

Council of the Seventy

201 E. D. S. Church Offices,
Salt Lake City, Utah
Temple Street

Members of First Council
J. Golden Kimball
Rulon S. Wells
Charles H. Hart
Levi Edgar Young
Antoine R. Ivinson
Samuel O. Bennion
John H. Taylor

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August 8, 1932.

The article called THE NAUVOO CONSPIRACY, printed in Volume 5, beginning about page 250, of the CONTRIBUTOR, which was the Y.M.M.I.A. organ at that time; the incidents related in that article were related to my parents by Dennison L. Harris, who was Bishop of Monroe, Sovier County, at that time, at our home during the spring conference of 1883, Brother Harris stopping at our home as our guest. The incidents seemed so important and so intensely interesting that I wrote them in my journal in detail. As the CONTRIBUTOR was offering a prize for a Christmas Story, I extended my journal account somewhat and wrote that article in competition for the prize. Before submitting the article to the press, however, at the request of President John Taylor, I read it to him line by line as he was in Nauvoo at the time the narration deals with and the incidents happened and of course was with the Prophet at the time he was killed. He was familiar with many of the things to which the article refers and added certain elements to the story. When completed, President Taylor gave it his hearty approval for publication as a valuable document concerning Church history which had never been previously published. The secret was held between the Prophet and his body guard, John Scott who was the brother of Robert Scott, the companion of Dennison L. Harris.

Signed: Horace Cummings

The Prophet Joseph placed the two young men above mentioned under covenant that they would not reveal what took place as related in this CONSPIRACY for twenty years. The first time that it was revealed was at the dedication of the St. George Temple, when Brother Taylor revealed it to President Brigham Young, whereupon President Taylor called in Brother Gibbs who took the narration in shorthand for church record purposes.

HAG

To
N.B.
Lundquist?