Oliver Cowdrey papers, 1833-1838

Overview of the Collection

**Creator**  
Cowdery, Oliver, 1806-1850

**Title**  
Oliver Cowdrey papers

**Dates**  
1833-1838 (inclusive)
1833 1838

**Quantity**  
0.25 linear foot

**Collection Number**  
Accn1549

**Summary**  
The Oliver Cowdrey papers (1833-1838) consist of forty-six letters written by Cowdrey for himself or for others. Oliver Cowdrey (1806-1850) was one of six original members of the Church of Christ, later called the Church Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was a scribe to Joseph Smith.

**Repository**  
[University of Utah Libraries, Special Collections](http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv80661)

Special Collections, J. Willard Marriott Library
University of Utah
295 South 1500 East
Salt Lake City, UT
84112-0860
Telephone: 801-581-8863
special@library.utah.edu

**Access Restrictions**  
Photocopying is not permitted. Twenty-four hours advance notice encouraged. Access to parts of this collection may be restricted under provisions of state or federal law.

**Languages**  
English

Historical Note

Oliver Cowdrey (1806-1850) was one of the six original members of the Church of Christ which was organized in 1830. The full name was given in 1838 as the Church Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS Church). He is best known as the scribe of Joseph Smith but also played an important leadership role in the early LDS Church. He was a strong defender of the Book of Mormon and helped to select the Church's first twelve apostles. He later came into conflict with Joseph Smith and was excommunicated. For several years he was an attorney and lived in Ohio and in Wisconsin Territory. After Joseph Smith's death in 1844, Oliver Cowdrey returned to the LDS Church but died in Richmond, Missouri, before he could go west to Salt Lake City.

Content Description

The Oliver Cowdrey papers (1833-1838) consist of photocopies of forty-six letters written by Cowdrey for himself or for other LDS Church leaders. Also included are typed transcriptions of the letters and an index. The original letters are located in the Huntington Library in California.
Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The photocopies of the letters from 1833-1836 were donated by James T. Still and the 1838 letters were donated by John Utvich.

Processing Note

Processed by Julie Hunsaker in 1997.

Detailed Description of the Collection

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<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Box</td>
<td>Letters and Index</td>
<td>1833-1838</td>
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Names and Subjects

Subject Terms:
Mormon Church--History--19th century
Mormons--Correspondence

Personal Names:
>Williams, Frederick Granger, 1787-1842--Correspondence
Hyde, Orson, 1805-1878--Correspondence
Phelps, William Wines, 1792-1872--Correspondence
Rigdon, Sidney, 1793-1876--Correspondence
Smith, Joseph, 1805-1844--Correspondence
Whitmer, David, 1805-1888--Correspondence
Whitney, Newel K.--Correspondence

Titles within the Collection:
Book of Commandments
Pearl of Great Price

Finding aid prepared by Julie Hunsaker
1997

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