

Book of Mormon Census Project

A0038, 1830 Book of Mormon

April 13, 2023

Principia College, Elsah Illinois

1830 Book of Mormon, John Gould, Nicholson, Joseph Smith III

Provenance:

Inscription on front end paper and Title Page listing John Gould

Inscription on back end paper listing to Chas(SP) Nicholson, given by Joseph Smith (III), 1878

Features and Notes:

Spine: Intact, vertical wear marks, gold lines present and visible

Spine Lettering and Label: Intact, full gold lettering visible

Cover: Intact. Leather marbling still visible. Slight wear on front cover upper right corner.

Binding: cover and spine attached, one front end paper, one back end paper

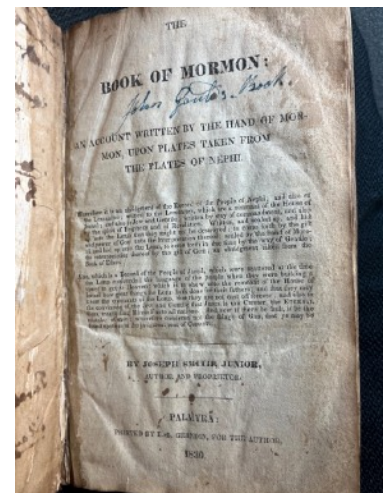
Title Page: Present. Inscription "John Gould's Book" in blue ink under title line. triangular paper bend on upper corners and lower left corner. Brown Ink bleed through spots on lower part of page near 'author and proprietor' and 'Palmyra' lines

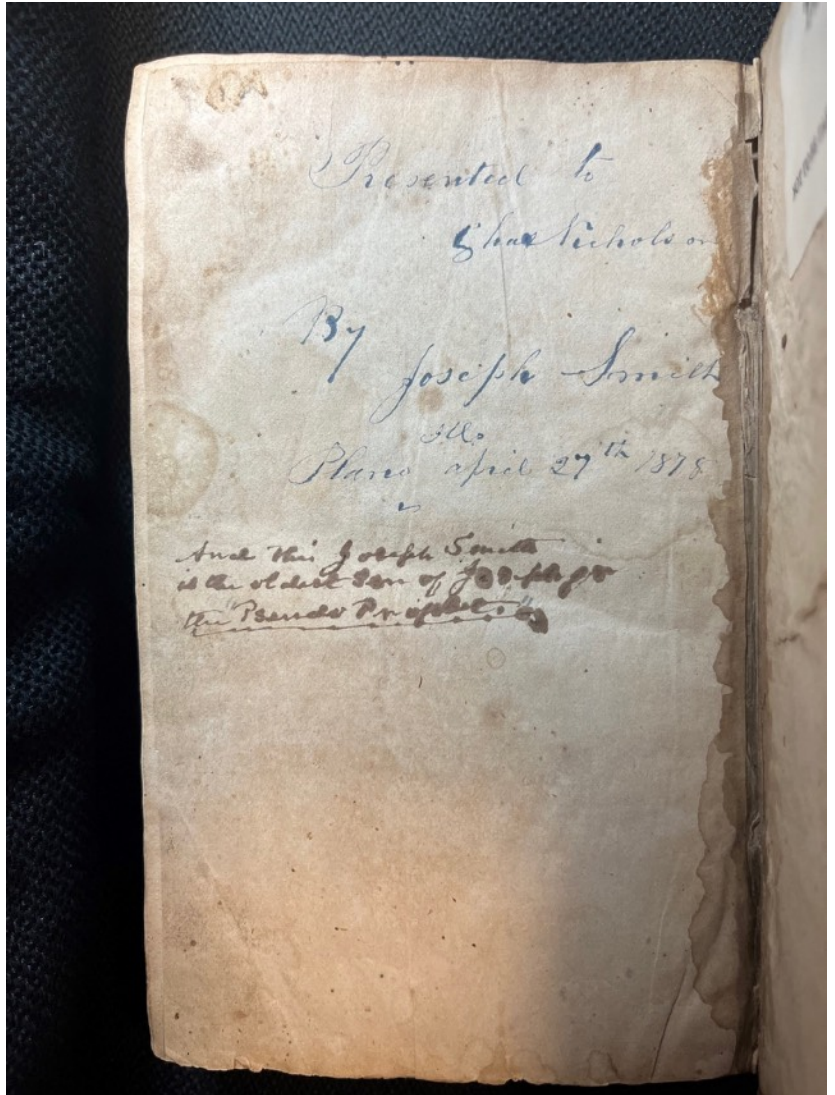
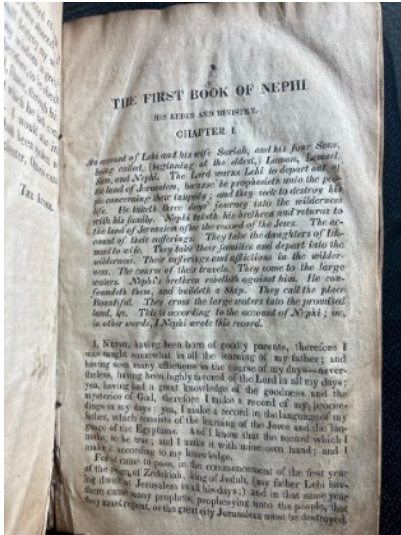
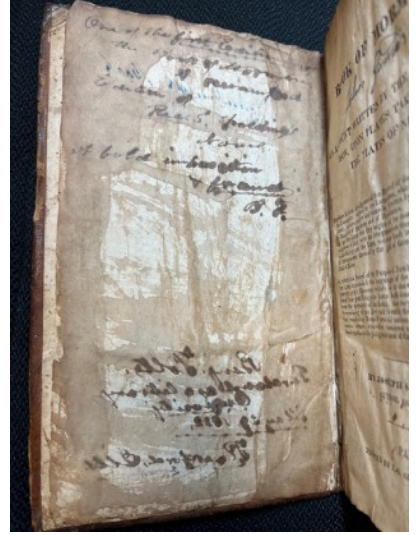
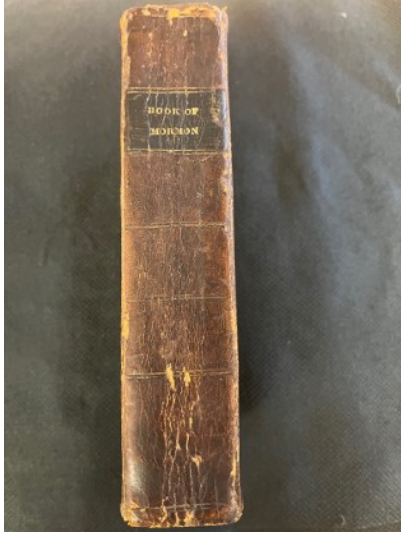
Text: Missing pages 11-28, various pages with underlines in pencil

Inscription: Back end paper: "Presented to Chas(Sp) Nicholson by Joesph Smith Plano III April 27th 1878" in blue ink. "And this Joseph Smith is the oldest son of Joseph the "Pseudo Prophet" in brown ink, different handwriting. Front end paper Recto "John Goulds Book" in blue ink. Title Page: "John Goulds Book" in blue ink, same handwriting as front end paper inscription

Notes: Front pastedown has library book plate sticker, Front end paper Recto, brown ink at bottom of page: "B*** Foll* Purchased as a library curiosity May 29, 18*2 R****ford ****" hard to read and bleeding through next page. Front end paper Verso brown ink: "One of the first Editions of the Book of Mormon A ***** Edition of *** S Spalding's Novel A bold i**** +(and) f**** B. *." Hard to read and bleeding through prior page, recto. Brown Ink in same handwriting throughout. Back end paper recto contains list of book sections and page numbers in pencil. Text: Preface "IV", pg #212 "122", pg #487 "48", pg 521 line 8/9 "mur-derers" pg 144 line 36 "about"

Additional pictures taken, including:





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Additional Details About This Book:

John Gould:

Was born 21 December 1874 and early member of the Church where he assisted in various activities and assignments. He was involved in Kirtland, Ohio, Jackson County, Missouri and Nauvoo, Illinois. Due to health conditions, he did not join the Mormon Pioneer Exodus, but settled in Iowa and died in Truro Township, Knox County, Illinois (90 miles east of Nauvoo) in June 1855. He was a distant cousin to Joseph Smith and the Smith Family.

Joseph Smith:

Per Inscription of Plano Illinois, 1878, this is Joseph Smith III, son of Joseph Smith Jr, the leader/prophet of the Church and publisher of the Book of Mormon. Born 6 November 1832 he was the eldest surviving son of Joseph and Emma Smith. He stayed in Nauvoo with Emma after his father was martyred in 1844 and moved to Plano, Illinois in 1866.

Chas Nicholson (Charles):

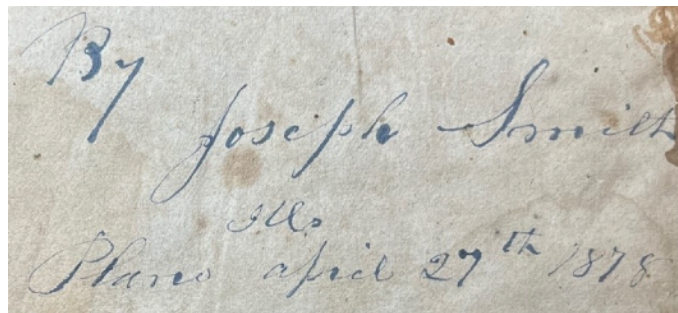
The Nicholson family was a significant name in early church history, it's unclear who Chas or Charles Nicholson was in 1878.

Analysis and Evaluations:

Pictures of the end papers were sent to Brent Ashworth, archivist and researcher in Provo Utah to review. He confirmed that the blue "Joseph Smith" handwriting is of Joseph Smith III.

Assumptions and Expectations:

It's probable that this copy was John Gould's copy and was kept in the Midwest U.S. It's probable that the copy went into Joseph Smith III's hands after John Gould's death. It's assumed that Joseph Smith III personally gave this to Nicholson as per inscription.



By Joseph Smith
III.
Plano April 27th 1878