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Ensign

and they hid the box containing the plates in a barrel, filled the barrel one-third full of beans, and sealed the lid. They arrived in Harmony in December.11

Not long after, Emma’s father had the opportunity to hold the box containing the plates. However, when Joseph told him he could not open it to look at the plates, Isaac became frustrated and said that if he couldn’t see the plates, Joseph would have to take them away. Joseph then hid the plates in a nearby hillside. In February 1828, Joseph and Emma moved into a small home built by Emma’s brother Jesse on a modest farm divided from Isaac’s land.12

1. Harmony: Joseph and Emma Smith made their home in Harmony Township from December 1827 until early September 1830, when they left permanently and moved to Fayette Township, New York, because of increasing opposition in Harmony.

2. Colesville: Joseph first came to Colesville in 1826 when he took a job as a day laborer working for Joseph Knight Sr. The Knight family were among his earliest supporters and converts. Joseph preached here often, and a large branch was established in the area. Many were baptized on the Knight farm, including Emma. The Colesville Branch moved to Ohio together in April 1831.


4. Road between Harmony and Colesville: While traveling between Colesville and Harmony, Joseph and Oliver Cowdery received a visitation from Peter, James, and John, who restored priesthood keys, including “the keys of the kingdom, and of the dispensation of the fulness of times” (D&C 128:20; see also D&C 27:12). Neither the exact location nor the exact date of this event is known.

5. Fayette: Joseph and Emma, accompanied by Oliver Cowdery, moved temporarily to the home of Peter and Mary Whitmer in June 1829 to finish the translation of the Book of Mormon.

6. Manchester: Immediately after their marriage, Joseph and Emma moved to the Smith family farm. After Joseph obtained the golden plates from the angel Moroni and pressures began to mount, they returned to Harmony to begin the translation. Family members often traveled the 130 miles between Manchester and Harmony.

Book of Mormon Translation

After the couple settled into their new home, Joseph resumed translating, with Emma as his scribe. To Emma, the translation process was “a marvel and a wonder,” especially because her husband was so unlearned. Indeed, she related that Joseph “could neither write nor dictate a coherent and well-worded letter; let alone dictate a book like the Book of Mormon.”13 Further, she said that Joseph “had such a limited knowledge of history at that time that he did not even know that Jerusalem was surrounded by walls.”14 Nevertheless, as Joseph labored diligently, he found that the Lord blessed him...