



**The Church of the
Latter-Day Saints.
The Mormons**

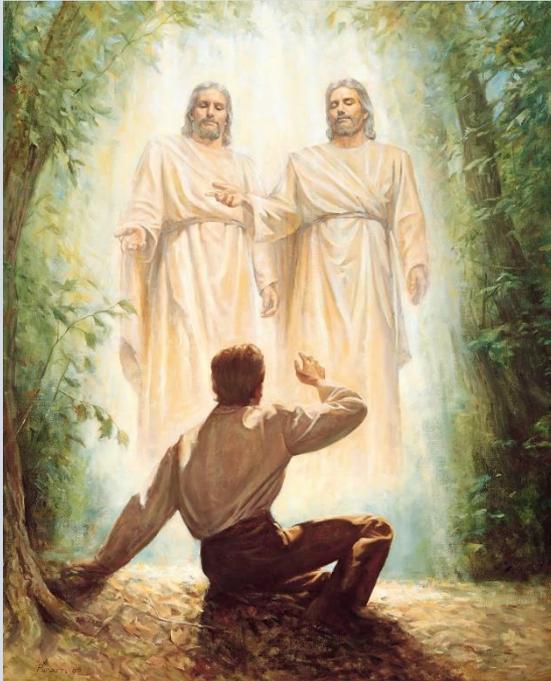
Joseph Smith

April 6, 1830 - In Fayette Township, New York, Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon religion, organizes the Church of Christ during a meeting with a small group of believers.

[The Town of Fayette is in the center of the Central Finger Lakes. It stretches between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes, and is bordered at the north by the Seneca-Cayuga Canal].



Smith's Story



Born in Vermont in 1805, in 1820 Joseph Smith has become troubled by denominational differences among local Christians, but remains unsure which church is the right one to follow.

One morning, he goes into the woods and witnesses a pillar of light descending from heaven, followed by an image of God and Jesus Christ forgiving his sins and warning Smith that all denominations have strayed from the truth and he should not join any of them. This event, known to Mormons as the First Vision, does not dramatically change Smith's life.

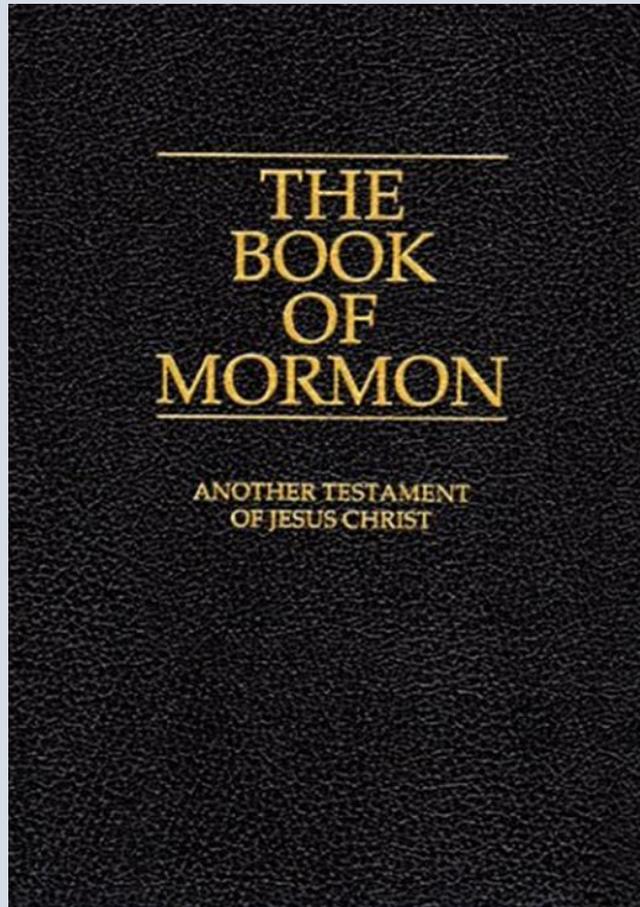
He continues to work the farm and treasure hunt with his father. Smith will not give his followers a detailed description of this vision until 1839.

Moroni Appears to Smith

Smith claimed in 1823 that he had been visited by a Christian angel named Moroni who spoke to him of an ancient Hebrew text that had been lost for 1,500 years. The holy text, supposedly engraved on gold plates by a Native American historian in the fourth century, related the story of Israelite peoples who had lived in America in ancient times.



The Book of Mormon



During the next six years, Smith dictated an English translation of this text to his wife and other scribes, and in 1830 *The Book of Mormon* was published. In the same year, Smith founded the Church of Christ—later known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—in Fayette Township.

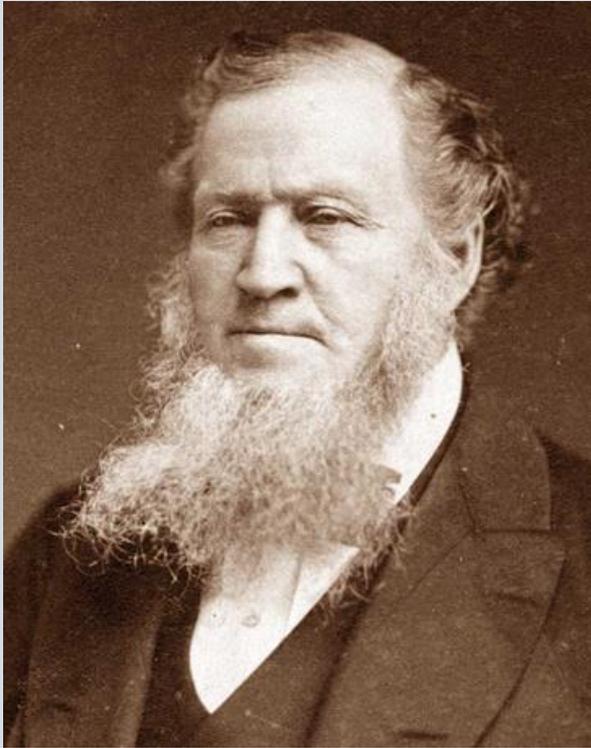
Joseph Smith Murdered

The religion rapidly gained converts, and Smith set up Mormon communities in Ohio, Missouri, and Illinois. However, the Christian sect was also heavily criticized for its unorthodox practices, such as polygamy, and on June 27, 1844, Smith and his brother were murdered in a jail cell by an anti-Mormon mob in Carthage, Illinois.



DISASTROUS OF THE CUT.—Fig. 1, the Carthage Greys. Fig. 2, Col. Williams. Fig. 3, the four ruffians who shot Gen. Joseph Smith. Fig. 4, the well-curb. Fig. 5, the flash of light. Fig. 6, Elder Richards at the window of the jail from which Gen. Smith fell. Fig. 7, Gen. Smith, after he was shot. Fig. 8, the ruffian who was about to sever his head from his body. Fig. 9, the door leading into the entry, through which the murderers entered. Fig. 10, Capt. Smith. Fig. 11, the mob. Fig. 12, the point of wood which the mob entered when going to the jail.

Brigham Young Takes Over



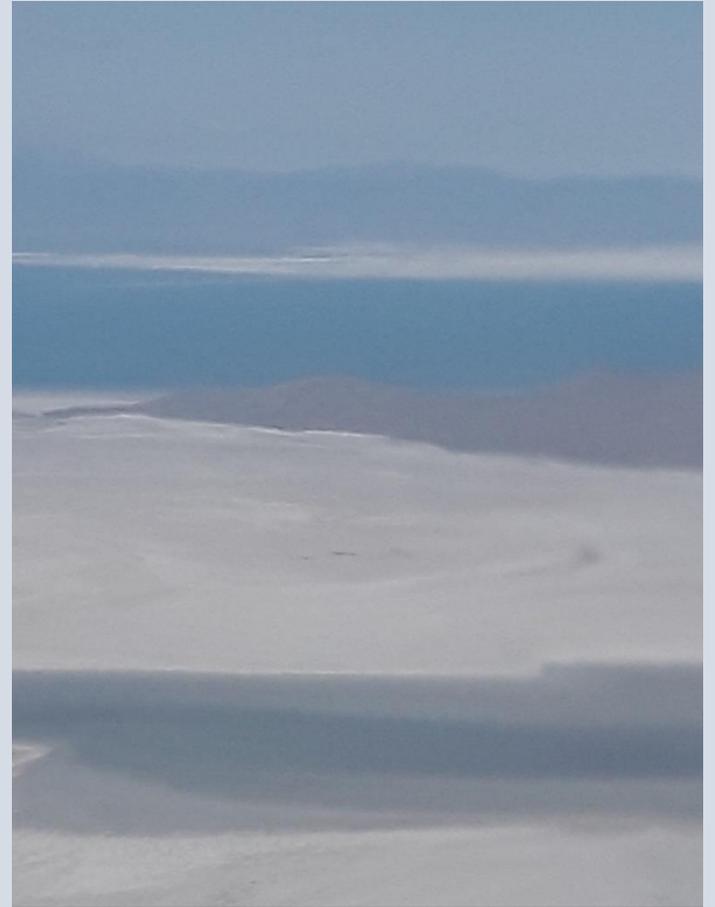
Two years later, Smith's successor, Brigham Young, led an exodus of persecuted Mormons from Nauvoo, Illinois, along the western wagon trails in search of religious and political freedom.

Mormon HandCart Pioneers statue



The Great Salt Lake

In July 1847, the 148 initial Mormon pioneers reached Utah's Valley of the Great Salt Lake. Upon viewing the valley, Young declared, "This is the place," and the pioneers began preparations for the tens of thousands of Mormon migrants who would follow them and settle there.

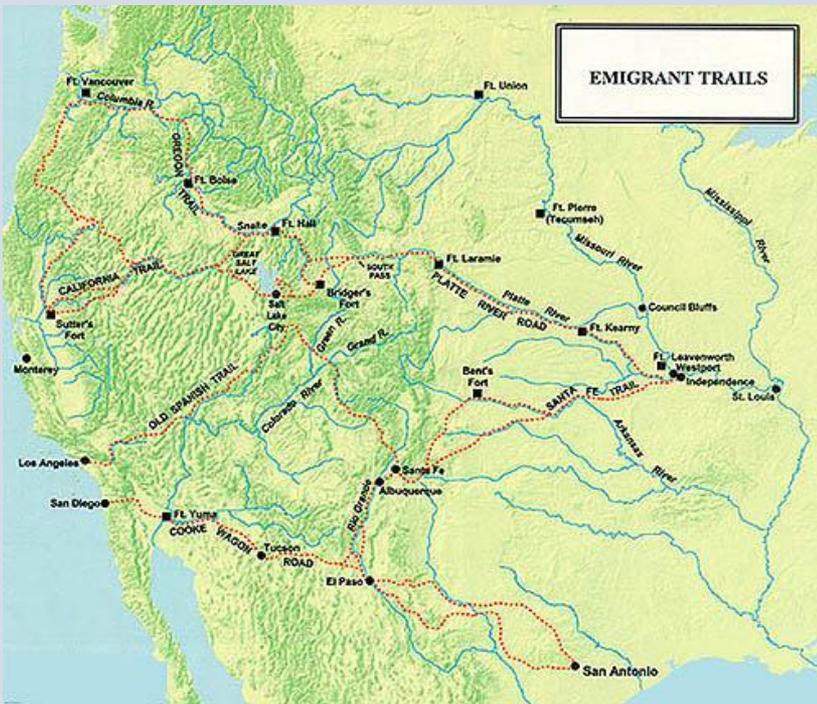


Emigrant Trails

The **Mormon Trail** is the 1,300-mile route that members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints traveled from 1846 to 1868.

It extends from Nauvoo, Illinois to Salt Lake City, Utah.

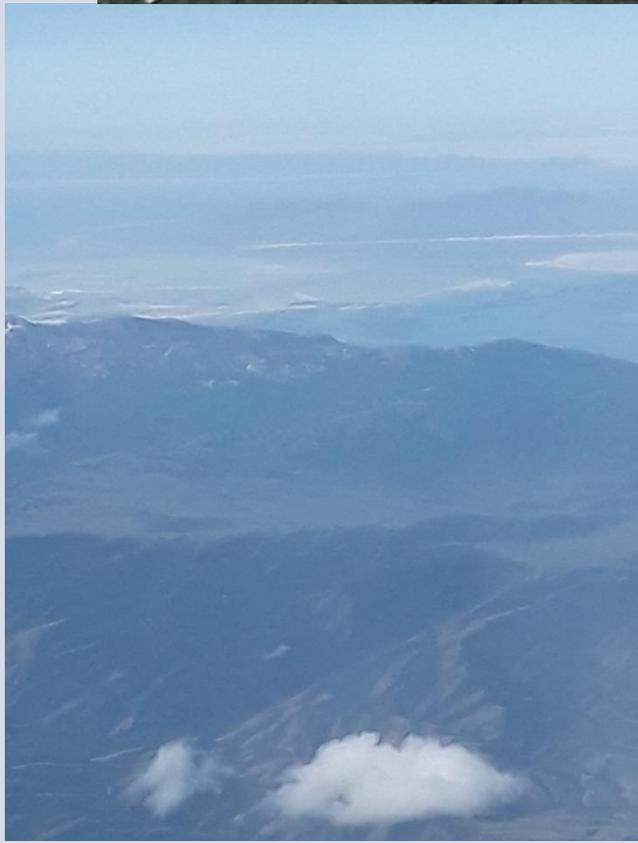
From Council Bluffs, Iowa to Fort Bridger in Wyoming, the trail follows much the same route as the Oregon Trail and the California Trail; these trails are collectively known as the Emigrant Trail.



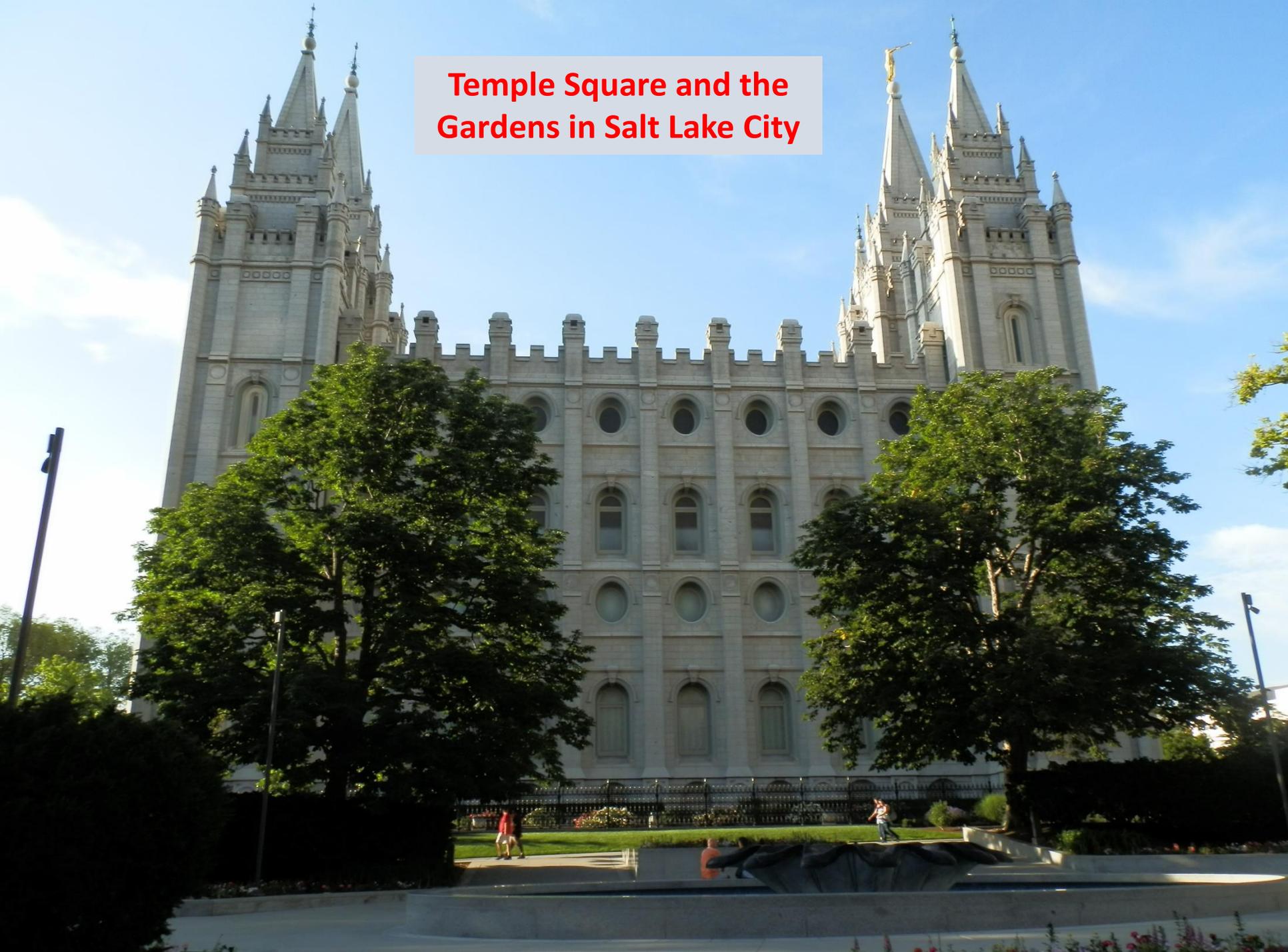
Early Settlement Cabin in Salt Lake City



Aerial Views of the Rocky Mountains and the Great Salt Lake Valley



**Temple Square and the
Gardens in Salt Lake City**





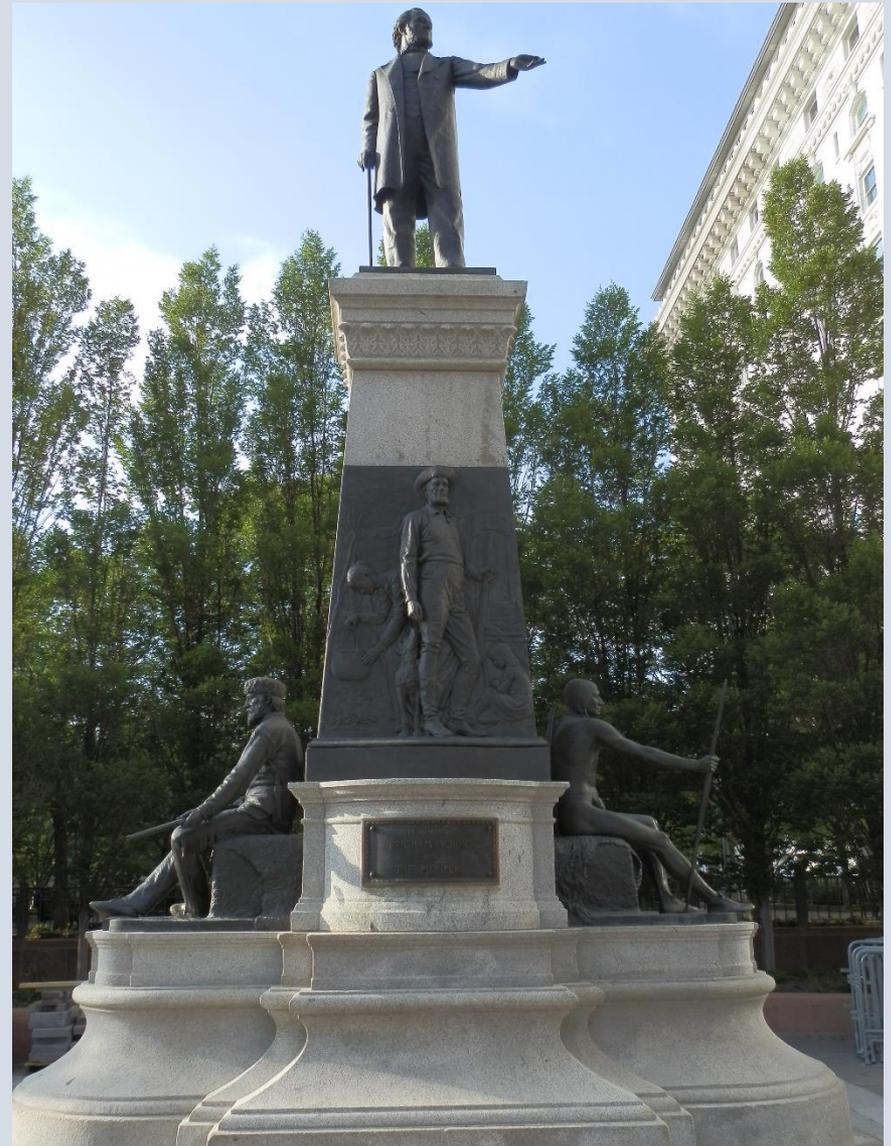
The Restoration of the Aaronic Priesthood Statues



Joseph Smith Jr.



Monument to the Pioneers



Emma and Joseph Smith



Mother and Children statue



“First Day of School”

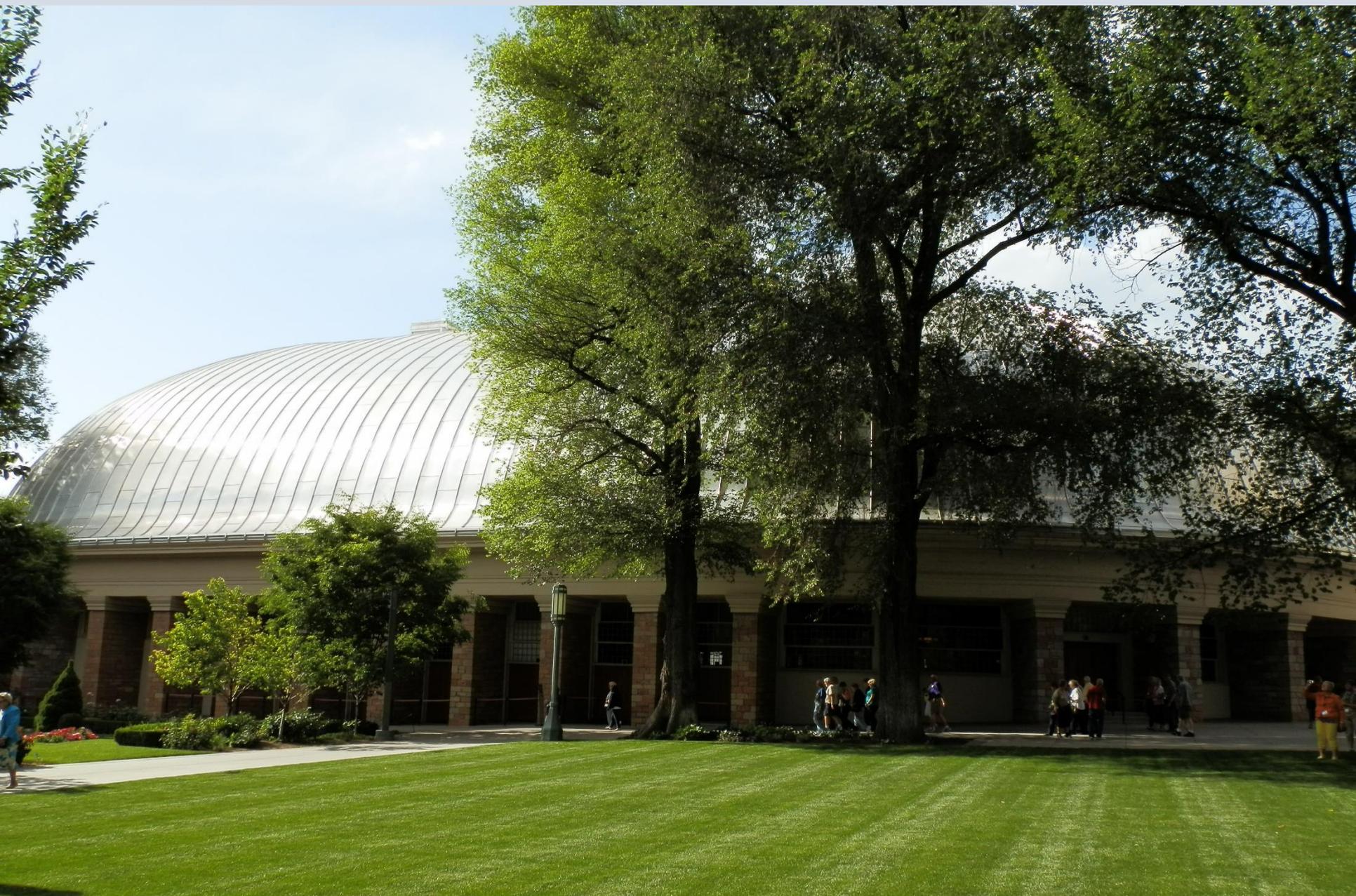


“Mother and Son”





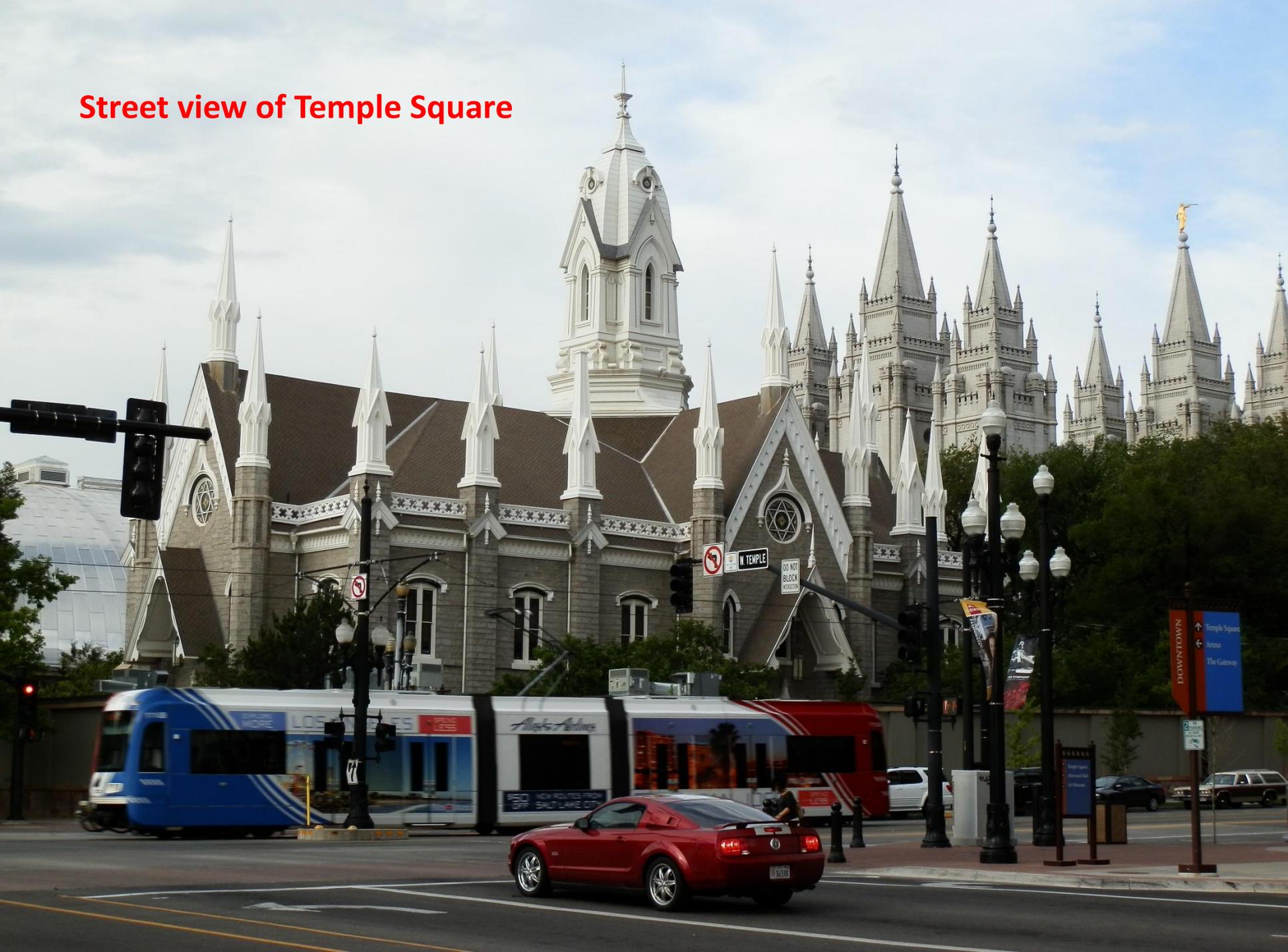
The Mormon Tabernacle



Mormon Tabernacle Choir Practice. Women on the left, Men on the right



Street view of Temple Square



Salt taken from the Great Salt Lake



For a timeline of Mormon History see
<http://www.pbs.org/mormons/timeline/>

