

Bro. Joseph here is a letter from / Miss Snow if you
wish to copy [sic] / but send this back to Daniel Munns /
Good Intent Kansas /

COMMUNITY OF
CHRIST
ARCHIVES

Salt Lake City /

May 30th 1877. /

Yours of the 9th ult. was / duly rec'd -- Absence from
home / has prevented an earlier response. /

You refer to the "origin" of / Polygamy, (more properly
Plural / Marriage -- Polygamy includes / plural husbands as well
as plural / wives) to which I answer. Its / origin is divine;
but no one can / accept this testimony without / admitting present
revelation. /

Concerning the introduction / and practice of Plural Marriage /
in this Dispensation, I trust that / my word may be sufficient. /

I was married to Joseph Smith, /

[page 2] the Prophet, more than two years / previous to his death -- not by
a / civil magistrate -- not by a hireling / Priest with usurped
authority, / but by a man of God who has been / legally authorized
to perform [sic] the / sacred ordinance of marriage, / An ordinance
which unites for / time and for eternity. /

You ask (referring to Pres. Smith) / "Did he authorize or
practice / spiritual wifery? Were you a / spiritual wife?

I certainly shall / not acknowledge myself to have / been a carnal
one. /

It would be rather difficult to / measure or weigh the amount /
of spirituality, I was in possession / of , so as to make an estimate /
I candidly confess "spiritual wifery" / I know nothing of only as
the term / was used as an epithet with which /

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to stigmatize those of us who / valiantly moved forward in / obedience
to the commands of / God, in establishing the practice / of plurality.
I am personally and / intimately acquainted with several / ladies
now living in Utah who / accepted the pure and sacred doctrine / of
Plural marriage, and were the / bona fide wives of Pres. Joseph
Smith -- / noble and intelligent woman, [sic] who live / to honor him,
and who revere his / memory and anticipate holding the / same en-
dearing relationship with him / in eternity -- having been connected
to him / by the same power and authority which / Christ conferred on
the Apostle Peter, by which / "whatsoever he bound on earth should /
be bound in heaven" &c. The key of this / power is as necessary
in this day as it / was in that -- no church ever was, is, or ever /
will be either accepted or acknowledged / of God, that is destitute
of it, and no man /

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can legally officiate in the marriage / ceremony or in any other
ordinance of the / House of God, unless he has been "called as /
was Aaron" ie. by direct revelation. As / consistently might a
justice of the Peace / claim authority from a license or com- /
mission given to a magistrate / centuries ago, as for men to presume
to / act on the commission given to the / ancient apostles.

As to the counterfeiting of the Revelation / on polygamy -- it is
all nonsense -- / we have the veritable one which the / Lord gave
through His prophet / Joseph Smith. /

Yours &c. /

Eliza R. Snow. /