

bers of yet another militia (*see* MARTYRDOM OF JOSEPH AND HYRUM SMITH). Six months later, the Illinois legislature revoked the Nauvoo Charter. At that point, the Nauvoo Legion ceased to exist as a state militia, although as an unofficial body it continued to provide some protection to the beleaguered Latter-day Saints.

During the exodus westward later, some former members of the Nauvoo Legion served in the MORMON BATTALION. This 500-man body, authorized by the U.S. government in 1846 as part of the campaign against Mexico, marched from Council Bluffs to San Diego.

The name Nauvoo Legion was revived in Utah and applied to the organized militia of the state of DESERET and later of UTAH TERRITORY. This legion was called upon in 1849 to subdue marauding Indians, and its members served in the so-called Walker War of 1853–1854, named after Wakara, a Ute chieftain. With the approach of the UTAH EXPEDITION in 1857–1858, the Utah militia harassed and burned U.S. Army supply trains and prepared, if necessary, to prevent the entry of U.S. troops into Salt Lake City. In 1862, during the American Civil War, two units of the Nauvoo Legion protected overland mail and telegraph lines. Later, with a force of some 2,500 men, it fought against Indians in Utah's Black Hawk War (1865–1868).

Always more responsive to Mormon leadership than to the federal appointees who succeeded Brigham Young as governor of Utah, the legion was rendered inactive by an 1870 proclamation of Acting Governor J. Wilson Shaffer, who forbade gatherings of the militia except on his express orders. The Nauvoo Legion was finally disbanded as a result of the Edmunds-Tucker Act of 1887. In 1894 the National Guard of Utah was organized as Utah's militia.

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## NAUVOO NEIGHBOR

The *Nauvoo Neighbor* was a weekly newspaper published and edited by John TAYLOR in NAUVOO, Illinois, from May 3, 1843, through October 29,

1845. It replaced *The Wasp* (begun April 16, 1842, with William Smith as editor). Funded by subscriptions and advertising, the *Neighbor* regularly featured literature, science, religion, agriculture, manufacturing, commerce, and local, national, and international news. It reported actions of the state legislature, the Nauvoo City Council, and local courts.

As an advocate of truth, the *Neighbor* detailed conflicts involving the members of the Church, their neighbors, their enemies, and state and federal governments. It also carried correspondence between the Prophet Joseph SMITH and Henry Clay (both U.S. presidential candidates) as well as the letters between Emma SMITH and Governor Thomas Carlin concerning Joseph Smith's harassment by Missouri officials. It detailed the *Nauvoo Expositor* case and the events of the assassinations of Joseph and Hyrum SMITH in CARTHAGE JAIL, including other newspaper accounts and correspondence. The *Nauvoo Neighbor* is a valuable record of the events and attitudes in and around Nauvoo from 1843 to 1845.

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## NAUVOO POLITICS

Political power played an important role both in the development of the LDS community in Illinois and in its demise. The political situation was complex, inviting rivalry and controversy.

On the eve of the arrival of the Latter-day Saints, Commerce (NAUVOO), in Hancock County, Illinois, was situated in a pro-Whig enclave in a state where Democrats dominated all political offices except the supreme court. In Hancock County, however, the two parties were so evenly matched that a few hundred votes could be decisive. But in the state legislature, even voting as a unit, a community the size of that of the Latter-day Saints could have only moderate influence. County offices were more vulnerable; the number of votes needed for election to such offices as sheriff, county commissioner, and probate judge was under one thousand. A liberal provision in the Illinois constitution enfranchised all adult immigrants