About John Hajicek

Hajicek Family Legacy — John Hajicek (pronounced *high-Czech*) was born with Bohemian ancestry in Minnesota, where the Hajicek family has been professionally preserving valuable artifacts since 1918. John has been a student of Mormon history since 1973. In 1980, his father moved their family to the county-line road named "Mormon Road" at a ghost-town named Voree, Wisconsin. Voree is a Nauvoo-era Mormon historic site, where Joseph Smith Sr. originally established a settlement in the 1830s. Joseph Smith Jr. appointed Voree to be a stake in 1844, and it flourished as a village until the 1850s. The Mormons at Voree were the primitive Mormons who did not go west, but remained in the Great Lakes states, rallying around alternative leaders with Nauvoo general authorities, the Book of Mormon witnesses, and the Smith family.

Hajicek Integrity — John Hajicek was ordained in 1982 into an independent lineage of elders in the nearly-vanished Voree church, with only *two* ordinations between his ordination and a man ordained by Joseph Smith Jr. in 1831. John was ordained by a man whose grandfather lived in Palmyra, New York; and Nauvoo, Illinois. The rare provenance of John's ordination parallels the remarkable provenances of his discovered Mormon treasures. The remnant of old descendants in the Midwest then designated John to be their archivist. Staying faithful to that exceptional history shows continual integrity. Although John was always more of a historian than a preacher, he retains that distinctive Mormon genuineness and Mormon values.

Insistence on Authenticity — In 1981, John Hajicek began writing for publication, to question the reliability of Mormon documents which were then making national news—which later proved to be forgeries as John had already determined. John took the lead then, and has continued to lead in his field, challenging LDS historians, LDS booksellers, and LDS collectors to fully document sources, use authentic originals, do minimalist restoration, and have reliable provenances. In 1982, John bought his first Joseph Smith-period *Book of Mormon*. John now has over four decades of experience examining rare Mormon books, documents, and art.

Advanced Education — In the 1980s and 1990s, John Hajicek was an undergraduate and graduate student of economics at universities in Wisconsin, Florida, and Missouri. He later sent his two daughters to Brigham Young University, where one of them earned a degree in history at age twenty.

Historic Site Preservation — John Hajicek's love for preservation shows in his interest in historic sites. In the late 1980s, John moved from the Mormon historic site at Voree, Wisconsin, to the Mormon historic site of Independence, Missouri. In 1991, he restored an 1840s Mormon stone house back in Wisconsin. He has now lived in the same museum-style house in Independence for more than a quarter century. He has visited the Mormon historic site at Nauvoo, Illinois, a hundred different times, and saved Nauvoo's architectural artifacts. He has preserved hundreds of early maps of Mormon historic sites, and thousands of first-century photographs of Mormon architecture, including from New England, New York, and the Midwest.

Sharing of History — John Hajicek shares his historic discoveries with his colleagues and other museums who reciprocate. In the early 1980s and early 1990s, John published many of his discoveries for the use of scholarly and research libraries. In 1996, he began adding rare books to the Internet at sites like Mormonism.com and iNephi.com. He is presently writing several volumes entitled *Discoveries in Mormonism* which will include his most important discoveries.

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John works to make the newest authentic discoveries in early Mormon history, and share the finest rare Mormon treasures with university special-collections libraries and with sophisticated fellow-collectors in the Great Basin and California. He regularly travels to the West to meet with knowledgeable collectors who are leaders in business, government, academics, museums, and the LDS Church. His home, with his library–archive–museum, is open by appointment. He has often assisted the LDS Church with history projects.

Priceless Treasures Discovered — Famously, half of all new finds in Mormonism come through John Hajicek's hands. He has discovered and possessed four copies of the rarest Mormon book of all, the 1833 *Book of Commandments*, printed in Independence, Missouri, where he now lives, including the Whitmer family copy. By 1991, John was the leading private collector of rare Mormon books. As of 2026, he has more Mormon manuscripts than all university archives outside of Utah combined; and he has more Mormon-related books than Brigham Young University and the LDS Church combined. John views collecting rare books as not spending money—but as investing money (Mormon books climbed in value a thousand-fold in the past fifty years). Investing in rare books is part of a plan of conservative stewardship. John has acquired and originally brought-to-light the following now-famous items:

- First edition *Books of Mormon* belonging to Joseph Smith Jr., Hyrum Smith, Brigham Young, Newel K. Whitney, and others.
- Joseph Smith-period *Book of Mormon* editions belonging to Emma Hale, Lucy Mack, Oliver Cowdery, Hiram Page, William McLellin, Willard Richards, George Miller, and others.
- First edition *Doctrine and Covenants* books belonging to Joseph Smith, Sidney Rigdon, the Cowdery family, David Whitmer, Brigham Young, and others.
- Seven copies of the second rarest Mormon book, the first edition *Sacred Hymns*, including a Cowdery family copy.
- Personal papers of Joseph Smith, his scribes, and his neighbors.
- The first Mormon newspaper and unique volumes of many other newspapers previously thought to be lost forever.
- Countless unique tracts from the period whose prior existence was otherwise unknown.
- Artifacts such as a Nauvoo temple sunstone and moonstone.
- Many paintings and drawings of Joseph Smith and his family made from life.
- Joseph Smith's personal possessions, such as his hunting rifle, and his own hand-drawn map from his settlement of Far West, Missouri.
- A colored artwork of the Independence, Missouri, 1831 temple made by a teenage girl in the home of Joseph Smith.

Hajicek as a Professional Historian — John Hajicek has now been a Mormon history student since 1973, a Mormon historian since 1980, and a full-time professional Mormon historian since 1990. He is the only historian with his range of experience in Mormon books, early Mormon documents, and other cultural artifacts.

Hajicek's Specializations — As a historian, John Hajicek has particular strengths. He specializes in Joseph Smith roots, Mormon origins, Mormon economics, Mormon presidential succession, Mormon printing, Mormon architecture, early Mormon art, Mormon maps, Mormon newspapers, Mormon vernacular photography, and important Mormon documents. He is currently writing a biography entitled *Joseph Smith Sr. in New-England and New-York, 1791-1836*, using unique sources in his private collection.

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