

Hawn's Mill



Shoal Creek

Location: NE Hauns Mill Dr., Braymer, Missouri 64625

Hours: Always open

Driving directions to Hawn's Mill Historic Site: On northbound I-35, 40 miles northeast of Independence/Kansas City, Missouri, take exit #40 (Polo exit). Drive east on State Route 116 for 12.3 miles. At Polo, turn left to stay on Route 116 and go north for 1 mile. After a mile, turn right to stay on Route 116 and go east again for 11.2 miles. Turn left onto Catawba Road and go north for 6.1 miles. Cross the bridge over Shoal Creek and turn left onto Hauns Mill Drive. Follow Hauns Mill Drive west .25 miles, then south .3 miles to the site.

Closest Temple: Kansas City, MO (60 mi)

Time Needed Here: Up to 2 hours

Next Stop: S: Kansas City, MO (69 mi)

W: Far West, MO (26 mi)

N: Adam Ondi Ahman (34 mi)

N: Nauvoo, IL (207 mi)

Church Ownership: several acres

Historical: Jacob Hawn established his mill in 1835 on Shoal Creek in Caldwell County, Missouri. Not a member of the Church, but his brother joined. He and his family were friendly with the 15 to 20 Latter-day Saint families who built a small settlement in the area consisting of about 12 cabins and a blacksmith shop. Hawn's Mill became an energetic, small community, with some members working for Hawn.

Church History: October 30, 1838, [a mob attacked the Latter-day Saints there](#), killing 14 men and 3 young boys and wounding 14 others. Mob consisted of about 200 – 250 men. Many of the Saints sought refuge in the blacksmith's shop; guns were inserted through the cracks in the logs and fired until most inside were lifeless. A few escaped over the river. 1600 rounds of ammunition were fired at 40 people. Among those dead were boys under 10 and men over 75.

Another 14 were wounded, with one being held prisoner for 3 days. Only four defenders were unharmed. Now it is a peaceful open field.

Accommodations: Jamesport, Cameron, Bethany

Restaurants: Jamesport, Gallatin

Buried Here: The day after the massacre, 14 of the dead were hurriedly buried in an uncompleted well near the creek, the location of which is unknown. Excavations have been made to attempt to determine the site of this well and the blacksmith shop.