

Excerpts from History of Horace Cummings as given to N.B. Lundwall:

Concerning the Prophet's preaching, I have heard father say that although he was a powerful speaker and could hold his audience spellbound, he seemed to feel an inability to make them really comprehend what he taught them, and showed great anxiety to do so. Here are a few points that father heard him teach:

It would have been contrary to the oath and covenant that belong to the Priesthood for Lot and his family to have been destroyed with Gomorrah, so the Lord sent an angel to get them out, as Lot held the Priesthood.

Concerning the work for the dead, he said that in the resurrection those who had been worked for would fall at the feet of those who had done their work, kiss their feet, embrace their knees and manifest the most exquisite gratitude. We do not comprehend what a blessing to them these ordinances are. Father was so impressed with these teachings that he spent the last ten years of his life working in Temples, and has transmitted the same inclination to his posterity. We have worked for over 5,000 of our dead and have as many more to do.

At a conference one time in Nauvoo, he predicted that some day polygamy would be practiced in this church. This caused such consternation among the saints, that at a later meeting he soothed their feelings by explaining that the gospel had to be "preached to every nation, kingdom, tongue and people." If preached to them many would receive it, else what would be the use of preaching it? Since most of the earth's inhabitants now practice polygamy, what would a man with two or more wives do when he joined the Church?—Would he have to discard all his family but his first wife and her children? No; the gospel is not to break up families. They would all be received into the Church and continue to live as they always had lived in that respect as there was no crime in having more than one wife.

While living in Nauvoo they became very well acquainted with the Prophet Joseph, and I have heard my father repeat many of his teachings and describe his personal appearance, all of which seemed to have impressed him very much. My grandfather, James Cummings, became one of his intimate friends and being a master Mason, officiated in conducting the Prophet thru all the degrees of Masonry.

To his surprise and pleasure, the Prophet seemed to understand some of the features of the ceremonies better than any Mason and made explanations that rendered them much more beautiful and full of meaning. It was evident to grandfather that he knew more of what was given in the Temple of Solomon than did the Masons who claim that their ceremonies originated there.