

# Jonathan Browning Home and Gunshop

Nauvoo, Illinois, United States of America

Jonathan Browning joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in August 1840 after becoming acquainted with the Book of Mormon and the Prophet Joseph Smith. He lived in nearby Quincy, Illinois where he had lived since 1834 and ran a successful gun repair business. In 1843, he moved with his family to Nauvoo and reestablished his business on Main Street.

Browning's business also prospered while he was in Nauvoo. The guns he produced in Nauvoo possessed a unique engraved plate on the stock reading "Holiness to the Lord - Our Preservation."<sup>1</sup>

One of the great early gunsmiths, Browning is recognized as the man who invented the repeating rifle and six-shot repeater. His son, John Moses Browning, invented the automatic machine gun.

As an acknowledgment of his great contribution to society, his descendants helped fund an authentic restoration of the Browning Home and Gunshop in Nauvoo in the 1970s, one of the first buildings in Nauvoo to be restored.<sup>2</sup>

## SOURCES

1 Susan Easton Black, "Jonathan Browning, Mormon Gunsmith," *Muzzle Blasts*, (July 1997), 11-14.

2 Ibid.

## VISITOR INFORMATION

### *Address:*

S Main Street & Munson Street  
Nauvoo, Illinois 62354

### *Hours of Operation:*

May - August

- Monday through Saturday



The Jonathan Browning Home and Gunshop

*Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress,  
Prints & Photographs Division*

- 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
- Sunday
- 10:30 AM to 6:00 PM

### September - April

- Monday through Saturday
- 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Sunday
- 12:30 AM to 5:00 PM

### *GPS Coordinates:*

N40° 32.733' W91° 23.482'

### *Admission:*

Free

## FURTHER READING RESOURCES

Susan Easton Black, "Jonathan Browning, Mormon Gunsmith," *Muzzle Blasts*, (July 1997), 11-14.

K. E. Stobaugh, "Stobaugh Reviews Early Nauvoo History," *Restoration Trail Forum*, 1974.

