

Original Intent: Early Changes to the Book of Mormon Manuscripts

Original Manuscript	Printer's Manuscript	1830 Printed Edition
Alma 8:5	Alma 8:5 and it came to pass that the people came to him all the borders of the land which was by the wildrness side and it came to pass that they were Baptised, throughout all the land	Alma 8:5 And it came to pass that the people came to him throughout all the borders of the land which was by the wilderness side. And it came to pass that they were baptized throughout all the land,

As I've mentioned before, I generally overlook OC's corrections of S2's writing, as they almost always end up *present* in the OM. Alma 8:4 through 5 highlight instances where OC corrected words that S2 likely missed by accident. In Alma 8:4, the PM should read *he began to teach^{the} people* (with OC's insertion noted). In Alma 8:5, S2 skipped the word *throughout*, possibly because he had just used it in Alma 8:4. While reviewing S2's work, OC inserted the word, making the sentence read: *the people came to him^{throughout} all the borders of the land*. This second correction was essential for proper grammar, whereas the correction in verse 4 could have worked with or without the insertion.

Another curious edit by OC in this chapter (forthcoming): When S2 wrote *Ammonidah*, OC modified the *d* to an *h*. This occurred in verses 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, and 16. Then, in verse 18, S2 spelled *Ammonihah* correctly but misspelled it a few words later as *Ammonihan* before correcting the last letter. In the introduction and first passage of Alma 9, S2 misspelled it *twice*, this time omitting the second *m*. He repeated this same error in Alma 10:1. The next time the city's name appears is in Alma 14:23, but by then OC had resumed as scribe—replacing S2—and spelled it as *Amonihah*, just as in Alma 9–10. He repeated this misspelling in Alma 15:1, 15, and 16, as well as Alma 16:2, 3, 9, and 11. In verse 9, he spelled *Ammonihahites* as *Amonihahites*. The next appearance of *Ammonihah* is in Alma 25:2, where it is spelled correctly, and this is consistent in Alma 49:1, 3, 10, 11, 14, and 15. The final instance of *Am^monihah* appears in Helaman 5:10, where it is spelled correctly, though the second *m* was added as an insertion.

Three things seem clear: First, S2's errors in Alma 8:6, 7, 8, 9, 14, and 16 were all corrected by OC, changing *Ammonidah* to *Ammonihah*. Second, after these corrections, S2 must have seen OC's edits and interpreted that the *-dah* should be *-hah*, continuing that spelling in subsequent passages. However, both S2 and OC then inexplicably changed the spelling of *Ammon-* to *Amon-*. Third, credit goes to the typesetter, who correctly standardized the spelling to *Ammonihah* for all 27 instances from Alma 8:6 to Helaman 5:10, fixing both scribes' errors.

One major question remains: Why did S2 initially misspell *Ammonihah* as *Ammonidah* in the first six instances? If OC was the OM scribe for this section, did he originally spell it *Ammonidah* in the OM and later realize it should have been *Ammonihah* without correcting the OM? Since OC's *d* does not resemble an *h*, this seems unlikely. Perhaps OC thought that *Ammonidah* sounded too similar to [Amm] *Onidah*—a hill mentioned in upcoming passages.

SPEC. It's worth noting that Palmyra, NY, is only about 90 miles from Oneida County, NY (established in 1798). The phonetic resemblance between *Onidah* in the Book of Mormon and *Oneida* in New York has been observed by scholars and critics, who suggest it could have influenced the naming of places in the BOM, given that Joseph Smith, Jr. grew up in upstate New York.

TBTBOMC. Compare to Joshua 24:3.

BOM: *and ... came to him^{throughout} all the borders of the land ... throughout all the land*

AKJV: *and led him throughout all the land*

➤ *him throughout all the* is an exact four-word match and occurs only once in each book (BOM & AKJV).