thirty-seven or thirty-eight years, but a
great many of the people have been in
only a few years. A very large portion
of our population have been reared here,
and consequently a brief sketch of the
early incidents of our history may not be
unprofitable to any.

When Joseph Smith took the plates
of Mormon from the hill Cumorah, he
was immediately surrounded by ene-
mies, and though he was a young man
of unexceptional character, he was com-
pelled to go from place to place, while
translating the work, to avoid persegui-
tion. The press and the pulpit denounced
him as an impostor and his followers as
dupes. As soon as he preached the doc-
trine of baptism for the remission of sins,
and organized a Church with six mem-
bbers, he was arrested and brought be-
fore a magistrate, honorably discharged
by him, and immediately arrested again
and hurried into an adjoining county,
where he was insulted, spit upon, and
kept without food during the day, and
then given crusts of bread and water.
The next day he was taken before mag-
istrates who, after a rigid examination,
found no fault in him. A mob resolved to
"tar and feather" him, but through the
instrumentality of the constable, who
previously treated him roughly, but who
now became his friend, he made his es-
cape in safety. All these proceedings
were instigated by clergymen and pro-
fessors of religion in high standing. A
similar spirit of persecution was mani-
fested in a greater or less degree in every
place where the Gospel was proclaimed.
In all these trials except one he had been before per-
sons religiously opposed to him—his ene-
mies were his judges—and all this while
every act of his life was prompted by a
firm desire to do good to his fellow men—
to preach the Gospel of peace, to magnify
the high and holy calling he had received
from the Lord, and thereby lead back to
the ancient faith of Jesus Christ his fel-
low beings who had fallen into darkness.

Vexatious law suits not accomplish-
ing the work to the satisfaction of the
persecutors of the Saints, mob violence
was resorted to, as being more effec-
tive. On the 25th day of March, 1832, in
Hyrum, Portage Co., Ohio, Joseph Smith
was dragged from his bed and carried to
the woods, daubed with tar and feathers,
and otherwise ill-treated. The following
is his account of the outrage:

"On the 25th of March, the twins be-
fore mentioned, which had been sick for
some time with the measles, caused us
to be broke of our rest in taking care of
them, especially my wife. In the evening
I told her she had better retire to rest
with one of the children, and I would
watch with the sickest child. In the night
she told me I had better lie down on the
trundle bed, and I did so, and was soon
after awoke by her screaming 'murder!'
when I found myself going out of the
door, in the hands of about a dozen men,
some of whose hands were in my hair,
and some had hold of my shirt, drawers,
and limbs. The foot of the trundle bed
was towards the door, leaving only room
enough for the door to swing. My wife