

Polygamy -

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The following statement was given by Judge D. H. Morris of St. George, Utah in the office of President S. O. Bennion, June 12, 1930.

In the fall of 1879 I was attending school at the B.Y.U. at Provo and boarding with Lucy Walker Kimball. While there I learned that she was a plural wife of the Prophet Joseph Smith and I asked her how it came about that she was married in polygamy.

"My mother died when I was quite young and left my father with a family of (I think she said) eight children and I went to live with Joseph Smith's family as a maid and after I had grown up Joseph asked me if I would marry him. I felt highly insulted and he said that if I wanted to know whether the principle was true I could go to God and find out.

One night after supper I went out into the orchard and I kneeled down and prayed to God for information. After praying I arose and walked around the orchard and kneeled again and repeated this during the night, finally as I was praying the last time an angel of the Lord appeared to me and told me that the principle was of God and for me to accept it. As I arose to go into the house I noticed that dawn was breaking and as I was going up the back steps of the Mansion House, Joseph came out of the door and speaking to me said; "Thank God you have your testimony".

I afterwards married Joseph Smith as a plural wife and lived and co-habited with him as such."

I asked Sister Kimball if she would sign a statement to that effect if I would write it down, but she said, "No, I will give you a statement." I left school without getting the statement and some twenty five years after I was in Salt Lake and inquired of Golden Kimball where his Aunt Lucy was and he told me and I went down and saw her. She said that a few weeks before my visit the President of the Church sent for her to come up to the office and he said he had received a letter from a missionary in the Northwestern States, if I am not mistaken, asking if any of Joseph Smith's plural wives were alive and if so could he get an affidavit from her stating she was his plural wife, so they asked Aunt Lucy if she would sign an affidavit. They prepared the affidavit and she requested that they make two copies of it. The affidavit was sworn to before a notary public, they took one copy and she took the other copy as she remembered that years previous to that time she had promised me a statement setting forth the fact that she was a plural wife of the Prophet Joseph Smith and that she lived and co-habited with him as a plural wife. I have that affidavit at home now.

During the conversation I had with Lucy Kimball, as stated above, she told me that David Smith, the youngest son of Joseph Smith by his wife Emma, came to Utah for the purpose of inquiring as to the rumor of his father being a polygamist and he visited her at Provo and asked her the question direct if she was a plural wife of his father, Joseph Smith the prophet. She told him she was and gave him all the details pertaining to the marriage as well as the names and addresses of the man who married her and the two witnesses, all of whom were living in Salt Lake City at that time.

She told me that these people afterwards told her that David Smith visited each of them and they confirmed the statement of Lucy Walker Kimball and she was told that when David returned to his mother, she went to embrace him and he put out his hand and kept her off and said "Mother why have you

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deceived us". They thought he had lost his mind and placed him in a sanitarium. I understand he died there.

I was present at a meeting in St. George when Erastus Snow, an apostle in the Church made this statement, in substance it was the same.

That when he learned that Joseph Smith had received a revelation endorsing plural marriage he went to him and asked him the question, whether it was true and Joseph Smith told him it was and he said "Brother Snow, this principle is not for everybody. When the time comes that you should take another wife you will know it."

Sometime after that while he was walking on the sidewalk in Nauvoo Joseph Smith the prophet, drove up to the side of him in a carriage and asked him to get in the carriage with him, which he did, and he said "Brother Erastus, the word of the Lord to you is that you take another wife."

He said, "I went home and talked to my wife and we decided I should go down and visit Minerva White and ask her if she would enter into that principle and marry me as a plural wife and she consented to do so and Joseph Smith married us."

I know Minerva White personally and she had three sons and one daughter by Erastus Snow.

Dictated by D. H. Morris/ MK