in history because he says, "Well, think about this. You've got this group of people moving in, you're nervous about once they get numbers, what's going to happen."

Hank Smith: [04:37](#) I think, John, you said it earlier. You learn to be more nuanced in your history when you learn it from Alex Baugh, but I'll tell you one experience and then I'll probably share more later. I might share two of them, actually, two that have had great impact on me.

Hank Smith: [04:54](#) One is we were in Winter Quarters. Alex, you won't remember this, but we were in Winter Quarters, Nebraska. We were going through the cemetery there, of course, and you told me about Stillman Pond. He's someone we'll talk probably a little bit later in the year here, but Stillman Pond is a man who lost I think it was eight family members in Winter Quarters. Alex was in tears. He's an emotional guy, but he's not tears all the time.

Hank Smith: [05:27](#) He said, "I want to be a good man. I want to be righteous, but I am no Stillman Pond."

Hank Smith: [05:34](#) There's a grave of Amanda Barnes Smith there in Logan, and you go there every year.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [05:41](#) It's actually in Richmond.

Hank Smith: [05:43](#) Oh, in Richmond.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [05:44](#) Yeah, yeah.

Hank Smith: [05:45](#) You go there every year, don't you?

Dr. Alex Baugh: [05:47](#) On Memorial Day, we go up to my family in Logan, and my wife has family in High Park. We make a quick stop in Smithfield and then we go to Richmond, where Amanda Barnes Smith died. I make sure she has a rose on her grave. She's my heroine of the restoration. I've put the pressure on any of her posterity. She sacrificed, like Stillman Pond, in ways we just don't understand.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [06:22](#) I tell them, "If you don't embrace what your great great grandmother sacrificed so much for, you need to change."

Hank Smith: [06:34](#) Rethink some things.

- Dr. Alex Baugh: [06:35](#) Yeah. So, anyway, thanks for sharing that.
- Hank Smith: [06:39](#) Let's jump in to this week's lesson. This week, we're studying sections 58 and 59, both received in August of 1831 in Zion, Jackson County, Missouri. So, Alex, we're going to let you go here, but I was hoping that we could back up a bit, remind everyone listening what brought Joseph Smith and some of the members to Missouri because not all of them go yet, and what led up to these two sections.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [07:07](#) Well, quite frankly, we've got to go to the Book of Mormon just for a few minutes in the savior's discourse to the Nephites in 3 Nephi 21. He talks about the future inhabitants of this land, the Gentiles and so on. Then if you look in verse 22, "But if they will repent," speaking of those in Latter-days, "and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance."
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [07:43](#) Look at the next verse, "And they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob, and also as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem."
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [07:56](#) That's the future prophecy by the savior. Of course, we have a lot of prophecies about Zion, but there's the actual mention of a New Jerusalem. Then I think it's really interesting how Moroni's filling in for his dad and translated the Book of Ether for us and Ether 13, what does he mention? He takes off just for a moments and says, "I've got to talk about the prophecy of this great prophet Ether," and look at what he says. Well, it's 12 verses.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [08:35](#) Anyway, he says now here in verse three talking about, well, verse two, the choice land above other lands, the Western hemisphere, so on and so forth, and then he says, "And that it was the place of the New Jerusalem, which should come down out of heaven, and the holy sanctuary of the Lord. Behold, Ether saw the days of Christ, and he spake concerning a New Jerusalem upon this land."
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [09:00](#) If I was Joseph Smith, that just had to resonate. What is this something about this land and something about this New Jerusalem? It's stuck in his brain, and I'm sure it did all over cadres, too, is taking who's transcribing this.

- Dr. Alex Baugh: [09:21](#) Let's jump way ahead and you've talked about this, but in D&C section 28, the church is now, what? Six months old, and the copies of the Book of Mormon are out there and people are reading it, and Hiram Page comes up with an idea that he can have some of his own revelations. I think we have a clue as to what those revelations were. He's read about what we just talked about.
- Hank Smith: [09:52](#) In the Book of Mormon.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [09:54](#) In the Book of Mormon. There's no question he has as has others. So, what is he reading? Well, what's about this New Jerusalem and what does D&C 28:9 say? There's no one who knows where the New Jerusalem is, but it shall be revealed hereafter. I think we can say he was proposing some places where that might be, and he's not right. Sure enough, something's being generated in the minds of the people about this glorious New Jerusalem.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [10:29](#) Then let's just skip ahead a little bit more. In December of 1830, Joseph is doing his revision of the bible. Of course, he started in June, but in December, he gives us Moses' chapter seven, and who's it about? It's about Enoch and his city and how they obtained heaven. Let's go to Moses 7, "And righteousness will I send down out of heaven; and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten," so on and so forth, and then he says down here that he'll gather his elect, "from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare, and Holy City, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion, a New Jerusalem."
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [11:24](#) Wow. This is just coming to Joseph's mind, all these ideas or thoughts about this Holy City and then, of course, who has he sent there just recently? Right after the conference in September, he sends all of her cadre, Peter Whitmer, Jr., Ziba. I like to say Ziba, Ziba or Ziba Peterson and Parley P. Pratt. They're down there. Well, why are they going down there? Well, again, they're told that the location in section 28, so the location of Zion was on the borders by the Lamanites.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [12:04](#) So, all of these things are coming together and the saints, of course, by this time, they're planning to move, which you've talked about probably just a week ago. The saints are now asked to command it actually, to move to Ohio, which they do the following spring, April and May, and then they have this huge conference, when I say huge, important conference, not many there, but enough to hold a conference.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [12:35](#) In section 52, what does Joseph get in the opening verses? Again, by this time, Parley Pratt has come back from Missouri. So, Joseph-

Hank Smith: [12:48](#) Did the other three stay there?

Dr. Alex Baugh: [12:50](#) Yes, of course. They picked up Frederick G. Williams.

Hank Smith: [12:52](#) Okay. Yeah. He's a convert that wanted to go. We haven't heard that story yet.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [12:56](#) Yeah. So, he wanted to go with them after his conversion in Ohio. So, there's really five at that point. Joseph didn't know it at the time when he went down there with them, but because they were unsuccessful, they hurry and sent Parley P. Pratt back to Ohio to try to report to Joseph that, "We've gotten kicked off the land. We can't preach to the Lamanites," but they just hang tight down there.

Hank Smith: [13:20](#) Why couldn't they teach? They went over across out of the United States, right? They crossed over the river out of United States to go teach these Native American tribes, and they were there for what? A day?

Dr. Alex Baugh: [13:31](#) Not very long. At St. Louis, they should have stopped in to William Clark's office, and William Clark was the superintendent of Indian Affairs, who was that same William Clark, Louis and Clark, okay?

Hank Smith: [13:45](#) Same guy.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [13:46](#) Same guy 24 years later and he's supervising that. Now, there's probably evidence he was in Washington, DC, but they should at least checked in with department offices and gotten permission, which they did not get. Maybe they just didn't know it, but they continued on. They arrived in January, terrible time of year, but there was an Indian agent out there by the name of Robert Commons, and they spent some time on the other side of the United States Indian Territory Border, and a little Methodist episcopalian mission, a couple of them go over to try to begin and they realized they're stepping on toes of some of the other religions who are trying to teach to the Indians.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [14:35](#) So, they went over across the Kansas river to the Delaware tribe. There was no one proselytizing to them, and then Commons found out about it, and he said, "Who are these guys? I've never heard of these Mormonites." That's what they were referred to,

and basically caught up with them and eventually told them, "If you don't leave, I'll put you in the brig at Fort Leavenworth right there on the border." So, they came-

- Hank Smith: [15:03](#) "Because you don't have the right paperwork."
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [15:05](#) Yeah, they didn't have the paperwork. Now, what's interesting is Parley Pratt writes a letter to try to rectify their mistake and he stops in St. Louis to try to see if they could still get permission. Apparently, he was unsuccessful. That's when he headed back all the way to Ohio. So, they didn't lock out.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [15:27](#) The good thing is after they were not permitted to go on there, didn't have the proper paperwork, as you mentioned, they had converted a family about 10 miles west of Independence, the family of Joshua Lewis, and this is where they will actually headquarter and begin to preach the gospel in Jackson County. They also went over to Lafayette County. We know Ziba Peterson went over there, and they had some success in baptizing some people in Lafayette County just to the east.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [16:05](#) So, that's where they're staying when Joseph now is going to come down because, why is he coming? Section 52 verses two and three.
- Hank Smith: [16:17](#) Oh, this was the missionaries, the pairs, right? This is that section with all the pairs of the missionaries.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [16:23](#) Yes. So, he said, "I'll make known unto you." I'm reading section 52 verse two, "Saying: I, the Lord, will make known unto you what I will that ye shall do from this time until the next conference, which shall be held in Missouri," I want you to go down and hold the conference in Missouri, "upon the land which I will consecrate unto my people, which are a remnant of Jacob, and those who are heirs according to the covenant." Sounds like, again, Ether and 3 Nephi.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [16:52](#) "Wherefore, verily I say unto you, let my servants Joseph Smith, Jun., and Sidney Rigdon take their journey as soon as preparations can be made to leave their homes, and journey to the land of Missouri, and inasmuch as they are faithful unto me, it shall be made known unto them what they shall do."
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [17:05](#) So, the Lord kept that, he didn't tell them exactly what they were going to do, but I want you to go and then like you said, Hank, he calls 14 pairs of missionaries, 28 missionaries to say, "Okay. We got to have a conference, but we got to have people

there to have it. So, let's go down and immediately start making preparations."

- Dr. Alex Baugh: [17:29](#) Actually, a small group left on the 14th of June, just what? A week later. This was June 6th, by the way, and then Joseph goes with ... Well, let me fill in. I know you've probably talked about this, but, of course, we get in section 53, they said, "Well, we need Algernon Sidney Gilbert to go down there, and he's going to get to take his wife," at Section 53.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [17:59](#) 54, we've got the Colesville Branch, who's got a problem over there just outside Fairport, Painesville, and in Thompson. They're actually in Thompson, but it's out there-
- Hank Smith: [18:10](#) Yeah, in Ohio.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [18:11](#) In Ohio, there's 13 miles from Kirtland, and Copley wants his land back. They had settled on that as you've discussed. So, let's send the entire Colesville Branch down, and then he says in section 55-
- Hank Smith: [18:25](#) By the way, can we mention this? Who is Sidney Gilbert? That's something we didn't get to talk about last time. Isn't he partners with Newel Whitney?
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [18:31](#) Yeah. He's business partner with Newel K. Whitney. He's a finance guy. He knows how to do books. He's really good. He will be the agent down in Missouri to Edward Partridge. There's our one-two tandem, the bishop who oversees the ecclesiastical aspects, but Gilbert, he'll do the business.
- John Bytheway: [18:57](#) He's the executive secretary?
- Hank Smith: [18:59](#) He's the word clerk.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [19:01](#) There you go.
- Hank Smith: [19:02](#) He's word clerk. He's all of the above, finance clerk, executive secretary. He's all of them. Okay.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [19:07](#) He can do it all.
- Hank Smith: [19:08](#) So, like we mentioned him.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [19:10](#) So, he gets sent down there, and then, of course, we have the Colesville Branch instructed to go down there in section 54, and

then who appears on the scene right at the right time? Good old W. W. Phelps, and he's ready now to be baptized.

- Hank Smith: [19:25](#) Tell us about him. He's someone we covered so much last time. We didn't get to talk about all these individuals. So, I'd love to catch up a little.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [19:33](#) Well, just briefly, he had then introduced to the gospel in the area of Palmyra and Canandaigua. In fact, he was a printer, a newspaper editor. It took him a while, but he finally decided to bag his career and join the saints. I'll tell you, if there's anybody who's just absolutely brilliant, it was Phelps. This man, his IQ, sometimes our students and people think these early Latter-day Saints are not very bright. Oh, my gosh! Phelps is absolutely brilliant.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [20:12](#) Now, part of the problem is he knows it. So, he's not afraid to tell everybody. When he walks in a room, he knows he's the smartest in the room and probably so does everybody else, but he flaunted it and you can see that in the reflections, but we needed him. He's a newspaper editor, and he's going to go down there. In fact, that's what the Lord tells him in section 55. "We want you to go down there because we want you to help with the printing operations. We're here in Ohio, but the idea was we need to get things going in Missouri."
- Hank Smith: [20:48](#) Alex, I'm so glad you mentioned that because there is a myth out there that these early members, the witnesses of the Book of Mormon were these backwards type, and that's just not true. Sidney Gilbert is a financial guy. You got Newel K. Whitney, a very successful businessman. You've got Edward Partridge, a very successful businessman. You've got Sidney Rigdon, who is a scriptionian.
- John Bytheway: [21:13](#) A preacher. Yeah. I just read something about him recently about how brilliant he was, and he's even told in section 55 to write books for the children in schools and everything. This is one of the things that I'm glad Hank brought it up because I just think that the people that decided to follow Joseph Smith with his three years of formal education, they were not gullible people. These were the Orson Pratts, and the guys like W. W. Phelps. They were smart. I think they got their testimonies probably had their hearts softened by reading the Book of Mormon and going, "There's no way he could have come up with this on his own."
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [21:52](#) Yeah. They truly cited Joseph as the prophet, seer, and revelator, but these guys probably knew more in some ways of biblical

teachings than Joseph Smith. Now, not to say he's not tutored because he is, and Joseph is really good, but they know he's the one to receive the revelation. Joseph let them do it all the time. I mean, he lets them always take center stage, lets them do the preaching. He knows they have gifts, and he lets them do it.

- Dr. Alex Baugh: [22:23](#) Now, he sometimes has to correct them. Like Orson Hyde in 1843, where he's over in Ramus and said, "Well, you talked this morning, but you didn't quite get it right," but still-
- Hank Smith: [22:37](#) He wants them to be involved.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [22:38](#) Yeah, no question about it. This is a church for everyone, and he knows that this is how you build leadership, too, is give them responsibility and opportunity there.
- Hank Smith: [22:52](#) W. W. Phelps and Joseph are going to have an interesting relationship over the next decade, what? 13 years until Joseph's death. He and William are going to go a little back and forth from friends to enemies, back to friends, and W. W. Phelps is going to end up writing praise to the man.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [23:12](#) Yeah. His poetry is just absolutely superb, so touching, I mean, how firm a foundation. I mean, you can go through and get all the hymns. Just a gifted, gifted writer. Of course, he wrote the, it was called Joseph the Prophet, but it's now praised to the man he wrote that and that appeared in the August first issue of the Times and Seasons after the martyrdom. Phelps is a brilliant, brilliant, wonderful man, but he had his shortcomings as we do, all do there.
- Hank Smith: [23:50](#) It's important that we talk about both sides of that because we have someone here who knows both their strengths and maybe their weaknesses.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [23:57](#) So, we finally got all these people put together. So, if you count them all up, there's 29 men and one woman, and the one woman is Elizabeth. That's Algernon Sidney Gilbert's wife. So, these are the ones that the Lord is specifically saying, "Let's get down to Missouri and hold this conference." I don't think Joseph knew exactly what was going to happen. He just did all what the Lord said in verse three.
- Hank Smith: [24:24](#) "Let's go."
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [24:25](#) "Let's go," or verse four, and, "Once you're there, it will be made known unto you what you should do." So, now, Joseph leaves on

the 19th. There's eight in his group. That would consist of Joseph, Sidney, Edward Partridge, and Martin Harris, and then Algernon Sidney Gilbert and his wife Elizabeth, and then W. W. Phelps, and a member that most people haven't heard of is Joseph Coe. Unfortunately, he did not remain faithful to the church in Ohio.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [24:59](#) Nonetheless, there's eight of the 30 going on the 19th, and it takes them about a month to get there. Actually, he stopped in Independence. There's no question he did, but as I mentioned to you, the missionaries Lamanites may have met him in Independence, but they have been camped out or staying with the Joshua Lewis family in Kaw Township it's called. Today, it's about South 35th in Kansas City. I don't know if you remember going there. It's a rough neighborhood today, but that's where the church is going to be headquartered because that's where they're going to gather, too.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [25:42](#) So, Joshua Lewis had 28 acres of land there, and he's, and maybe we can talk about this a little bit, but he's got his squatters right. This land has not come up for sale yet, but he's squatted to make sure that he has some ownership once that government sells that land, opens it up to-

Hank Smith: [26:04](#) So, it's not like squatter today. It's not illegal.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [26:07](#) No, no, no.

John Bytheway: [26:09](#) More like homesteading.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [26:11](#) Yeah, homesteading, exactly. Now, in Caldwell County, we call it preemption rights. You'd actually go and file what we call a preemption claim. You could get up to 160 acres and you didn't have to pay for it, and then once that land came for sale by the federal government after it was surveyed and everything, then you had first rights to the property, and that plays in to the temple property, which we'll need to talk about.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [26:35](#) So, anyway, so there he is, and you've already mentioned that in your previous broadcast there, your podcast, but on July 20th, he's in Independence, there's no question. He's probably checking things out and going, "Okay." What does he hear and received from the Lord in that marvelous revelation? Verse three.

Hank Smith: [27:02](#) This is section 57, right?

Dr. Alex Baugh: [27:04](#) Yeah. Well, we could go to verse one, actually. He tells him, "Thank you for coming. You're doing what you're supposed to do." This is the place I've consecrated. You've read about it.

John Bytheway: [27:16](#) This is it.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [27:16](#) You've seen the prophecies. You're here. Verse two, "This is the land of promise, and the place for the city of Zion, and thus saith the Lord your God, if you will receive wisdom here is wisdom. Behold, the place which is now called Independence is the center place; and a spot for the temple is lying westward, upon a lot which is not far from the courthouse."

Dr. Alex Baugh: [27:39](#) So, the Lord gave him a little bearings there, and it doesn't take a brain surgeon to figure out, "Okay. There's a few taverns and a few mercantile businesses and so on, but right in the center of town is a two-story brick courthouse," and today, if you've been there, and I think you have, John and Hank, I know I was with you, that's actually the third courthouse on that property, but it's on the same lot that the original courthouse was there.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [28:09](#) So, Joseph goes, "Okay. There's the courthouse," and he says, "Well, it's not far from that spot. It's on a spot lying westward and it's about a half mile off the old Westport Road or Santa Fe Trail. Independence is the last major and it's not even really a major town, for the individuals who's engaged in the Santa Fe trade. So, here we are.

John Bytheway: [28:39](#) That's heading out of the country, the Santa Fe Trail, right?

Dr. Alex Baugh: [28:41](#) Yeah. Once you break over into Kansas, you're in Indian territory and you have to, next stop, Santa Fe.

Hank Smith: [28:50](#) For those who have been there, isn't there by the courthouse a marker that says, "This is the beginning of three trails"?

Dr. Alex Baugh: [28:57](#) Yes. Exactly. Yeah, yeah. Again-

Hank Smith: [28:59](#) The Oregon Trail and-

Dr. Alex Baugh: [29:01](#) Technically, you can say the California Trail and the Mormon Trail, and then the Santa Fe Trail.

Hank Smith: [29:07](#) I wanted to read something really quick if you don't mind as the Lord declares this spot Independence. I've told you about this, Alex, and I'm no historian by any means, but I was reading a book written by David McCullough on Harry Truman. I really like

David McCullough. He's not a Latter-day Saint, but I remember President Hinckley saying, "Oh, he just loves reading David McCullough." So, I thought, "I need to read this, too." It was years and years ago.

Hank Smith: [29:32](#) Wouldn't you know it, the very first chapter is on where Harry Truman grew up, which is Jackson County, Missouri. So, I'm reading this from a purely historical standpoint, and this is what he says as he describes Independence.

Hank Smith: [29:48](#) He says, "It was the land that the people came for, the high rolling fertile open country of Jackson County with its clear springs and two considerable rivers, the Little Blue and the Blue. Every essential was at hand, limestone quarries, splendid blue grass pastures, ample timber where the creeks and the rivers ran. They counted hickory, ash, elm, sycamore, willow, poplar, cottonwood, and oak in three or four varieties, walnut. The most priced was the most abundant. It was land beautiful to see, rising and falling in broad swells and giving away the long horizons. Prairie grass was high and green, wild flowers, wild herbs, metal rose, turtlehead, snakeroot, wolfberry." I don't know what any of these are. "Thimbleweed grew in fragrant profusion everywhere."

Hank Smith: [30:37](#) Now, one more paragraph. "To cut through the grass with a plow took six to eight yolk of oxen, but beneath the crust, the dark prairie soil could be two to six feet deep. In places along the river bottoms, it was 20 feet deep."

Hank Smith: [30:52](#) Now, listen to this. This is McCullough quoting a guidebook author. He says, "Josiah Greg, the guidebook author, having seen all the country from the Missouri to the Rio Grand declared the rich and beautiful uplands in the vicinity of Independence might well be denominated the garden spot of the far west."

Dr. Alex Baugh: [31:17](#) That's very powerful. McCullough says it like nobody else. He is really true. What he says is true. That soil is as dark and rich as you can imagine, and it goes deep, deep, deep.

Hank Smith: [31:31](#) Alex, what could have Joseph Smith known about Independence, Missouri being Palmyra, New York?

Dr. Alex Baugh: [31:37](#) I hear you.

Hank Smith: [31:40](#) What would make him in his mind choose Independence? People say, "Oh, Joseph Smith, he's not a prophet." Why in the world choose Independence, Missouri as the center spot?

- Dr. Alex Baugh: [31:51](#) Well, and that's the thing. He never would have had it not been for revelation. It was unknown to him. I'm sure he may have never even heard of it until this time, not that he wouldn't have been informed in some ways, but I do have to say, unfortunately, for those who do arrive, some were not as optimistic about ... I wish they would have read McCullough.
- Hank Smith: [32:16](#) They didn't read this.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [32:17](#) Yeah. Now, in some areas, there wasn't timber as much in ... This is going to cause a little bit of problem when the saints are up in Caldwell County. They need some timber for farm homes and things, but, yeah, it's pretty productive soil.
- Hank Smith: [32:36](#) Edward Partridge is one of those who says, "Really?" Isn't he one of those?
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [32:40](#) Yeah. He was not that impressed. Now, he's a more sophisticated hatter from Painesville, and he was a little bit ... Well, the real problem was he wasn't as impressed as I think Joseph was hopeful for. At the same time, he felt like he should purchase property that Joseph wanted certain properties purchased, and he was of the opposite opinion. So, that caused that riff. You can see it in the revelation. We can talk about that.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [33:12](#) He humbled himself pretty quick, and he writes his wife on the fifth letter that takes three days to write, August 5th, 6th, and 7th. He acknowledges his error and he said, "I've been reprimanded." I think I have the quote here. Yeah. He says, "You know what? I stand in an important station. I'm the bishop down here, and as I'm occasionally chastened, I sometimes feel as though I must fall, not to give up the cause but I fear my station is above what I can perform to the acceptance of my heavenly Father."
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [33:46](#) There's a humble man. He disagreed with Joseph and did so quite adamantly, but then realized his error and he said, "I don't even know if I can do this. I'm supposed to be the bishop down here."
- Hank Smith: [34:01](#) Dr. Heward told us a little bit about that conflict between he and Joseph, and how Ezra Booth got more offended than Edward Partridge about that fight.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [34:12](#) So, they have their failings, but, boy, when you see them repent and change and immediately go, "Joseph's the prophet. I was wrong," that takes a big heart.

- John Bytheway: [34:25](#) They didn't grow up in the church. They were members for a few months. Brother Baugh, when you're there by that courthouse, there's, I think, to the west, I have a picture of the Gilbert-Whitney and Company Store right there. I'd always wondered, is that Sidney Gilbert, his ancestors or is that store just named after name?
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [34:47](#) Yes. The people who own the store are very much aware that that was where the site of the second storehouse was for the church. Now, the first one was a couple of blocks to the east. Edward Partridge purchased that property for the storehouse in 1832. So, they've been there a couple of months. Gilbert moves his family in there and then there's a storehouse to the side of it.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [35:09](#) Then they find this other property that's right across the street. It was more of the business center of town, so Sidney Gilbert moves the storehouse to that place, and that's the one where in 1833 they're going to ransack it. He asked them, "Please don't destroy anything. I'll close it." He mollifies the crowd.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [35:31](#) The interesting thing is the house that was on the first storehouse lot of the church, the church bought that, and that house was moved by the City of Independence to just about a block south, and it's there today. It's just a log home, a log home, log looking home, and interestingly enough, while they're building the new courthouse in 1932-1933, right in there, our president, Harry Truman, temporarily puts his offices in that house for a short time.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [36:09](#) So, it's a not a Mormon-owned, and when I say Mormon, I think I should say this is the historical term we can use during this period because that's what we were known as. I adhere to President Nelson's clarion call to refer to the name of the church by its name, but in terms of historical understanding, we have to sometimes go with the name they knew us by.
- Hank Smith: [36:38](#) Yeah. That's what we were called in the day. The Mormons were coming. They were here.
- John Bytheway: [36:43](#) You used the term Mormonites before like the others were using.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [36:49](#) They shortened it to Mormons. So, we can go with that, but, again, today, we need to be very upfront with who we are. Again, our church has gone through three different names. So, they're actually the Church of Christ, of course, until May of

1834, and then we're the Church of Latter-day Saints until July 8th, 1838, and then we have section 115. So, we transitioned the name even in those first years there.

- Hank Smith: [37:20](#) So, Harry Truman, by the way, I don't think we mentioned this, he's a store clerk, and then he become a judge, and that's why he's using the courthouse so when they're building a new courthouse, he has to move out for a bit.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [37:31](#) Boy, you have an A grade today, Hank, for good history.
- Hank Smith: [37:37](#) I'm a good student. I'm a good student.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [37:38](#) There's your 20th century Jackson County historian now.
- Hank Smith: [37:44](#) I've got to hear this. When Joseph and the other men and Sidney Gilbert and his wife, when they get there, how did they describe the residents of Jackson County, Missouri? Because this becomes an important, I think, who is it later, Alex, that said, "If there were every two groups of people who were not meant to live together, it was these two groups"?
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [38:07](#) In the Messenger and Advocate, Joseph later writes that these people were like a century behind the times.
- John Bytheway: [38:15](#) 100 years.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [38:18](#) I have to say they had some educated bright people. Don't get me wrong, but this was a rough breed, and then, of course, there's evidence that we have fugitives coming here as well.
- Hank Smith: [38:31](#) They're escaping, right?
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [38:32](#) Tried to escape. If a federal marshal comes up the river, they can just pop over in the Indian territory for a few days, get out of the country, and once they go back down the river, they're back in town in Independence with their rough people.
- Hank Smith: [38:51](#) Here comes these Latter-day Saints from the northeast, right?
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [38:56](#) Yeah. Exactly.
- Hank Smith: [38:57](#) They're educated. They can read and write. They wore shoes.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [39:00](#) I would like to say we're essentially a little bit a cut above most of them, but, again, I mean, Boggs is no slouch. He's a bright fellow. There's good and educated people, but there's a lot of, I

don't know, I just hate to label our heavenly Father's children, but riffraff sometimes, but we did have a few of our own that were not as educated. I mean, there's Porter Rockwell. He didn't know how to write, and he had to sign his name with an X. So, we had our share of less educated, but I'd like to always say it's like oil and water. We didn't mix.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [39:42](#) Of course, there's so many factors involved in their opposition to us. It just wasn't going to work out very well. We're going to try. In fact, the Lord says in this revelation we're going to talk about is, "Obey the laws of the land and try to do your very best."

Dr. Alex Baugh: [40:00](#) Well, I did want to just make the note then. I think it might have surprised Joseph Smith, again, just referring back to section 57. I think he wanted an understanding of what they were to do, but then all of a sudden, out of nowhere, the Lord says, "And a spot for the temple." Temple? Oh, my goodness.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [40:19](#) Now, we haven't even got a real building yet. We do have Isaac Morley's property up there in Kirtland with the schoolhouse, but he mentioned temple. I think that probably, Joseph had no ... Well, he has a little concept. Of course, he's read the Book of Mormon. He's translated it. He knows the ancient Nephites, and we had a church, and we had synagogues in Israel, but a temple. "Wow. This is new to me."

Hank Smith: [40:54](#) We don't even have a Lord house yet.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [40:56](#) Yeah. So, that's got to be eyeopening to Joseph. So, that's the 20th. Now, I know we're just building up to that, but in the meantime, so we know something about that. Now, we're going to have to try to, if he's going to dedicate it, which I think he understands as to what he's going to do. It's coming to him, "If we have a spot, then we need to find out where it is, and then hopefully purchase it if we can," but there's no sale going on, so let me come back to that one.

Hank Smith: [41:27](#) Alex, I was going to mention one thing. I forgot about this. When Joseph Smith says, "These people are 100 years behind the times," you've got to realize what the times are. I was reading this week in preparation, and 1831 is the time you see the first horse-drawn bus in New York City. So, that's the times. So, when these people are 100 years behind the times as Joseph Smith says, you got to get that right in your head of he's talking primitive.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [41:56](#) Yeah, and part of it is just the fact, this is such a remote area. St. Louis, it's a good size city. It's been around long time, but we're talking 250 miles west of that. Like I say, you step over the Missouri border, you're in Indian territory, you're in-

John Bytheway: [42:15](#) You're in the frontier.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [42:16](#) You are frontier all the way.

Hank Smith: [42:19](#) Louis and Clark was just two decades before this.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [42:22](#) Yeah.

John Bytheway: [42:23](#) We took a picture of our Jackson County Pioneers and it was fun to see Corporal Lilburn W. Boggs as a soldier of the war of 1812, monument there for soldiers.

Hank Smith: [42:38](#) I didn't know he was on that one.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [42:39](#) They got a lot of monuments because, of course, they try to honor everybody who's anybody in war or history.

John Bytheway: [42:47](#) There's a Lieutenant Joseph Boggs, Pennsylvania, it says, as a revolutionary soldier, and then you'll find a Corporal Lilburn W. Boggs, and it looks like Kentucky soldiers of the war of 1812.

Hank Smith: [43:00](#) I don't know if our listeners know this, but Boggs is in Independence when the four missionaries get there, and does a lot of them mend a suit or something.

John Bytheway: [43:11](#) Doesn't he have Mary Elizabeth Rollins tend to his kids or something?

Dr. Alex Baugh: [43:15](#) Yes. You're both right. Eventually, Peter Whitmer Jr. was a tailor, and he had a tailor shop, I think we could say above the mercantile store of Lilburn Boggs. Mary Elizabeth Rollins Lightner, later Lightner, does say how, of course, he liked her and said, "If you'll stay with me, I'll take care of you and you don't have to be a Mormon," and kind of thing, and, of course, she was deeply committed to the gospel. So, he has his interplay and interactions with a number of Latter-day Saints there. Yeah. There's no question.

Hank Smith: [43:57](#) Then he becomes governor later.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [43:59](#) He's actually lieutenant governor in 32.

Hank Smith: [44:02](#) Okay. So, pretty soon.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [44:02](#) So, while the Latter-day Saints were there, yes, he's elected, and he's from the west, of course, and the governor elected in 1832 is Daniel Dunklin, but Dunklin is a one-term governor, and then in 1836, Boggs, the lieutenant governor runs for the governor. So, it was one of those political arrangements where you can get the people in the right office for you, the right people you want if you can get one from the west and also one from the east, meaning St. Louis and also the western part of the state.

Hank Smith: [44:40](#) So, what happens August 1831? Joseph's there.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [44:45](#) Well, if I could pick up, just to let you know that on the 26th of-

Hank Smith: [44:50](#) ... of July.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [44:51](#) ... July, here comes the 24 members of the Colesville Branch. Now, they took a little easier route, if I could say it that way. They went on steamboats. They came down the Ohio, up the Mississippi, and then got another boat, and then came up on a steamer, and got to the Independence landing, and then they would have had to take flat boats and you mentioned the Blue river. They would have come right up the Blue river on flat boats, and then they were very close to the Joshua Lewis property, and there they, of course, they were united now with the prophet and his companions and the Joshua Lewis family.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [45:35](#) So, now, we've got a core group of people and some of the other missionaries are starting to get there. As you'll know from the next discussion, some of them are going to be heavily delayed. We have, of course, the section 63 is given because Joseph was on his way home and runs into his brother and Harvey Whitlock and those two companionships. They're trying to get there and Joseph's already had the conference and set it back.

Hank Smith: [46:05](#) So, these Colesville saints are a group of Latter-day Saints who converted near Harmony, Pennsylvania where Joseph and Emma had met and lived for a little while. Then they'd moved to Ohio when the call came. They settled on Leman Copley's farm, but Copley, being member of the shakers or being affiliated with the shakers, later kicks them off the property saying, "You got to get off," and so Joseph sends them onto Independence. So, this is a group of people who are going to be together. It's like a little ward, right? They're going to stick together a long time.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [46:39](#) This Colesville Branch is just absolutely fantastic. There's about 70 members when they leave New York and, of course, relocate in Ohio just temporarily. Of course, the man who was going to assist them because they all want to stay together as a group, it's actually Lemman Copley, C-O-P-L-E-Y, and then Copley had consecrated some 700 acres and then he pulls out of consecration. So, they're out in the cold. So, that's why Joseph wonders, "What should I do?" and then the Lord gives him section, is it 54?

John Bytheway: [47:19](#) He charges them 60 bucks for improving his property.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [47:22](#) Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Hank Smith: [47:24](#) That guy.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [47:26](#) Same thing happened to me in an apartment we moved in. Three weeks later, the guy said, "I sold it. So, you got to leave." We fixed it up pretty nice for him that ..."

Hank Smith: [47:38](#) You had your little Colesville saint moment.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [47:40](#) Yeah.

Hank Smith: [47:40](#) The Lord lets you have it.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [47:41](#) Probably didn't know the story at the time. So, July 26th, here they are, and it's interesting on that day, Edward Partridge makes the first purchase of lands at least in Kaw Township. It's now available. That purchase was made over in Lexington, which is where the land office was for the federal government.

John Bytheway: [48:06](#) For folks who are trying to visualize what's going on here, we at one time had three branches in Harmony, and in New York, Manchester, Palmyra, and let's see where the other one would be.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [48:19](#) Colesville.

John Bytheway: [48:21](#) Colesville.

Dr. Alex Baugh: [48:21](#) Colesville, Fayette, and Palmyra, Manchester.

John Bytheway: [48:24](#) Yeah. I'm trying to see if I can summarize this in a few sentences, and then there's a mission to Ohio, and they don't really get to the Lamanites there, but they do get to Sidney Rigdon and a whole bunch of people up there, and then the Lord says,

"Everybody move to Ohio." We're not moving everybody to Missouri now. It's just some that are called, right? So, there's a long period of early church history where a bunch of saints are in Ohio and a bunch of saints are in Missouri. Is that a fair way to put it before we all go to Nauvoo?

- Dr. Alex Baugh: [48:51](#) Right. Again, the only reason that Joseph probably would have said, "Not all of you can go," is because they don't have the land for them to be able to all go there. Now, when the call is come, that you would really like to have a push towards Missouri, part of the problem was some were going, and Partridge talks about this in 1832. They came expecting, "Well, gee whiz! I'm going to live the law of consecration," but they didn't bring anything with them. They didn't have any means.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [49:22](#) Now, that's why he said, "Don't send them down here unless they can consecrate some sort of property or ownership so that we can have means to buy land." So, they got ahead of the game a little bit, and Partridge writes him back. He says, "Don't even send them unless they've consecrated." You see in the revelation I'm trying to think which one that they have a certificate and make sure that they could consecrate.
- Hank Smith: [49:48](#) Some just go without a certificate.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [49:50](#) Yeah, they just go. Now, Titus Billings, he had something. He consecrated, and what did Partridge do? He just turned around and gave it right back to him, but you got to have people with some means or we just don't have a way to purchase the property.
- Hank Smith: [50:05](#) Yeah. How's it going to work?
- John Bytheway: [50:07](#) Okay. That's helpful. So, okay. So, now, we've got everybody there, the Colesville Branch. You said July 26th, 24 of them arrived.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [50:16](#) There's still more to come, at least we have-
- John Bytheway: [50:18](#) Yeah, some of them.
- Dr. Alex Baugh: [50:19](#) ... some numbers that we can, and some of the missionaries are now arriving behind Joseph.
- Hank Smith: [50:24](#) You got to be thinking, "What does this Lewis family think?" These first converts in Missouri going, "We didn't know we were going to get a ..."

John Bytheway: [50:30](#) "We're hosting a Ward activity for Colesville."

Dr. Alex Baugh: [50:34](#) They are tremendous people. In fact, again, they follow through his posterities in the church, but, unfortunately, Joshua Lewis dies in Clay County in 1835. I can't remember who his wife married, but that is, again, some of these lesser known Latter-day Saints. You take your hat off to them. Five days later, he gets section 58 because we have a body of saints now, "We're here. Tell us what we need to do."

John Bytheway: [51:07](#) Please join us for part two of this podcast.