

Brian,

I've been searching at the CHO and BYU for additional sources on Joseph Smith's wives and possible wives. There appear to be a number of relevant sources regarding the known wives, but relatively few by or about the possible wives. The likely reason these women are regarded simply as "possible" wives, rather than as probable or improbable wives, is that their lives have been so poorly documented that it's been difficult to make a determination one way or another. However, I have managed to find documents relevant to a few of these women at the Lee Library and BYU. And I'll be checking these within the coming two weeks for information regarding plural marriage.

Another source of information I've used regarding the possible wives is the set *Membership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints: 1830-1848*. All but a couple of the "possible wives" have entries in this set, although in one case (Sarah Scott), I'm not certain that the woman listed is the same one who was allegedly sealed to Joseph Smith. However, definite information is provided there on a good majority of the possible wives; and I've photocopied the entries and in some cases added my own observations and notes.

Here are some other observations I've made:

- It's important to search the catalogs and other resources using not only the listed forms of the wife's name, but also variant forms. I was able to locate "Mary Houston" in the *Membership* books only by checking for "Mary Huston," and able to locate "Hannah Dubois" in the CHO catalog only under "Hannah DeBois," etc.
- Possible wives Aphia Woodman Sanburn and Sophia Woodman are very probably the same person, with "Sophia" being used a variant form of Aphia in the Nauvoo Temple Endowment Register.
- Cordelia Morley was almost certainly not a plural wife of Joseph Smith during his lifetime. According to an autobiographical statement I have in my files, she received a proposal from the prophet in June 1844 but *refused* it. She was later sealed to him in the Nauvoo temple for eternity while sealed to Frederick Cox for time. I would suggest removing her from the list of "possible wives," but still checking for sources by or about her that might reveal further information. I notice that you have an autobiography by her on your list—you've already checked this source? If the source did not mention her proposal from Joseph Smith, then there is more than one autobiography afloat. There also appears to be a book written about her husband, which may shed more light her proposal from and sealing to Joseph Smith.
- Mosiah Hancock's account of the Fanny Alger marriage does not appear to be corroborated by his father Levi's own writings, except on the detail of Levi having helped Fanny get out of Kirtland.

- If the Mosiah Hancock account *is* correct, Clarrissa (or Clarissa) Reed was not a wife of Joseph Smith. Joseph Smith is said to have ‘bargained’ for Fanny Alger’s hand in marriage by allowing Levi Hancock to wed Clarrissa.
- A few of those listed as possible wives were significantly older than Joseph Smith—particularly Sarah Scott (assuming the record is for the correct Sarah) and Vienna Jacques, who were 20 and 18 years older, respectively.
- If Joseph Smith did marry Sarah Scott and Vienna Jacques, the marriages were polyandrous—both were already legally married. (BTW, I found a couple sources related to Vienna at the CHO, and am checking them.)

Along with this research report, I’m sending a few other documents: the Levi Hancock Autobiography excerpts, Franklin D. Richards’ notes on Hyrum’s reading of D&C 132 to the Nauvoo High Council, and in case you don’t already have it in electronic, searchable form, Gary Bergera’s paper “Identifying the Earliest Mormon Polygamists, 1841-1844.”

Beginning Monday, I’ll search for complete versions of the Temple Lot Case, from which to make copies, dig into the Joseph Smith Affidavits Book, and see if the Willard Richards diary is available for research.

Don

|s0 Scott, Sarah Female # Print-Date: 7-29-87
 Reference: Family Group Sheet-Spouse
 Temple Index Bureau

|s1 Birth-Data
 Birth-Date: March 9, 1785
 Reference: Family Group Sheet-Spouse
 Temple Index Bureau
 Birth-Place: Williamstown, Berkshire, MA, USA
 Reference: Family Group Sheet-Spouse
 Temple Index Bureau

|s2 Parents-Data
 Father's-Name: Scott, Stephen
 Reference: Family Group Sheet-Spouse
 Temple Index Bureau
 Mother's-Name: Cooke, Elizabeth
 Reference: Family Group Sheet-Spouse
 Temple Index Bureau

|s3 Marriage-Number: 1
 Spouse's-Name: Stewart, Philander Barrett
 Reference: Family Group Sheet-Spouse
 Temple Index Bureau
 Marriage-Date: May 10, 1801
 Reference: Family Group Sheet-Spouse
 Temple Index Bureau
 Marriage-Place: West Virginia
 Reference: Family Group Sheet-Spouse

|s6 Death-Data:
 Death-Date: 1862
 Reference: Family Group Sheet-Spouse
 Death-Place: Payson, Utah, UT, USA
 Reference: Family Group Sheet-Spouse

|s7 Church-Ordinance-Data:
 Baptism
 Baptism-Date/Place: June 14, 1841
 Reference: Family Group Sheet-Spouse
 Temple Index Bureau

|s8 Temple-Ordinance-Data:
 Endowment
 Temple: Endowment House, Salt Lake City, UT, USA
 Date: March 8, 1852
 Reference: Family Group Sheet-Spouse