1817 5 Feb. Born Sarah Marinda Bates to Cyrus and Lydia Harrington Bates in Henderson, Jefferson Co., N.Y. Cyrus was the son of Oliver and Rebecca Bates. Lydia was the daughter of Daniel and Salye Carpenter Harrington.


1828 7 June Oliver Bates dies at Henderson.

1835 18 Jun Sarah baptized by Orson Pratt at Sackett's Harbor, N.Y.

1836 7 Jun O.P. Journal, "Went to Brother Bates. Found them all well. I was very much enjoyed to see them as I had been absent about 1 yr., and more especially as I had previously formed an acquaintance with their daughter with whom I had held a correspondence by letter and with whom I shortly expected to enter into the sacred bonds of matrimony."

30 Jun After preaching in the neighboring communities, Orson returned to the Bates' in Henderson.


7 July Orson continues missionary work, returns to Sarah on 6 Aug. Leaves again on 9 Aug, returning on 24 Aug. This short term missionary work continues until

12 Oct Sarah and Orson return to Kirtland, Ohio, via steamboat from Sackett's Harbor, here upstairs room $8/month. Traveled in steam, treasurer.

1837 11 July Orson Pratt, Jr., born in Kirtland (died Dec 1900).

1 Oct Orson on mission to N.Y.

1838 Spring Pratts are in N.Y. & Sarah and baby Orson are at her parents in Henderson.

July 1 "Exeunt to Far West" (O.P. 111) (O.P. 95).

Aug 3 Riders' Journal requests O.P. J.W.J.T. I.P. to come to Far West for a "great mission."

Mid-Nov Pratts arrive in St. Louis (directly from N.Y.). Ice prevented further progress.

Dec 17 Lydia Pratt born in St. Louis (died 18 Aug, 1839).

1839 Spring Pratts move to Quincy, Ill.

10 July O.P.J., p. 102. Heber C. Kimball helps Orson's family to move to Commerce. They live in the "little shanty" with the Kimballs.

18 Aug In afternoon Orson addressed the Church "on the necessity of keeping the commandments of God." Their daughter Lydia died and was buried in Montrose, Iowa.

29 Aug Parley P. Pratt & family, Orson Pratt and Hiram Clark, left on mission to England. They went to Detroit, Michigan, where the Pratt's father was seriously ill.

3 Oct Sarah's father, Cyrus Bates, dies at Henderson, N.Y.

5 Nov Jared Pratt (Orson's father) died in Detroit, Michigan.

1840 6 Jan Orson letter to Sarah (O.PJ, p. 109) stating he is ready to leave for England.

9 Mar Orson leaves N.Y., arrives in Liverpool on 6 Apr.

20 Apr Orson goes to Edinburgh, Scotland.

Aug John C. Bennett arrives in Nauvoo.
6 Oct  Sarah living with Goddards.

1841 21 Apr  Orson leaves Liverpool for N.Y.

9 May  Lynah, Harrington & Co'sarrivée (Also, Orson at Nauvoo, N.Y.)

20 May Missionaries from England arrive in N.Y.

19 July Orson in Council of Twelve meeting.

10 Aug Orson Professor of Mathematics & English Literature at U. of Nauvoo. and Col. in Nauvoo Legion.

2 Oct Orson active participant in General Conference.

25 Dec Orson & Sarah at Christmas supper with Church leaders at the Hiram Kimball home.

1842 17 Jan Orson in attendance at Council of Twelve meeting, also in Council on 31 Jan.

17 Feb W.W. Journal: "A special City Council was called & among the business of the day A law was passed regulating marriage. Joseph the Seer made many interesting remarks concerning our privileges."

20 Mar Orson's name is included on an Epistle of the Twelve to European Saints.

30 Mar Emma Smith reads to the Relief Society an epistle from Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, Hyrum Smith, Heber C. Kimball, Willard Richards, Vinson Knight which states in part: "We have been informed that some unprincipled men, whose names we will not mention at present, have been guilty of such crimes. We do not mention their names, not knowing but what there may be some among you who are not sufficiently skilled in Masonry as to keep a secret, therefore, sufficient it to say, there are those, and we therefore warn you, & forewarn you, in the name of the Lord, to check & destroy any faith that any innocent person may have in any such characters; for we do not want any one to believe anything as coming from us, contrary to the old established morals & virtues & scriptural laws, regulating the habits, customs & conduct of society; and all persons pretending to be authorized by us, or having any permit or sanction from us, are & will be liars & base impostors, if you are authorized on the very first affirmation of the kind, to denounce them as such & shun them as the flying fiery serpent, whether they are prophets, Seers, or revelators; & the people, Elders Priests, Majors, Generals, City Councillors, Alderman, Marshals, Police, Lord Mayors or the Devil, are alike culpable & shall be damned for such evil practices; and if you yourselves adhere to anything of the kind, you also shall be damned." (Epistle recorded in handwriting of Eliza R. Snow in September 25, 1842 Relief Society Minutes LDS Church Archives).

6 Apr J.C. Bennett pro tem at Gen. Conference while Joseph Smith did not attend. Hyrum Smith, Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, and Willard Richards all bore testimony that they had never heard Joseph Smith teach "any principles but those of the strictest virtue either in public or private" (HC 4:583).

7 Apr Hyrum Smith makes first denial of his, Heber C. Kimball, and Joseph Smith's role in the Martha Brotherton affair. Joseph Smith spoke the same day "upon the subject of the stories respecting Elders Kimball and others, showing the folly and inconsistency of spending any time in conversing about such stories, or hearkening to them, for there is no person that is acquainted with our principles who would believe such lies, except Sharp, the editor of the Warsaw Signal." (HC 4:583-86).
9 Apr  Funeral of Ephraim Marks (son of William). Nancy Rigdon approached through Marinda Hyde.

10 Apr  Joseph preached in the Grove and "pronounced a curse upon all adulterers, and fornicators, and unvirtuous persons, and those who have made use of my name to carry on their iniquitous designs" (HC 4:587). Joseph sends letter to Nancy Rigdon through Willard Richards.

29 Apr  Joseph Smith notes "A conspiracy against the peace of my household was made manifest" (HC 4:607).

10 May  Calistia Larissa Pratt born in Nauvoo (died 6 Jan 1905).

11 May  Orson Pratt did not join with other apostles in withdrawing fellowship from J.C. Bennett.

17 May  Letter from Joseph Smith to General Church Clerk and Recorder, James Sloan: "You will be so good as to permit General Bennett to withdraw his name from the Church record, if he desires to do so, and this with the best of feelings towards you and General Bennett." Sloan writes back immediately: "In accordance with the above I have permitted General Bennett to withdraw his membership from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, this 17th day of May, 1842, the best of feelings subsisting between all parties." Orson Pratt signs the bottom of the letter, "The above is a true copy from the original."

19 May  J.C.B. states he wants to remain in Church. At city council meeting Joseph Smith, "on account of the reports in circulation in this city this day, concerning the ex-mayor, and to quiet the public mind, before the council closed," asked Bennett if he had anything against Joseph. Bennett replied: "I know what I am about, and the heads of the Church know what they are about, I expect; I have no difficulty with the heads of the Church. I publicly avow that any one who has said that I have stated that General Joseph Smith has given me authority to hold illicit intercourse with women is a liar in the face of God. . . . I have no difficulty with the heads of the Church, and I intend to continue with you, and hope the time may come when I may be restored to full confidence, fellowship, and my former standing in the Church, and that my conduct may be such as to warrant my restoration, and should the time ever come that I may have the opportunity to test my faith, it will then be known whether I am a traitor or true man." Joseph then asked him, "Will you please state definitely whether you know anything against my character, either in public or private?" Bennett replied, "I do not. In all my intercourse with General Smith, in public and in private, he has been strictly virtuous."

12 June  Orson Pratt speaks on "building up Zion."

18 June  W.W. Journal records Joseph addressing general meeting and speaking "his mind concerning the iniquity & wickedness of Gen. John Cook Bennett, & exposed him before the public."

23 June  Bennett left Nauvoo by this date—went to Carthage and then Springfield. Back in Nauvoo on 26. Wrote his first letter to Sangamo Journal on 27 June. 29 June Sangamo Journal calls upon "General Bennett to come out. NOW . . . . to produce documentary evidence, that the public may form opinions that cannot be gainsaid—that they may understand the entire character, as it stands naked before his God. First article appears 7 July.

13 July  Orson withdraws his candidacy as a Representative to the State Legislature in favor of those who have lived in the county longer.
14 July Joseph Smith in a speech in Nauvoo declares "He wished Bennett was in Hell!—he had given him more trouble than any man he ever had to do with." Smith also added in the same speech that "Mrs. Pratt, the wife of Mr. G. Pratt, had been a from her mother's breast" (Chicago American 1 August 1842).

15 July Chicago American, 1 August 1842 reported that Orson had left a communication with friends which stated he had left Nauvoo. Manuscript History of this date says: "I caused the Temple hands and the principle men of the city to make search for him [Orson]. After which a meeting was called at the Grove, and I gave the public a general outline of John C. Bennett's conduct."

The Chicago American further explained, "We further learn from other sources that Smith, finding his attempts on Mrs. Pratt were matters of notoriety, went to her husband with a manufactured story that his wife was a base woman, and that the fact was well known to him. This communication had such an effect upon Mr. Pratt—at once blasting his happiness and the reputation of a virtuous woman—that the wretched husband left the city."

Ebenzer Robinson in The Return, Vol. 2, No. 11 (November, 1890) recollected, "I remember well the excitement which existed at the time as a large number of the citizens turned out to go in search for [Orson Pratt]. Apostle Pratt had been told Joseph Smith wanted Orson's wife as his own plural wife and John C. Bennett was accused of having committed adultery with his wife. Both men denied these charges. Under these circumstances his mind temporarily gave way and he wandered away, no one knew where... [the searchers] fearing lest he had committed suicide. He was found some 5 miles below Nauvoo, sitting on a rock, on the bank of the Mississippi river, without a hat."

17 July Brigham Young writes to Parley P. Pratt, who is in England: "Br Orson Pratt is in trouble in consequence of his wife, her feelings are so roused up that he does not know whether his wife is wrong, or whether Josephs testimony and others are wrong and due Ly and he decied for 12 years or not; he is all but crazy about matters, you may ask what the matter is concerning Sister P.--it is enoph, and doct. J.C. Bennett could tell all about it if he himself & hir --------enoph of that--we will not let Br Orson goe away from us he is to good a man to have a woman destroy him."

20 July Wasp printed sworn statements by Church leaders that Joseph Smith was of high moral character and not guilty of any of John C. Bennett's accusations. Rigdon, Orson Pratt, and George W. Robinson refuse to sign statements.

22 July Meeting Ground, Times and Seasons 3(1 August 1842):869. Meeting chaired by Orson Spencer who declared the purpose of the meeting was to obtain an "expression of the public mind in reference to the reports gone abroad, calumninating the character of Pres. Joseph Smith, Gen. Wilson Law then rose and presented the following resolution.

"Resolved—That, having heard that John C. Bennett was circulating many base falsehoods respecting a number of the citizens of Nauvoo, and especially against our worthy and respected Mayor, Joseph Smith, we do hereby manifest to the world that so far as we know him to be a good, moral, virtuous, peaceable and patriotic man, and a firm supporter of law, justice and equal rights; that he at all times upholds and keeps inviolate the constitution of this State and of the United States.

A vote was then called and the resolution adopted by a large concourse of citizens, numbering somewhere about a thousand men. Two or three, voted in the negative.

"Elder Orson Pratt then rose and spoke at some length in explanation of his negative vote. Pres. Joseph Smith spoke in reply--"
'Question to Elder Pratt, 'Have you personally a knowledge of any immoral act in me toward the female sex, or in any other way?' Answer, by Elder O. Pratt, 'Personally, toward the female sex, 'I have not.'

"Elder O. Pratt responded at some length. Elder B. Young then spoke in reply, and was followed by Elders Wm. Law H.C. Kimball and Pres. H. Smith. Several others spoke bearing testimony of the iniquity of those who had calumniated Pres. J. Smith's character."

23 July Stephen H. Goddard letter to Orson: "Considering it a duty upon me I now communicate unto you some things relative to Dr. Bennett and your wife that came under the observation of myself and wife, which I think, would be satisfactory to the mind of any man could he but realize the conduct of those two individuals while under my notice. I would have been glad to have kept forever in silence if it could have been so and been just. I took your wife into my house because she was destitute of a house, Oct. 6, 1840, and from the first night, until the last, with the exception of one night, it being nearly a month, the Dr. was there as sure as the night came, and generally two or three times a day—for the first two or three nights he left about 9 O'clock—after that he remained later, sometimes till after midnight; what his conversation was I could not tell, as they sat close together, he leaning on her lap, whispering continually or talking very low—we generally went to bed and had one or two naps before he left. After being at my house nearly a month she was furnished with a house by Dr. Foster, which she lived in until sometime about the first of June, when she was turned out of the house and came to my house again and the Dr. came also as before. One night they took their chairs out of doors and remained there as we supposed until 12 O'clock or after; at another time they went over to the house where you now live and came back after dark, or about that time. We went over several times late in the evening while she lived in the house of Dr. Foster, and were most sure to find Dr. Bennett and your wife together, as it were, man and wife. Two or three times we found little Orson lying on the floor and the bed apparently reserved for the Dr., and herself—she observing that since a certain time he had rather sleep on the floor than with her . . .

"There are many more things which she has stated herself to my wife, which would go to show more strongly her feelings, connections, and the conduct of the two individuals. I shall not testify of these things at present for certain reasons, but can let you know them if you feel disposed to hear them."

28 July J.B. Backenstos sworn statement before E. Robinson that he [Backenstos] "some time during last winter, he accused Doctor John C. Bennett, with having an illicit intercourse with Mrs. Orson Pratt, and some others, when said Bennett replied that she made a first rate go, and from personal observations I should have taken said Doctor Bennett and Mrs. Pratt as man and wife, had I not known to the contrary."

29 July Sangamo Journal publishes material referred to above in Chicago American. It also adds: "We do not know what course will be pursued by Mr. Pratt. If he sinks under the denunciations and schemes of Joe Smith—if he fails to defend the reputation of himself and of the women he has vowed to protect before high heaven—he will fix a stain upon his character which he can never wash out, and carry to the grave the pangs caused by 'the gnawings of the worm that never dies.'

"We trust that he will secure for himself a more honorable position in life, and will come to the rescue of the fame of his lady, and expose the infamous course of the prophet, as becomes a man, an honorable citizen, and a sincere christian."

8 Aug Brigham Young in manuscript history: "Assisted by Elders H.C. Kimball and Geo. A. Smith, I spent several days laboring with Elder Orson Pratt, whose mind became so darkened by the
influence and statements of his wife, that he came out in
rebellion against Joseph, refusing to believe his testimony
or obey his counsel. He said he would believe his wife in
preference to the Prophet. Joseph told him if he did believe
his wife and follow her suggestions he would go to hell:"

"We reported to the Prophet that we had labored with
brother Orson diligently in a spirit of meekness, forebearance
and long-suffering. He requested us to ordain brother Amasa
Lyman in brother Orson's stead. After receiving these
instructions, we met brother Orson near my house, and continued
to labor with him. He said to us, there is brother Amasa Lyman
in your house, brother Young; he has been long in the ministry,
go in and ordain him in my stead."

20 Aug BY Manuscript History: "Brother Orson Pratt was cut off from
the Church, and, according to the Prophet's direction,
brothers H.C. Kimball, Geo. A. Smith and I ordained brother
Amasa Lyman in his stead." Sarah was excommunicated the same
day.

29 Aug Joseph Smith speaking in the Grove near the temple on a Mon.
morning: "... Orson Pratt has attempted to destroy himself
and caused all the city almost to go in search of him. ... O. Pratt and others of the same class caused trouble by telling
stories to people who would betray me, and they must believe
those stories because his Wife told him so! I will live to
trample on their ashes with the souls of my feet. I prophesy
in the name of Jesus Christ that such shall not prosper, they
shall be cut down in their plans. ... Let the Twelve send
all who will support the character of the Prophet, the Lord's
anointed, and if all who go will support my character, I
prophecy in the name of the Lord Jesus, whose servant I am,
that you will prosper in your missions. I have the whole
plan of the kingdom before me, and no other person has. And
as to all that Orson Pratt, Sidney Rigdon, or George W.
Robinson can do to prevent me, I can kick them off my heels,
as many as you can name. ... about 380 Elders volunteered to
go immediately on the proposed Mission." (Manuscript History
of the Church).

1 Sept Times and Seasons 3:909: "Inasmuch as the public mind has
been unjustly abused through the fallacy of Dr. Bennett's
letters, we make an extract on the subject of marriage,
showing the rule of the church on this important matter.
The extract is from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and
it the only rule allowed by the church.

"All legal contracts of marriage made before a person
is baptized into this church, should be held sacred and
fulfilled. Inasmuch as this church of Christ has been
reproached with the crime of fornication, and polygamy;
we declare that we believe, that one man should have one
wife; and one woman, but one husband, except in case of
death, when either is at liberty to marry again."

3 Sept Wasp letter to editor from Orson Pratt: "I have noticed,
of late, in some of the public prints, articles to the
following import—that I had denounced 'Mormonism,' left
Nauvoo, &c; ... The lustre of truth cannot be dimmed by
the shadows of error and falsehood. Neither will the petty
difficulties existing among its votaries weaken its
influence or destroy its power. Its course is onward to
accomplish the purposes of its great Author in relation to
the happiness and salvation of the human family."

10 Sept Wilford Woodruff journal: "There was a counsel of the
'Twelve' held for four days with Elder Orson Pratt to
labour with him to get him to recall his sayings against
Joseph & The Twelve but he persisted in his wicked course
& would not recall any of his sayings which were unjust
& untrue, The Twelve then rejected him as a member of their
quorum & he was cut off from the Twelve."
12 Sept Orson advertizes in the Wasp that he will "commence his regular course of instruction in the various branches of education, pertaining to the Department over which he has the supervision on Monday, the 26th day of September, A.D. 1842." Ad was also in 1 Oct and 8 Oct Wasp.

26 Sept Orson letter to editor of Wasp: "Dear Sir: I noticed, in the last week's Wasp, a letter from Dr. R.D. Foster, written from New York City, which states that Dr. J.C. Bennett had declared, in said city, that he had received a letter from me and from my wife, and that we were preparing to leave and expose Mormonism. I wish, through the medium of your paper, to say to the public, that said statements are entirely false. We have never, at any time, written any letter or letters to Dr. J.C. Bennett, on any subject whatever. Neither are we 'preparing to leave and expose Mormonism,' but intend to make NAUVOO OUR RESIDENCE, AND MORMONISM OUR MOTTO."

1843 Jan 5 Jan 1843
Sidney Rigdon received a letter dated 10 Jan from John C. Bennett in Springfield. The letter was also addressed to Orson. Bennett was leaving that evening to "meet the messenger charged with the arrest of Joseph Smith" and others. Then Bennett writes, "He must go to Missouri; but he shall not be harmed, if he is not guilty; but he is a murderer, and must suffer the penalty of the law. Enough on this subject.

"I hope that both your kind and amiable families are well, and you will please to give them all my best respects. I hope to see you all soon. Please write me at Independence immediately."

After reading the letter, Rigdon sent it to Pratt who gave it to Joseph Smith. Joseph read it to both parties at dinner on 18 Jan. 20 Jan

The Quorum of the Twelve met at Brigham Young's house to consider the case of Orson Pratt. Present: B. Young, H.C. Kimball, Orson Hyde, W. Woodruff, John Taylor, Geo. A Smith, & Willard Richards, Joseph Smith & Hyrum Smith of the first Presidency also Orson Pratt.

"President Joseph Smith remarked that as there was not a quorum when Orson Pratt's case came up before that he was still a member—he had not legally been cut off.

"O. Pratt remarked that he had rather die than go to preach in any other standing that I had before. . . .

"Young—said all he had against Orson was when he came home he loved his wife better than David.

"Joseph—She lied about me—I never made the offer which she said I did.

"I will not advise you to break up your family—unless it were asked of me. Then I would council you to get a bill from your wife and marry a virtuous woman—and a new family but if you do not do it [I] shall never throw it in your teeth. . . .

"4 o'clock Orson Pratt, Sarah Marinda Pratt; & Lydia Granger were baptized in the River by Joseph Smith and confirmed in the Court Room—Orson received the Priesthood and the same power and authority as in former days."

W. Richards B. Young

Brigham Young said of this meeting in Manuscript History of Brigham Young, p. 126, "Orson Pratt, who had confessed his sins and manifested deep repentance," Wilford Woodruff added in his journal under date 19 Jan., "He had returned and repented in dust & ashes as it were for opposing Joseph & the Twelve &c. HC 5:254-256 details: "The council was called to consider the case of Orson Pratt who had previously been cut off from the Church for disobedience."
6 Feb  Orson elected to Nauvoo City Council.

21 Feb  Joseph Smith address in Words of Joseph Smith, p. 166: "There is a great deal of murmuring in the Church—about me, but I don't care any thing about it. I like to hear it thunder, to hear the saints grumbling.—the growling dog get the sorest head. If any man is poor and afflicted, let him come and tell of it.—Don't complain or grumble...there cannot be some fire without some smoke. Well if the stories about Jos. Smith are true, then the stories of JC. Bennet [sic] are true about the Ladies of Nauvoo. Ladies that the Relief Society was organized of those who are to be wifes to Jos Smith. Ladies you know whether it is true no use of living among hogs without a snout. this biting and devouring each other. for Gods sake stop it."

15 Mar  Times & Seasons 4:143: "We are charged with advocating a plurality of wives, and common property. Now this is as false as the many other ridiculous charges which are brought against us. No sect has a greater reverence for the laws of matrimony or the rights of private property; and we do what others do not, we practice what we preach."

7 May  P.P.P. letter to cousin John Van Cott. In post script Orson adds: "J.C. Bennett has published lies concerning myself & family & the people with which I am connected. His book I have read with the greatest disgust. No candid honest man can or will believe it. He has disgraced himself in eyes of all civilized society who will despise his very name." In the body of the letter Farley had written: "Bro. Orson Pratt is in the church and always has been & has the confidence of Joseph Smith and all good men who know him.

1844 Mar-Orson on mission to Eastern States. Family goes with him.

Nov 7-Orson in Washington, D.C. trying to petition and memorialize Congress. Wanted to authorize an army of 100,000 armed volunteers to police the inter-mountain and Pacific coast west from Oregon to Texas.

20 June HC 6:519. Joseph Smith called all of the Twelve Apostles who were on missions to return home. Orson was serving a mission in N.Y. and New England at this time (had been since early May).

9 July  Brigham Young and Orson in Boston when they first heard rumors of Joseph/Hyrum murders. They received first letter confirming the details on 16 July.


27 Oct  Sarah Marinda Pratt born to Orson/Sarah in Nauvoo (died 26 July 1845 in Nauvoo).

Fall  Orson sealed to Charlotte Bishop by Brigham Young. Orson Pratt records: "In the autumn of 1825 [45] during the absence of her husband to New York City she married a young man by the name of Tyler and soon after removed to St. Joseph in Missouri."

22 Nov  Orson/Sarah sealed for eternity by Brigham Young.

22 Dec Sarah voted into endowment quorum.

1845 27 Mar Married 25-year-old Mary Ann Merrill (5 children). Sarah witnessed the marriage performed by H.C.K.

June Orson leaves for N.Y.

26 July Sarah Harinda (daughter) died in Nauvoo.

Aug Orson replaces P.P.P. in presiding over N.Y. Saints.

18 Oct New York Messenger 18 Oct, p. 124, records a dream of Orson's wherein he writes: "I then began to contemplate my own circumstances, how that I had labored long, with untiring patience and zeal for the salvation of men; without the opportunity of entering into any kind of business, to acquire even the necessaries of life for my increasing family. Already I perceived myself involved in debt, to the amount of about four hundred dollars, occasioned by borrowing a little money here and there, to bear my expenses from place to place, and to feed and clothe myself and family. It is true, thought I, I have a house, consisting of one small room, and about two-thirds of an acre of land. But how to relieve myself of the accumulated debts contracted for the benefit and salvation of others, I am at a loss. When suddenly a thought flitted across my anxious bosom, and seemed to whisper as follows: 'Perhaps if the members and branches of the church throughout the East, knew of the poverty and unhappy circumstances in which their President was placed, they would with one accord contribute to his relief, by sending through the mail, or otherwise, sufficient to release him from his unpleasant condition."

"I furthermore resolved, to send three or four hundred copies of my 'PROPHETIC ALMANAC, for 1846,' to the subscribers of the Messenger; having full faith and confidence, that those who receive an Almanac, will of their own accord, raise by subscription or otherwise, at least one dollar, and send the same to No. 7 Spruce street, New York. If any should feel disposed to send more it will not be rejected. I furthermore resolved to ask each one who receives a copy of the Almanac, to purchase one or two dozen of the same, at the wholesale price, for the purpose of distribution among neighbors, friends and relatives.

Should I realize a fulfillment of my dream, it would greatly relieve me from a burden of anxiety, which has a tendency to weigh down my mind both by night and day, and at the same time, it would scarcely be felt by the numerous saints scattered abroad."

Nov: Orson bids farewell to N.Y. Saints whom he had arranged to send to California by ship. Prior to returning to Nauvoo, Orson purchased a span of horses and a carriage with "some property that had fallen to his wife Sarah." (Contributor 12129).

15 Nov Orson and Erastus Snow leave for Nauvoo.

11 Dec Orson is in Nauvoo. On the 12th, Orson/Sarah receive their endowment in the Nauvoo temple. Orson brought $400 worth of Allen's revolving six-shooting pistols (pepperboxes). P.P.P. was having difficulties with his wife Mary Ann. On 1 Jan 1846 Parley's plural wife Belinda had given birth to a son Nephi. Apparently Sarah had pointed out to Mary Ann that the baby was Parley's for parley accused Sarah of "influencing his wife against him, and of ruining and breaking up his family," as well as being an apostate, and of speaking against the heads of the Church and against him. In the temple on the 11th, Sarah must have again said something about Parley for he accused Sarah of "whispering against him all over the temple." Orson became so upset and so ardently defended Sarah that the couple was voted out of the temple.
To Proost, B. Young and Counsel: 

Dear Brethren, circumstances seem to urge upon me, the necessity of making some explanations in relation to the affair of last evening, and stating to you some of the true causes which led me to make the remarks which I did to P. P. Pratt.

Orson Pratt then claims that during the past three years Parley had circulated falsehoods about Orson's family, accused Sarah of being an apostate, of speaking evil against the church, against Parley directly, and of influencing Parley's wife against him, all of which Orson declares is false. In the face of these accusations Orson and his wife had held their peace.

And yet with all these provocations where is there a person that ever heard either of us say the least disrespectful word concerning him or his family? That person cannot be found. His own conduct or that of his wife towards one another is nothing that concerns me or my wife. And consequently we have not meddled with it in any way, shape or manner. As an individual I care nothing about their conduct if he will let me and my family alone.

Orson then continues by making an accusation of adultery against Parley. Apparently these feelings had been festering in Orson's mind since he took over the presidency of the Eastern States from Parley in the fall of 1845:

"With all the light and knowledge that he has received concerning the law of the priesthood and with all the counsels that he has received from our quorum, if he feels at liberty to go into New York or elsewhere and seduce girls or females and sleep and have connection with them contrary to the law of God, and the sacred counsels of his brethren, it is something that does not concern an individual. And if my quorum and the church can fellowship him, I shall find no fault with him, but leave it between him, the church, and God."

What Orson did not know was that Parley had taken a plural wife with him to New York. The following is a brief excerpt from the autobiographical sketch of Bellinda Marden Pratt:

I was sealed to Parley P. Pratt on or about the 20th of Nov. 1844 in one of the chambers of the house of Erastus Snow. I was sealed to this, one of the first twelve apostles of this dispensation by Pres. Brigham Young for time and all eternity. There was but one witness, Brother Erastus Snow.

On or about the first of December Mr. Pratt was appointed and set apart for a mission to the Eastern States to take charge of the churches in the Atlantic States. As I was without home or relatives in this part of the country he wished me to follow him. I will not attempt to tell the joy that filled my heart. I had never expected to have so great a privilege. He gave no means to go and accordingly I started a day or two after he did. After arriving at St. Louis, went on the same boat with him to Pittsburg and Wheeling, Virginia. From there we crossed the Alleghany Mountains by stage to Wilmington; from there by rail to Philadelphia. Here we were obliged to wait a few days for money, then we went in to the city of New York by rail and arrived Christmas Eve—he to visit some of the saints and I to find a boarding place among strangers, for it was not known that I was practicing except by a few of the saints.

I found a boarding place and paid my expenses sewing. After a short time I rented a house and Mr. Pratt boarded with me, I commenced dressmaking and knitting baby socks which I sold by the dozen, earning from fifty cents to a dollar a day nearly all the time I was there besides my housework and washing.

Mr. Pratt was called home to Nauvoo August 18, 1845 and I started with him. We came home by the Erie Canal and Lakes journeying from Chicago to Nauvoo by land. I went to Mr. Beach's tavern to board while Mr. Pratt went to his home. After a while it was arranged for his wife Mary and I to commence housekeeping in rooms upstairs in Mr. Pratt's house. (WPP 74:73)

Orson's letter continues:

"All these things, however despicable, we could have borne without uttering one syllable to any person living."

But when it comes to that, that my wife cannot come into this holy and consecrated temple to enjoy the meetings and society of the saints, without being attacked by his false accusations and hellish lies, and that too, in the presence of a large assembly, I feel as though it was too much to be borne. There is there a person, that was present that evening, that heard my wife say the least thing against him or his family; I am bold to say that you may question every one that presided in the temple and you cannot find one that will say that she uttered the most distant hint or insinuation against him. And yet she was induced by him before that respectable company, in the most impudent and malicious manner of whispering against him all over the temple. In my belief, with these circumstances, brethren, I verily supposed that I had a perfect right to say a few words in defense of my much injured family. I therefore accused him of false accusations and lying. It was a belief
at that time, that there was no place nor circumstances, in heaven, on
earth, or in hell, too sacred to defend the cause of my innocent family
when they were publicly attacked in so unjust and insulting manner.
Which of you, brethren, would have suffered any man to attack, abuse,
and insult your wife in so shameful a manner & not opened his mouth?
Would any of you have borne it with the same patience and with as
few words as I did? If I had, especially without the least cause,
in insulted any of your families in so disgraceful a manner I should have
been very thankful if I escaped without getting my head broke. And I
never would have voted to turn one of you out of meeting, ... under
the same circumstances.

Now with regard to confession: After I learned that it was my duty
to stand and bear my family abused in the highest degree without the
least provocation, and yet not open my mouth in her defense, I immedi-
ately confessed my fault to the council, but my confession was rejected.
Now brethren, I stand ready and willing to make any further confessions
to the council, necessary to my restoration from banishment to the
enjoyment of your meetings, which you in your wisdom may dictate. By
the decision of last evening I cannot consider myself entitled to take
any part in any meetings of that sacred nature until such times as you
shall dictate. And as I frankly & freely confessed the thing pointed
out by the Pres't. as being wrong, namely "The opening of my mouth.
And as I know of nothing else which the counsel require me to confess,
I can but remain in my banishment until the council shall reveal they
will concerning me which I pledge myself to abide let it be what it
will.

Brethren I have freely poured out my complaints before you, and boldly
say that you are the only person to whom I have stated my grievances,
and to you I look for counsel and again pledge myself to abide the same,
... whatever else you shall require I will do it if possible.

With feelings of the most profound respect
and unlimited confidence I subscribe
myself your much injured though
patient brother.

Orson Pratt.

(Om Brigham Young papers, No. 1 1224 Box 43 Fd 23).

13 Jan Orson (Sarah Wauna Temple) eldest of Pratt's (Eut.149).
23 Jan Orson married Sarah Louise Chandler (died 12 June 1846). They
in year had no children.

14 Feb Orson Pratt's journal: "Myself & my family consisting of my
wife & three small children--the youngest a babe only of three
weeks old and three young ladies who were intending to accompany
us across the mountains bid adieu to our comfortable habitation
& started in the cold & storm for the ferry."

1 Apr Shoal Creek Emigration record lists: Orson Pratt, Sen., Sarah
Marinda Bates Pratt, Mary Ann Merrill Pratt, Sarah Louisa
Chandler Pratt, Orson Pratt, Jun., Celestia Larissa Pratt, Vanson Pratt.

24 Apr Reached Garden Grove, Iowa.
18 May Reached Mt. Pisgah, Iowa.
17 Jun Reached Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Summer- Assisted in establishing Winter Quarters.

Fall

1847 April Orson left Winter Quarters for Great Basin.
10 July Laron born in Winter Quarters (died 21 Aug 1908).
21 July Orson first Mormon to stand on present site of Salt Lake City.
28 July Vanson died at Winter Quarters.

2 Aug Orson surveyed Salt Lake City.
20 Aug Orson returned trip to Winter Quarters.

26 Aug Orson started for Great Basin.
15 Sept First plural child or Orson's--born to Adelia A. Bishop (Lucy
Adelia).
31 Oct Orson arrived at Winter Quarters.
16 Nov Discussion in Quorum of Twelve meeting at Winter Quarters.
Orson believes that quorum decisions should reflect the view of the majority. B. 
Y. replies, "I am the pres of the 12—the head of the people—I am mouth—I will say as I please."

Winter During the move from Nauvoo to Council Bluffs, the Pratts were so poor that the brethren furnished Orson with teams to move them and their little effects. During the first winter in Winter Quarters, "their best meal was frozen turnips and dry buckwheat cakes" (Contributor, 12:392).

1849 16 Apr Orson appointed to preside over all branches of Church in Europe, edit Millennial Star, succeeded Orson Spencer.

24 Apr Orson Pratt letter to Parley P. Pratt, "I have been appointed a mission to England & perhaps shall not return for many years. I have been obliged to sell my oxen cows & wagons [sic] to pay debts, get something to live on & defray the expenses of my journey to St. Louis. Mrs. Pratt & our children go with me as far as New York & perhaps to England. Mary Ann Merrill & Adelia Ann Bishop will be left in charge of Ormus Bates in Potawatamie County... How long the First Presidency will grant me the priviledge of remaining among the nations I cannot tell, but I feel as though my home is among the nations yet for many years; be this as the Lord will. I hope to see you & the rest of the 12 abroad I think their labors would be of far more consequence than at head quarters. We can cry aloud & save from the wreck of nations thousands who perhaps would otherwise perish. Shall our talents then be hid in the deep & lonely vallies of the mountains? Will not the Lord give strength & wisdom to the first Presidency to manage & control at head quarters without our immediate help? Surely he will. Let us then push the people to the mountains that we may have joy with them in a time to come."

11 May Left Winter Quarters for Liverpool (Sarah & family along).

26 July Pratts arrive in Liverpool.

30: Sept Orson/Mary Ann Merrillson Milano.

13 Oct Orson/Sarah son born at 15 Wilton St. Liverpool (died 4 Sept 1849).

1849 20 May Charity Pratt (Orson's mother) died in St. Joseph, Missouri. Her son, and Orson's brother Anson—her oldest son, died on 26 May (both of cholera).

17 July Sarah Letter to Bathsheba Smith, first letter Sarah received since leaving the Bluffs, except from her family. "We feel greatly to rejoice and be vary thankful, for the good news and the prosperity of the Saints in that place, and I sincerely hope they may be prospered both temporally and spiritually in their flocks and herds, in the cultivation of the land, that it may bring forth bountifully and in the building of a city and especially a [sic] in the rearing of a mighty temple which is to be built unto the Lord of hosts in the mountains and I should rejoice to be there and witness the the [sic] work progress, and likewise to enjoy the society of the saints of God... Their confidence is unbounded, and in many cases their confidence has been abused (and their habits not being as strict as our American women) many of the females have in times past been ruined in this country as well as in the eastern States of America, they have learned so many wonderful mysteries here, that some of the sisters come to talk with me about them and they find me so ignorant, that now and then one goes away displeased and says I do not know as much as they know before I came here you would laugh at the curiosity of some of the people and the oddity of some of their questions, we do not deem it wisdom either to deny or acknowledge many things but tell them to go to the mountains, and they can learn enough to save them if they live by it... P.S. I hope the babys are all well mine are."

4 Sept Marlon Pratt dies in Liverpool.

2 Dec Orson/Sarah daughter Marinta Althera born in Liverpool (died 24 Mar 1851).
1850
9 Mar  Orson left Liverpool for visit to his wives in Kanesville, Iowa.

4 Apr  Sarah letter to Bathsheba Smith: "Mr. Pratt left on the 9th of March for the Bluffs. I received a letter from him three days since, it was mailed at "allifax, he will return in June, or July, perhaps you may think this is a great trial for me, but I can assure you it is no more of a trial, than if he were gone on other business, for I have long since made up my mind that it is no use to fret about those who do not fret about me, and I enjoy myself as much as I can considering my poor health... I am blessed with having children but could I raise them I should feel that I was more blessed, but the Lord has suffered four of my little ones to be taken in infancy, for what reason I cannot tell. He knows. You know not how much I desire to see you and have a loud chit chat with you for there is no one that I can speak to here exce pt I see some of the American Elders and some of them are so richeous [sic] that they have come here, and instead of preaching the gospel as they were sent to do they have left nothing unsaid that they could say to make my character as black as they could. I suppose they were afraid the saints would respect me more than their own wives, such for instance as Mrs Andrews you probably will recollect that he is particularly richeous, he had the partner of his guilt with him and I suppose he was afraid I would tell that she was not his first wife, but the Lord knows I have better business to attend to than to be found traduc ing the character of my brother, or sister. I would consider that I was hindering the work of God, by so doing, and my desire is (if I can do no good in this land) to do no harm; but I have faith that I shall do much good in this land among the female portion of community, I pray for wisdom, and the spirit of the Lord to help me to teach them the things that will be best calculated to do them good, for they as well as males ask me many questions that they do not like to ask Mr. Pratt and when they find him busy they come and inquire of me, and thus I strive to make myself useful as far as I can... I did think some of going to the valley this spring but I could not get his [Orson's] consent. He says he shall not be willing for me to go until the Temple is done, unless he should be called in before."

3 May  Orson is in Kanesville.

July  Orson is back in Liverpool.

1851
Jan or Feb  Pratts left Liverpool for Kanesville.

26 Feb  Orson/Adelia Ann Bishop's daughter Zina Bishop Pratt born at Council Bluffs.

13 Mar  Orson/Mary Ann Merrill's daughter Vianna born at Council Bluffs.

24 Mar  Marinta Althera Pratt dies at sea, a few miles northwest of St. Domingo. Broht on shore and buried in Jackson Co., MO in the same grave with an "Old lady by the name of Jane Wild." (Contributor 13:1328).

July  Pratt's left Kanesville, Iowa for Deseret. Orson had engaged 13 young inexperienced men in England to drive his company to the Great Basin. The cattle were wild and many wagons tipped over and were damaged. While the company was camped on the Sweetwater, a hunter's shot stampeded the cattle and some time was consumed in getting the cattle together again. Sarah Pratt, who was preynant, went on ahead in a carriage. "She ascended a hill and was out of sight, when an Indian sprang out of ambush and, with a knife, was going to cut the horses loose as he held them by the bits. Just at this moment Ormus Bates, her brother came to her rescue and the Indian fled. She had her two children with her, Orson and Celestia." (Contributor 12:393).
1874

18 Feb Herma E. Pratt married to William F. Belding by Rev. Walsh. C.P., Jr. served as a witness.

20 Feb Orson/Marian Ross's daughter Ruby born.

3 June Orson/Margaret Graham's son Royal Pratt born.

Summer Orson appointed Church Recorder and Historian.

27 July Orson/Juliaet Phelps's daughter Neva Pratt born.

4 Oct Sarah Pratt excommunicated. Ex. Record W-o-02551R:44 for Apostacy. The S.L. Directory of this year lists her as a "widow" living in the 19th ward "Cross north side between Central and Quince." This directory also lists Arthur Pratt (agent Salt Lake Furniture Co.), Laron Pratt, and Orson Pratt, Sr. as living in the 17th ward south side North Temple between 1st and 2nd West.

5 Oct Arthur Pratt, Fanny Stenhouse & others, excommunicated for Apostacy.

1875

22 Jan Sarah Pratt testimony before the house committee on elections, in regard to the alleged polygamous relations of Delegate Cannon. These were read before the committee and published in the Salt Lake Herald of this date.

She declares in the affidavit that "I am the wife of Orson Pratt, sir. I am not living with him now. I was formerly a member of the Mormon church, and don't know that I have been cut off. I have not been a believer in the Mormon doctrines for thirty years, and am now considered an apostate, I believe."

"Was Mrs. Cannon somewhat offended at the assumption of these pretended wives? A. Yes, she was, as all first wives are."

10 Apr Orson Pratt's seniority in the Quorum rearranged.

18 Nov THIRD DISTRICT COURT: Chief Justice White's branch of the court yesterday was engaged in trying the appeal case of Sarah M. Pratt vs. Brigham Young.

26 Nov Court ruling reversing lower court decision that "Sarah M. Pratt is not the legal and rightful owner and occupant of the property therein in controversy, but that the said Brigham Young, senior, is the rightful owner and occupant thereof and entitled to a deed in fee simple thereto."


1 Dec Orson Pratt in Deseret Evening News (letter to the editor dated 29 Nov): "The public is now in possession of the decision of the federal court, in the appealed case of Sarah M. Pratt vs. Brigham Young, ... It is with extreme regret, and deep sorrow, that I witness the attempt of my wife Sarah to procure through the technicalities of the law the property which rightfully and justly belongs to another."

1876

8 July Court decision of the Supreme Court of the Territory of Utah: "It is ordered and adjudged and decreed that the findings and the judgment of the Third District Court, rendered in this cause, be, and the same are hereby approved and affirmed, and that the appellant, Brigham Young, pay the costs of this court."

1877

11 Mar Orson/Eliza Crooks's son Jared killed in snowslide at mouth of Big Cottonwood canyon.

10 May Sarah Pratt interview published in N.Y. Herald.

12 May Orson Pratt/Juliaet Phelps son Julius born.
18 July Orson went to England to transcribe Book of Mormon in Pitman Phonetick characters. Brigham Young dies before he can get started on project and he returns home.

12 Sept Orson leaves England for U.S.

27 Sept Orson returned to Salt Lake.

26 Dec Hera Ethna Pratt Belding died of puerperal fever. One of her young sons, Arthur Belding, died of whooping cough on 19 June 1878. Another son, William Belding, Jr. lived to adulthood.

1878 18 June Hera Pratt Belding's son Arthur died.

3 Sept Orson Pratt on special historical mission to the East with Joseph F. Smith.

12 Sept Orson Pratt in giving an address to Reorganized LDS group in Plano, ILL. "... referred to his own trial in regard to this matter [polygamy] in Nauvoo, and said it was because he got his information from a wicked source, from those disaffected, but as soon as he learned the truth he was satisfied." (OPJ, 493).

18 Sept Orson Pratt letter to Sarah from New York City: "As you requested me to write to you, I do so, addressing you, as formerly, under the affectionate title of wife. You once permitted me to use this title, with the utmost confidence. You once were one with me in the new and everlasting covenant. You once, professedly, believed in the sealing ordinances, according to the revelation on Marriage for eternity. You at several times, did put the hands of others into my hand, and did give them to me as wives, immediately before the marriage ceremony was pronounced. Those women I took with all confidence, and with your consent. After several years had elapsed; I proposed to you, to commence living upon principles of greater equality in regard to my attentions: this proposition you positively rejected; and you further said, that if I introduced this equality, you would never live with me again, in time, nor in eternity. This was a hard and previous trial to me; but believing in my proposition to be, not only right, but a duty, I firmly concluded to follow my convictions, though it should be at the sacrifice of life itself. I have done so, with all the faith and sincerity that I ever had in receiving any religious principle. You, doubtless, looked upon the trial as one too great for you to endure, and accordingly separated yourself from me, as far as some of the conjugal duties of a wife were concerned. My trials, though hard to endure, have been somewhat lightened, by the constant knowledge that I have done my duty to other branches of my family, and have thus fulfilled the obligations, entered into with them, under the law of the marriage covenant for eternity, which I esteem as equally sacred with all other divine laws and covenants. Under the laws of man you could, at any time have easily obtained a divorce from me, and could have been free to marry another; but you have not sought this, but have preferred to remain still my wife; and as such, I have felt it a duty to still render what little aid I could to you, consistent with circumstances. How long I shall live to contribute my mite to you is unknown to me. If I should pass away before you, I trust that your children and grandchildren will do all they can for you. . . ."

3 Oct Orson returns to Salt Lake.

3 Dec Orson returns to England to publish books.

1879 Spring Orson published Key to the Universe in Liverpool.

Summer Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants published at Liverpool.

2 Sept Orson returns to Salt Lake. His long working hours in England increased the difficulties he was having with diabetes.

2 Dec Zer-bible Suesy gies Suey Pratt a home on Commercial...
1880 Jan  Orson speaker of House of 24th Legislature.

Apr-July  Orson participated in "Jubilee"

1880 census has Sarah living with Harmel on West Temple St.

1881 Jan  Orson suffering severely from diabetes.

2 Feb  Sarah sells property on W. Temple to Christina McPomeroy ($1200) and Sarah Emeline Burns ($1300).

18 Sept  Orson delivered his last public address.

3 Oct  Orson died at Marian Ross home on 3rd North/3rd West in SLC.

1882 Feb  Arthur Pratt interviewed in Washington, D.C. was asked why he was not a Mormon. He replied: "I will tell you why. I am the son of my father's first wife, and had a mother who taught me the evils of the system." (Anti-Polygamy Standard).

3 Mar  Letter of Cornelia "addox to Thomas Gregg: "Arthur Pratt has never been a Mormon. His mother, the first wife of Apostle Orson Pratt has been my friend for many years. The wickedness which came to her knowledge in Nauvoo destroyed all her faith in Mormonism, and she brought up her children to detest the system. I think Arthur would reply to a letter of inquiry. His mother is to old and infirm to do so."

1886 13 Mar  Gov. Murray issued a proclamation appointing Arthur Pratt to be Territorial Auditor of Public Accounts, and Territorial Librarian and Recorder of Marks and Brands.

19 Mar  "Gov. Murray issued a proclamation appointing Arthur Pratt, and others, for possession of the offices assigned them by the proclamation of Gov. Murray."

21 May  Sarah Pratt interview with Wyl in Mormon Portraits.

5 Dec  B.H. Roberts, an associate editor of the Salt Lake Herald, was preparing the daily dispatches when deputy marshals, including Arthur Pratt, arrested him for "unlawful cohabitation," by six o'clock he was called on a mission to Great Britain, jumped his $2000 bail, and left for Liverpool.

1887 11 Feb  "Marshal Frank H. Dyer, assisted by Deputies John W. Greenman, Oscar C. Vandercook, Arthur Pratt, Bowman Cannon, Samuel L. Sprague, John G. Gleason, Ch. My Agramonte and W.B. Parker, detectives R.A. Franks, Smp. H. Gilson and many others made a raid on the Church buildings (Tithing Office, Historian's Office and Gordo House), searching for Prests. John Taylor and Geo. Q. Cannon and others; none of them were found."


4 Oct  Orson/Eliza Crooks' son Samuel scalded to death in hot springs in Nevada.

25 Dec  Sarah Pratt died at home of Arthur. The funeral was held at his house (105 B Street). The funeral was conducted by the Rev. J.B. Thrall. 3rd day of the "Ti.

1889 10 Oct  Albert P. Tyler, separated husband of Celestia Larissa Pratt died in "poor house."

1890 6 Jan  "The U.S. Supreme Court decided that the offices of Territorial Treasurer and Auditor of Public Accounts, held respectively by James Jack and Neph W. Clayton, should be turned over to Bolivar Roberts and Arthur Pratt, the men appointed by the governor of Utah."
"Myself & my family consisting of my wife & three small children--the youngest a babe only of three weeks old and three young ladies who were intending to accompany us across the mountains bid adieu to our comfortable habitation & started in the cold & storm for the ferry."

Sarah/Orson's marriage witnessed by Cyrus and Nelson Bates.

Celestia Larissa Pratt married Albert P. Tyler, 4 Jan 1858 in S.L.C.

Harmel Pratt married Mary Elizabeth Culin, 18 Nov 1873, S.L.C. by Orson Pratt, Sr.

Herma Ethna Pratt, married William F. Belding, 18 Feb 1874, S.L.C. by Rev. Walsh, Orson Pratt Jr., witness

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7 July 1859 "I baptized and confirmed Mary Bates, Elzina Pratt, Viana Pratt, also blessed Lerius Pratt, Eltha Pratt, Alva Pratt, and my grand daughter Marinda Althera Tyler.

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Describing Orson Pratt: "He introduced Mormonism into Scotland and passed through a great deal of privation in getting the new faith into the hard heads of the Calvinists. He was, however, successful and returned to Nauvoo, where he became almost insane over the charge which his wife made against the Prophet Smith, in which she alleged that Smith had attempted to seduce her during the absence of her missionary husband. Pratt was at first violent and enraged against the Prophet; he was consequently cut off from the Church, and took it so much to heart that he wandered in the woods like a crazy man; companies of men were sent after him, found him, brought him back to Nauvoo, and in course of time he was readmitted into the Church. He has been warmly devoted to the memory of his Prophet since his death; but whether he believed his wife or Smith no one knows. It is said that the Prophet admitted to him the attempt he made upon his wife's virtue, but that it was only done to see whether she was true to her absent husband. This Mrs. Pratt and nearly all her children are "apostates" in Salt Lake, and have given Brigham no little trouble of late years. . . . He [Pratt] is very quiet, retiring and a man of stubborn will. Brigham never liked him, for Pratt was in every particular his superior as a preacher and teacher, who was the only man among the apostles who dared to oppose the Prophet. . . . If his name was put to the Church alongside of Taylor, Pratt would doubtless be elected. He ought to have been, for he has a very large family to support and does not know how to do it."
Chronology of Sarah Pratt

5 Jun 5: Born Sarah Ninete Bates to Cyrus and Lydia Bates in Henderson, Jefferson Co., N.Y. Cyrus was the son of

Oliver and Rebecca Bates


6 July 6: Married Orion Pratt (O.P. Journal) 19 Sept 11 - Hartford, Washington

1 Aug 18: Married Sarah Buffet (daughter of Oliver and Rebecca)

12 Oct: Married to Hartford with Orion.

11 July 1837: Orion Pratt, Jr. born in Hartford (died 8 Dec 03)

12 July: Orion on mission to N.Y.


Nov: Mid-month Pratt arrived in St. Louis (Come from N.Y.)

Dec 17: Lydia born in St. Louis, MO

1839

Spring: Move to Quincy, Ill.

13 Aug: Lydia dies, buried in Montrose, Iowa. (O.P. Journal, 103)

29 Aug: Orion leaves for mission to Great Britain (O.P. Journal, 103)

3 Oct: Cyrus Bates dies at Henderson (1839)

5 Nov: Sarah Pratt (Oliver's sister) dies in Detroit, Michigan

Apr 1840: O.P. leaves to branch (O.P. Journal, 108)

Mar: Orion leaves N.Y.

Apr: Orion lands in Liverpool.

20 Apr: Orion goes to Edinburgh

Aug: J.C. Buffet arrives in N.Y.

Oct: Sarah P. lying with Sundays.

1841

Apr: Orion leaves for N.Y.

20 July: Returns to Chicago (O.P. Journal, 142)

19 July: Returns to Chicago (O.P. Journal, 143)

2 Oct: Orion leaves for Chicago (O.P. Journal, 143)

25 Dec: Orion at Christmas Supper with Church Leaders at Ham. Rindalls

Yall. Orson married Charlotte Bishop (no children — did not stay together). B. Y. Sealed for Eloise by B. Y.


June Orson leaves for N. Y.

July. Sarah married (daughter) died in Nauvoo.


Nov. Farrwell to N. Y. Saints with whom he had agreed to send to California by boat. Royce property (Contribution 12:121).

Now our lawyer must send some go hand.

Dec. Orson in Nauvoo. (T. O. P. 533)


13 Mar. Problems in Temple with P. P. P.

Beloved Brother Pratt I set down to wright a few words to you Strange things happen in the Last days and especially in Nauvoo, as a General thing all goes first rate, the Temple goes on finely it will be a Splendid edifice when completed the Brethren are very Sperited about it, doct. John Cook Bennett is turned out of the Church and report says gone to Mo to rase a mob to come to drive us from our homes:-- I guys Geneal Joab has got a hard stent on hand.

Robert Pixton sends for his wife who lives in Manchester Salford top of hope Street, her name is Elizabeth Pixton-- direct to John Britton Richerson St at the top of hope St.

the Brethren are flocking here from all parts of the Land the come by Scores all most daily. I supose their eight thousand in habetence in this City-- Lyman Johnson is here at sister Hydes well. We have not herd from T. B. Marsh so as to know any thing cirten, John Boyington is in this contry as a dentest-- Br Orson Pratt is in trubble in consequence of his wife, her feelings are so rought up that he dos not know whether his wife is wrong, or whether Josephs testimony and others are wrong and due Ly and he decided for 12 years or not; he is all but crazy about matters, you may ask what the matter is concerning Sister P.-- it is enoph, and doct. J. G. Bennett could tell all about it- he himself & hir -- --- enoph of that-- we will not let Br Orson goe away from us he is to good a man to have a woman destroy him. Sister Hyde and Children are well, I expect to Br Hyde about as soon as you get this letter, I shall be glad when he gets home for his sake and more especially, for the Devel smes his arows at themesont-- Br J. E. Page is in Pittsburgh Preaching-- Br. W----- Richards has gon to Mass for his wife-- the rest of the 12 are well. Br L-White L. Wile is in the South moing with his Broad Sword-- there is so many of our Brethren coming that has not the gift for Preaching that all of our Emarican Elders are for going in to the vineyard-- -- --
Br W. Pratt lives here they are well with regard to the Temple a good menny of the Elders have thought it would be finished by next Spring, but it is not much likely it will be finished under 2 or 3 years from this time-- as to our temporal concerns we are duing as well as we could expect this place is going very fast there is menny good houses going up this season-- Br Sidney Rigdon is Still sick and afflicted, and his famely with him, he has ben quite offish with regard to obaying revalations given to him, so has Br G Roberson. but I think all will be right with them yet -- as to my own feelings I can say I never felt better in my life then I have since I came home last summer I never enjoied my famely better, the society of my famely and frends are indeared to me:-- it is now getting som sickly here, there has ben 4 funerals attended to day; but Wm. Hunting told me the he had not had a grave to dig before for a wak (he is the Sexton) as sickley as this place is it is the helthist place in this coun- try say on the river their was more deths in springfield last winter in about five months then their has ben in Nauvoo since we came here 3 years ago. in Springfield their is about 8000 inhabetence here their is about 12000 inhabetence, it has ben very helthy for 6 or 8 months past ---

I must come to aclose my wife is sick and groining and I must wate upon hir a little -- --
you must forgive mistakes except my love your self and famely plesse tender my love to all my old frends and new one if there be enny that inquire after me

I am as ever your frend & Brother in Christ

to P. P. Pratt

and famely 36 Chapel st Lpool Brigham Young

P.S. I want you to send woman that I have described in this letter and I will Settle with you for it here on the temple or otherwise. She does not belong to the Church-- B. Y.
My concerns about the pair on the Pratt Episode:

1. John C. Bennett is given every benefit of a doubt, Joseph Smith none. This despite the fact (and the author mentions none of this) that:
   a. Bennett may have had a history of immorality in Ohio before he ever came to Nauvoo—this needs to be researched and determined whether it is fact or Mormon character defamation.
   b. Bennett was chastized by Joseph Smith two or three times for his associations with Sarah Pratt while Orson was on his mission, yet the author is either unaware of it or has chosen to ignore it. I can provide documentation for this if necessary.
   c. Bennett was highly involved with the Bigbee brothers in their sexual escapades and this is either unknown or ignored.
   d. The Masonic Lodge expelled Bennett for "gross immorality" seduction of a Master Mason's daughter and declared a base seducer of female virtue.
   e. In his vindictiveness he stimulated the anti-Masonic movement after his defection.
   f. He encouraged Missouri in their extradition attempts against Joseph Smith for the attempted assassination of Boggs.
   g. He frequented and may have been one of the proprietors of a brothel in Nauvoo.

All this is either unknown or ignored by the author, yet he expects us to accept his testimony that Joseph Smith was guilty of sexual improprieties with Sarah Pratt.

2. His sources for Sarah Pratt's retelling are mostly anti-Mormon and somewhat suspect because of their obvious bias yet he never mentions this but quickly discounts pror Mormon sources for the same reason as on page ( ). I find this revealing and disturbing, as to the Authors intentions.

3. He has some good information about the anti-Bennett affidavits—at least those he chooses to discuss—but he has left out some other relevant ones, ones which testify that Bennett was seen in compromising situations with Sarah Pratt.

4. He doesn't discuss the possibility of the fact that Pratt and Bennett lived close to each other on the hill near the Temple and that Bennett may have helped Pratt build his house. What implications does propinquity have for their relationship.

5. He dismisses the "test" theory for Joseph's supposed proposal to Sarah, yet he was known to have done this on repeated occasions and at least once to a woman of suspected virtue—Nancy Rigdon. Yet Joseph isn't even given the benefit of a doubt here, but fairness suggests at least that much.