

# The 19th-Century World of the Book of Mormon

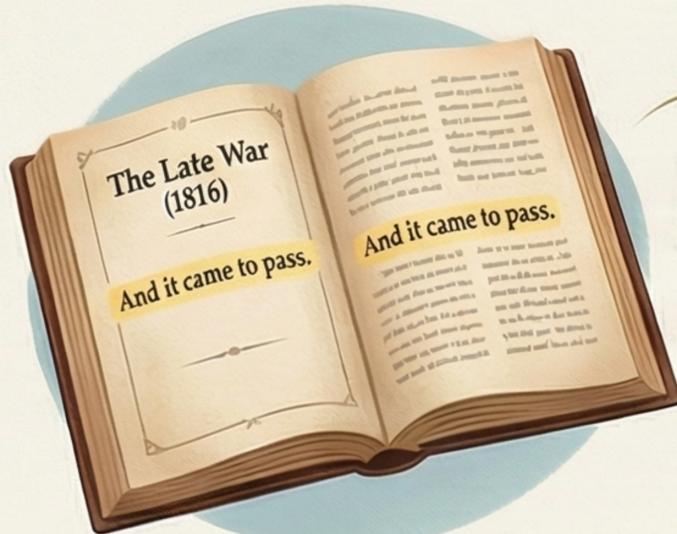
## The Cultural Milieu



**Mound Builder Myth.** Central narrative mirrors 19th-century myth. Popular theory claimed a lost, superior white race was exterminated by 'savags' dark-skinned Native Americans.



**Widespread anti-Masonic panic influenced the test.** Fears of 'seeret combinations' became common following William Morgan's 1828 disappearance, a key theme in the Book of Mormon.



**Writing style mimics contemporary King James-style fiction.** Books like 'The Late War' used the same biblical phrasing found throughout the Book of Mormon.



## Joseph Smith's Personal Life

### Joseph Smith Sr.'s Dream (1811)

**Building:** 's spacious building...it appeared to reach the very heavens'

**Fruit:** 'fruit...as white as snow, or if possible whiter'

**People:** 'pointed the finger of scorn at us.. treated us with ...contempt'



### Lehi's Dream (Book of Mormon)

**Building:** 'a great and spacious building...it stood as it in in the air'

**Fruit:** 'the fruit thereof was white, to exceed all the whiteness'

**People:** 'they were in the attitude of mocking and pointing their fingers'



**Smith's treasure-digging experiences appear in the test.** The book describes treasures becoming 'slippery' and sinking into the earth, matching folk magic lore from Smith's youth.



**The book contains 'prophecies' about Joseph Smith and his own life events.**

The text prophesies a 'seer' named Joseph, son of Joseph, and describes Martin Harris's 1828 visit to scholar Charles Anthon.

