Book of Mormon Census Project

A0095, 1830 Book of Mormon

November 21, 2024

McGill University, Montreal, Quebec Canada

1830 Book of Mormon, Ryerson & Rev James Roy

Provenance:
Front pastedown listing Rev. James Roy from Mrs. Edwy Ryerson, Port Dover Ont.
Book plate sticker listing Rev. James Roy gifted to McGill University.

Features and Notes:
Spine: Vertical cracking present. Missing piece from lower edge. Separation, upper left edge.
Spine Lettering and Label: Black title ribbon present, large font block in gold lettering
Cover: Present and intact. Worn edging. Quarter circle color change top right corner and smaller quarter circle color change top left corner. Back cover containing wear marks with noticeable 4 small scratches upper left corner.
Binding: Front end papers missing. Two back end papers. Front inside pastedown listing bookplate sticker to Library from Rev James Roy. Small newspaper clipping adhered to front pastedown. Book tape securing front pastedown to title page. Book plate sticker in back pastedown listing McGill University.
Title Page: Present. Book tape in gutter attached to front pastedown. Unique cockling on all four corners. Little/light foxing.
Text: Full text, similar foxing from title page through first 20 pages. various annotations in margin, various underlining of text.
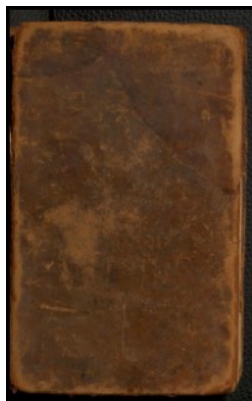Inscription: Front end paper listing Rev James Roy, from Mrs. Edwy Ryerson Port Dover Ont in ink. Additional writing in pencil, address?
Notes: Accompanying paper in ink listing book details and ownership, also listing page 127-128 and polygamy and similar book selling to University of Pennsylvania for $200. Date unknown. Full textual analysis recorded and documented
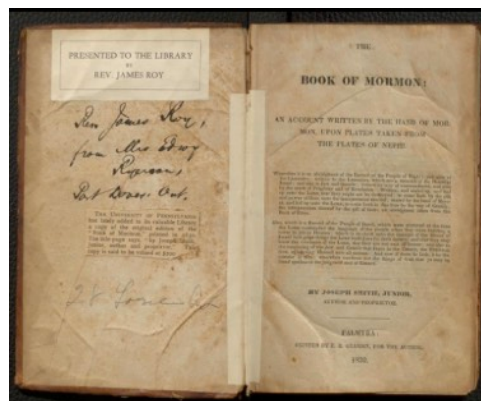Full text scanned in and archived at:
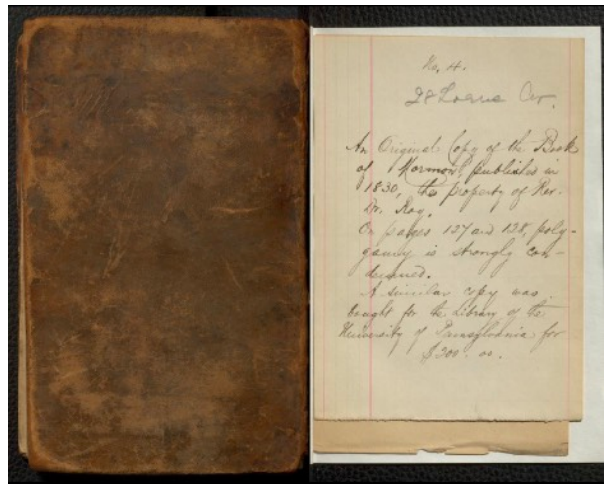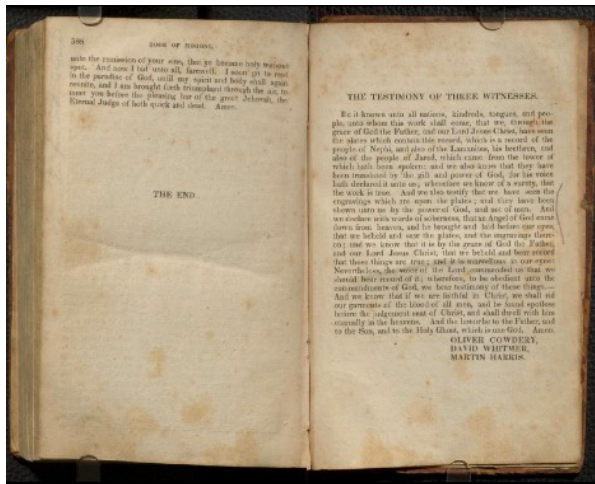http://archive.org/details/McGillLibrary-rbsc_book-mormon_OCTAVO-6525-22415
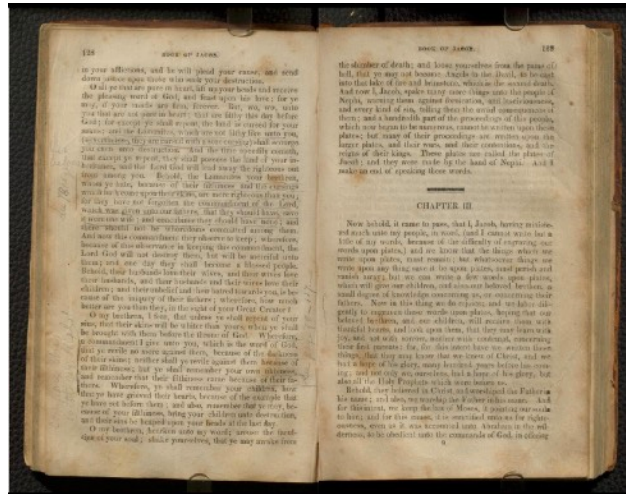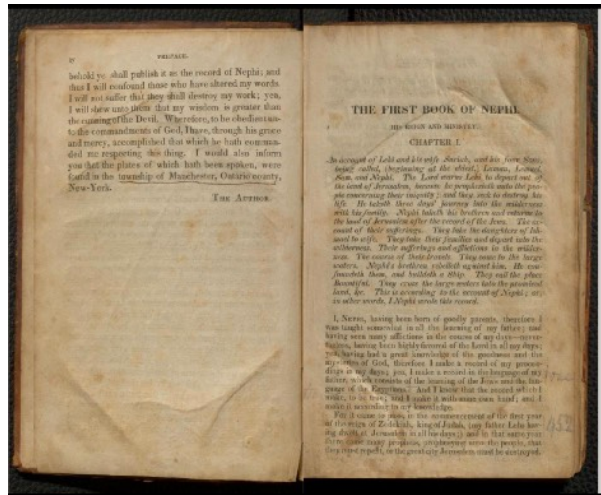
Additional pictures taken, courtesy of Rare Books and Special Collections, McGill University Library, Montreal, Canada, including:

The Typeset Errors within the McGill University Library Special Collections Copy of the 1830 Book of Mormon

By: Robert Messick
November 2024

Abstract:

Typeset errors and other anomalies within the 1830 Book of Mormon are found in individual volumes. While most errors are common to all volumes, there were variances where the printing press was stopped, edits were made and then edited papers would be added to the stack that contained the errors.   Textual reviews of various volumes are useful in order to capture errors in general and to that specific copy.

The following is the background and the current, known typeset errors & anomalies found within the 1830 Original Book of Mormon.

A textual review of McGill University Library, Special Collections volume of the the 1830 Book of Mormon has been completed and the following are the details of this specific copy.

Background on the 1830 Printing Process

As Joseph Smith ordered 5000 copies of the Book of Mormon, E.B Grandin's employee's set out to print the work. However, due to the nature of movable type, the printers would stop the presses, make typeset corrections and then continue. However, they would add the edited sheets to the previous stack containing errors.

These sheets would be folded down to pamphlets called "signatures", then collated and trimmed for bindery. However, the full volume of the Book of Mormon was printed on 37 signatures, meaning the printing plate would have to be reset 37 times. With type picked from upper and lower cases, then broken down and put back in, it became a very labor intensive and error prone process.

This caused a number of opportunities for printing and typeset anomalies and errors. Because of this, each volume of the Book of Mormon has a combination of errors that are common to all, and they also contain variances which makes the copy unique. Because of this, each volume is distinct and a typeset analysis is useful for each copy available.

Typeset Errors & Anomalies within the 1830 Book of Mormon

As with any 1830 copy of the Book of Mormon, each volume contains typeset errors and anomalies. This is not derogatory or negative to the volume, but these abnormalities become a fingerprint for this copy. It is exciting to see variations as this has become a field of study each copy is unique enough to warrant analysis when permitted.

Typeset errors within the 1830 volume are categorized in the following ways:

Typeset Errors found without variance within all known volumes.
This would generally be a misspelled word, not discovered through the whole printing process and found as an error within all copies.

Reasons for a misspelling could be due to a typesetter pulling letters quickly and missing a letter. Also, because each printing plate consisted of individual letters, they would have to pick from an upper and lower case to create their words. And when done they would have to put them back into the bins, but these might have been dropped into the wrong bin, the wrong letter could then be pulled from the right bin and used improperly.

example: Page 25, line 9 "chid" Page 382, Title "GHAPTER",

Typeset Variances where errors exists, but have been edited in other copies.
This is generally a "stop the presses" concept where an error would be in the start of the printing process, discovered while at press, then corrected for the rest of the print run. Both the error and the corrected papers would be mingled together and various books would therefore have an error, while others would have it properly.

This would be considered an "up front" error, and corrected on the "back half" as a typesetter/printer would never stop the presses and change a word to a misspelling.

Examples are: Page 212, page # "122" and some have proper "212",

Page 521, line 8/9 "rum-derers" to "mur-derers". This is a hyphenated wrap around word where a typesetter mixed "mur" with "rum", because he ran out of room on the line because and used a hyphen.

Page 144, line 36, "about" or "obout"

One rare example is "seen" or "seeen" in the Three Witness page, line 10. This is rarely found and the folklore is that as there was more attention on the last printing plate, this was found early and changed with very few errors coming through to bindery.

These variances are identified with "!" within the following list.

Typeset Variances, "Dropped" Lettering.
Due to the nature of movable type, a printing plate had to be created from scratch which involved every letter being uniformly on the same plane without any shallow letters that wouldn't get inked well in order for a good/clean print. With a print run to make 5000 impressions per printing plate and 37 plates to make the full volume, each printing plate was heavily used.

This sometimes caused various individual letters to become loose and not be strong enough to print well. These dropped letters would either fade over various impressions, or not show up at all.

This variance would be considered a "back end" error as a typesetter would initially set the correct lettering, but a problem would occur during printing to result in an error later in the print run. These would probably go unnoticed once the problem started and these papers would be added to the first set containing the proper text.

Examples are: Page 205, line 3 "Neph" or fading "i",
Page 487, page # "48" missing 7
Page 457, line 22 "destru tion", fading "c"

These variances are listed with "*" within the following list

Ink Saturation.
As a printer would have to reapply ink to the printing press for every few pages, sometimes he wouldn't get an even distribution of ink. This could result in faded text block, or over saturation with too much ink that would gum up the printed image. These are unique to each copy.

Other anomalies not needed to be reviewed
A vast number of irregularities do not warrant recognition within a textual review. It is proper not to recognize archaic words or old english usage. Examples are "marvellous" used over 50 times and "fulfil" instead of "fulfill". These are recognized in a different list below and are identified in order to not be categorized as missed or incomplete.

A Work in Progress?

The following list is all the currently known typeset errors and anomalies found within the 1830 Book of Mormon, compared to the McGill university volume. It is possible that as various copies are evaluated, more errors and variances could be discovered. So this review is based on the best information possible at time of evaluation.

About the Author

Robert Messick is the director of the Book of Mormon Census Project, which goals are to provide a proper copy count of early copies of the book of Mormon by the 2030 Anniversary and to record condition details. He is a family man and an independent, private researcher, living in Arizona. He can be reached at BoMEditions@gmail.com and the website is: BookOfMormonCensus.com

The List of Typeset Errors and Variances

!Preface page "IV" or "VI" variance, this volume: iv
Page 13, line 2/3 "commmand-ments"
Page 25, line 9 "chid"
Page 39, line 11 "daghter"
Page 43, line 6 & 8 "bellowses"
Page 45, line 31 "firy-flying" archaic for fiery?
Page 49, line 1/2 "swol-en"
Page 49, line 2 "ancles" archaic?
Page 60, line 10/11 "prohe-sy"
Page 63, line 2 "Nevertheles," not a dropped "s"
*Page 63, line 21 "himsel" dropped "f", this volume: proper "himself"
Page 64, line 3 "neeeds"
Page 69, line 39 "deliteth" proper word on line 41
*Page 74, line 19, "he", dropped t for "he" (first the), this volume: proper "the"
Page 76, line 41 "plaees"
!Page 80, line 16, "Holy One" or "Holy one" variance, this volume proper "Holy One"
!Page 83, line 28, "condescensions" or "condescentions" variance, this volume:
condescensions
Page 90, line 17 "horner" instead of "homer"
!Page 91, line 9 "carcasses" or "carcases" variance, this volume: "carcasses"
Page 97, line 19 "remant"
Page 105, line 42 "deadnes" proper on line 41
*Page 107, page # Odd "7", variance, proper in this volume
Page 112, line 10 "darknesss"
Page 113, line 14 "to-mrrow"
*Page 115, line 3 "fo" this volume "fo"
Page 119, line 39 "sould"
Page 126, line 38 "excedingly"
*Page 127, page # Odd "7", variance, this volume normal "7"
Page 127, line 13 "peeple"
Page 129, line 21 "brethen"
Page 142, line 31 "sough"
Page 144, line 10 "dilgence"
!Page 144, line 36 "obout" or "about" variance, this volume: "about"
Page 144, line 43 "feading"
Page 154, lone 40 "distinguised"
*Page 161, line 1 "fait" missing/fading "h", this volume "fait"
Page 163, line 30 "GOD" All capitals and in different font
Page 163, line 37 "remebrance"
Page 164, line 15 "adminster"
*Page 187, page # Odd "7", variance, this volume: proper "7"
Page 187, line 41 "rssurection" proper elsewhere on page
Page 188, line 42 "devlish" Archaic? 4 other instances within text listed as "devilish"
Page 189, line 2 "devlish" Archaic? 4 other instances listed within text as "devilish"
Page 190, line 18/19 "coun-selled" archaic? "counseled"
*Page 193, line 18 "ord ined" fading "a", this volume: partially faded
Page 196, line 15/16 "the the" duplicate
Page 204, line 6 "puteth" 6 other instances within text as "putteth"
*Page 205, line 3 "Nephi" fading "i". this volume: Partially fading "i"
*Page 207, page # Odd "7" variance, this volume normal "7"
!Page 207, line 37 "exheeding grert", or "exceeding great", this volume "exceeding great"

!Page 212, page # "122" or "212", this volume "122"

Page 216, line 31/32 "lan-gauge"

!Page 218, line 43 "these which" or "those which" variance, this volume: "those which"

Page 226, line 5, "Sidom"

*Page 226, line 43 comma "," after Amlicites, this volume has ","

Page 231, line 1 "lifed"

!Page 231, line 6, "Judges", or "judges" variance, this volume "Judges"

!Page 233, line 15 "bretren" or "brethren" variance, this volume "brethren"

!Page 234, line 5 "wokrs (1st) or "works" variance, this volume "works"

*Page 243, line 23 "al" missing last "l" in all, dropped letter, this volume "all"

Page 244, line 25 "reccive

Page 244, line 32 "bgan"

Page 244, line 41/43 "peo-people"

Page 247, line 2/3 "trans-gransgressions"

Page 250, line 9 "skilful" archaic?

Page 251, line 39 "striped" should be "stripped"

Page 251, line 40 "recieveth"

Page 252, line 26 "recieved"

Page 252, line 35 "aaswer"

Page 252, line 43" Kowest"

Page 265, line 25 "belive"

Page 267, line 31/32 "carca-ses"

Page 268, line 2 "tempels"

Page 268, lines 14 & 17 "recieve"

!*Page 270, line 43 /271 line 1 "hav- gn" misspelled and faded "i" or "hav-ing" this copy: "hav-ing"

Page 271, line 23 "therfore"

!Page 275, line 19 "this" or "This". this volume: "This"

Page 276, line 12 "know" should be known, no dropped letter "n"

Page 278, line 4 "yars"

Page 281, line 7 "commannded"

!Page 281, line 15 "hlm" or "him" variance, this volume: "him"

Page 282, line 4 "destoy"

!Page 284, line 3 "vilage" or "village" variance, this volume: "village"

Page 284, line 7 "therefere

!Page 286, line 27 "ifthou" or "if thou" variance, This volume: "if thou"

!Page 286, line 29 & 30 "recieve" or "receive" : This volume: "receive"

!Page 286, line 36 "khown" or "known" variance, this volume "known"

!Page 287, line 19 "recieving" or "receiving". This volume "receiving"

!Page 287, line 36 "hia" or "his"

Page 292, line 35 "theit"

*Page 295, line 21 "relving" missing descender on "y", This volume: "relying"

Page 296, line 15 "heen"

Page 297, line 41 "the" instead of "thee".

Page 310, line 26/27 "pow-ful"

Page 323, line 17 "amog"

Page 340, line 37 "hehold"

!Page 341, line 29 "brethrren" or "brethren" variance, this volume: "brethren"

!Page 342, 343, "River Sidon" or "river Sidon" variance, this volume: "river Sidon"

!Page 343, line 10, "lands, and", or "lands and" variance, this volume: "lands and"

!Page 348, line 21 "prohesy"

Page 349, line 9 "Helama," not a dropped "n" as comma part of word

!Page 350, line 17, "judges" or "Judges" variance, this volume: "Judges"

!Page 352, line 34 "Amalikiah" or "Amalickiah" variance, this volume: "Amalickiah"

Page 364, line 40 "seeond"
Page 365, line 9 "armss"
Page 377, line 1 "eigth"
Page 380, line 30 "drunkennes"
Page 380, line 38 "surronded"
Page 381, line 3 "possesion"
Page 381, line 21 "atempt"
Page 382, Title "GHAPTER"
Page 387, line 16 "provisons"
!Page 387, line 27 "Judeah" or "Judea" variance, this volume "Judea"
Page 388, line 13 "Ammon" should be "Ammoron"
Page 390, line 7 "expdient"
Page 391, line 15 "numhers"
!Page 393, line 4 "neither does" variance to "neither do", this volume: "neither do"
Page 393, line 29 "continnally"
Page 398, line 22 "adhear"
*Page 400, line 30 "becaus" dropped e, this volume "because"
!Page 401, line 34, "judges" or "Judges" variance, this volume: "Judges"
Page 403, line 19 "prisones"
Page 405, line 4 "Gid" instead of God
!Page 408, line 17, "Kishkumen and his band, which" or "Kishkumen, and his band which" this volume : "Kishkumen, and his band which"
Page 408, line 22 "govereor"
Page 410, line 31 "betweem"
Page 410, line 36 "judegment".
Page 414, line 1 "nobler" instead of "robber"
Page 416, line 17 "steeling" should be "stealing"
Page 418, line 33 "Redemer"
Page 422, line 2 "evidencess"
Page 425, line 24 "hardnes"
Page 426, line 10 "Samnel"
Page 426, line 23 "bacause"
*Page 426, line 34, "mor over" fading/dropped "e" this volume "moreover"
Page 427, line 14 "higway"
Page 428, line 6 "citties"
Page 429, line 23 "befal"
Page 429, line 24 "iniqities"
Page 431, line 6 "treusures"
Page 435, line 2 "angles"
*Page 438, line 19 "thev" missing descender, this volume "they"
Page 443, line 35 "arrriven"
Page 448, line 28 "yourselve,"
*Page 457, line 22 "destru tion", fading "c", this volume, fading and slightly there.
!Page 458, line 18, "Gaddianhi" or "Giddianhi" variance, this volume: "Gaddianhi"
!Page 458, line 31 "them, as" or "them, As" variance, this volume: "them, as"
Page 461, line 3 "Gaddianhi" instead of "Giddianhi"
Page 464, line 17 "rccord"
Page 464, line 25 "neverthelers"
Page 481, line 16 "committeth" archaic double "t"?
Page 485, line 13 "wat"
*Page 487, page number 487, or 48, missing/dropped "7", this volume: "487"
Page 490, line 30 "berak"
Page 491, line 19 "thess"
Page 491, line 35 "mnltitude"

Page 492, line 31 "babtized"
Page 495, line 41 "utttered"
!Page 497, line 12 "hoops" or "hoofs" this volume "hoofs"
Page 498, line 25, "writen"
!Page 507, line 26/27 "which is in my name" or "which is my name" variance, this volume: "which is my name"
!Page 514, line 2 "maybe" or "may be" variance, this volume: "may be"
Page 517, line 43 "Gaddianton" other times it's "Gadianton"
Page 518, line 9 "Gaddianton" other times it's "Gadianton"
Page 519, line 38 "therfore"
Page 520, line 4 "Gaddianton" other times it's "Gadianton"
!Page 521, line 8/9 "rum-derers" or "mur-derers" variance, this volume: "rum-derers"
Page 522, line 32 & 36 "Gaddianton" other times it's "Gadianton"
Page 523, line 5 "realise"
Page 523, line 16 "lead" (led)
Page 536, line 15 "crated"
*Page 539 line 17 "Ammgaddah" or "Amnigaddah" or missing point on i this volume: Amnigaddah
Page 541, line 1 "clowd" archaic?, but 17 other instances in text as "cloud"
Page 541, line 39 "brethern"
!Page 542, line 9 "brethern" or "brethren" this volume: "brethren"
Page 542, line 18 "maner"
Page 555, line 17 "hy"
Page 556, line 34 "opon"
Page 567, line 34 "wherfore"
Page 568, line 34 "iniqiuty"
!Page 575, line 15 "elder priest" or "elder or priest" Variance, this volume: "elder or priest"
!Page 576, line 12/13 "un-to the baptism" or "un-to baptism" variance, this volume: "un-to baptism"
Page 581, line 40 "changeble"
!Page 582, line 41 "mekness" or "meekness" variance, this volume: "meekness"
!Page 583, line 24, "stireth" or "stirreth" variance this volume: "stirreth"
Page 585, line 9 "beold"
!Three Witnesses page, line 10 "seeen" or "seen" variance, the volume: "seen"

Additional Details,

Archaic Words
      Examples where words don't match modern usage, but were used in 1830, archaic in nature, or alternative spellings at the time of printing. They are usually consistent in spelling, even if incorrect in today's vocabulary.

"abridgement" P527
"armour/armours" P13 P198 P228 P342 P351 P460, elsewhere page 351 line 38 had "armors"
"asmuch" P111
"baptise" "baptised" P22 P25 P81 P262
"burthens/burthensome" P126, P168
"Camorah" instead of Cumorah P529
"comfortedst" P99
"condiscention" P25 P130
"defence" P89 P124 P149 P368 P376 P382 P383 P397 P399 P401 P457 P568
"fraid" P354, P392 P415
"dissentions/dessention" P209 P212 P318 P328 P349 P350 P352 P357 P368
"harrass" P370 P371
"fulfil"   P35 P79 P118 P123 P183 P197 P221 P327 P?98 P 453 P480 P487 P492 P532 P579
"journied" P14 P16 P17 P49 P72 P149
"laboured" P123 P124
"levelled" P468
"marvellous" over 50 times, example three witnesses page
"marvellings" "marvelled" P274 P287 P476 P485
"moulten" P543 P551
"numerority" P382
"phrensied" P305
"purifyer" P503
"offence" P94 P337 P344 P358
"preparator" P38
"realise" P523 ("realize" P527)
"rereward" (back protection) P499 P501
"Saviour"P22 P75 P119 P161 P464 P524 P531 P532 P583
"savour" (taste) P488
"sceptres" P101
"sepulchre" P51 P276 twice
"shewn" 29 times
"shouldst" P 53 P54 P77 P245 P281 P308 P322
"threatnings" P49 P194 P297 P322 P378
"travelling" P41 P204 P214
"uncircumsised" P433
"vapour" P51 P471
"wilfully" "wilfulness" P188 P466 P517 P517 P585
"withersoever" P584

Plural "ings" words like: workings, groanings, sayings, disputings, proceedings
Words ending in "eth" usually present tense verbs like: worketh, delivereth, believeth, readeth

Cockling:

Often the front section, including the title page will show crinkles and page warping. This is generally in triangular/diamond patterns around the four corners of the page. This is called cockling and is natural phenomena as paper ages. This is similar to the warping of comic books and newspapers.

Cockling found, specifically within the title page, is often unique and becomes an identifier or fingerprint to that specific volume. There are no two copies that will have the same cockling patterns or lines.

Cockling on the McGill copy is found on the title page and the next 20 pages. It is diamond shape, with triangle shapes on all four corners, with a double crease on upper right corner.

Page crease lines:

Due to the nature of the printing press used back in the day, the printing process created some pressure on the paper as it was pressed into the printing plate with ink. In some cases, the paper would crease and trace lines would reflect in the text. This sometimes would result in the text being skewed in various ways following the crease lines. This is often more recognizable in photocopies and replicas. These crease lines are non-uniform and specific to various copies. These also create unique characteristics for each volume.

An example of this is found on page 63 of many 1830 replicas, where a vertical crease line goes down the center of the page and skews the text to reflect the crease line.

Creases and Saturations within the McGill copy:
P41/52 multiple pages, upper corner, diagonal down to outer edge, fold over?
P56, horizontal across bottom margin,
P77 lower left corner, diagonal down to bottom edge
P79/80, center of page
P85/86, ripped bottom edge, crease bottom margin
P87-92 bottom edge
P91/92 ripped bottom edge
P123/124 upper outer corner
P129, lower left corner with over saturated ink in outer edge lettering.
P137/138 lower outer corner, horizontal
P`145/146, 147/148 bottom martin, horizontal
P157/158 bottom outer corner, diagonal
P159/160 bottom margin
P 169/170, 171/172 top, upper gutter
P176 oversaturated top lines
P215/216 significant crease lower gutter, changes text on p 216
P217/218, two diagonal at bottom edge.
P222 fold over top corner
P249/250 outer upper margin
P255/256 diagonal from mid-gutter down to bottom middle edge
P267/268 vertical down most of center of page
P281 light ink saturation upper center of text block
P294 top edge, title and page number
P317/318 upper mid top, diagonal to edge
P379/378 diagonal from lower gutter to bottom edge
P381/382 diagonal from top gutter to bottom edge
P408 light saturation, top text block
P429 diagonal from mid gutter down to bottom edge

P479/480 diagonal from mid gutter, down to bottom edge
P493/494 diagonal from mid gutter, down to bottom edge
P584/585 bottom margin edge

Further Reading:
       In 1973, Janet Jensen published an article in the BYU Quarterly studies entitled: Variations Between Copies of the First Edition of the Book of Mormon. This was one of the first publications to recognize and list variations and typeset errors. She listed 42 variants and 35 constant typeset errors.   She recognized that other errors were present, but did not list them, nor address additional anomalies outside the scope of her publication.   The article can be viewed at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq/vol13/iss2/10/