Mary Elizabeth Rollins Lightner has descendants still living somewhere around Salt Lake. They claim that Adam Lightner was a "front husband" for Joseph's marriage to Mary. He also had children of his own by another plural wife. Mary Elizabeth is supposed to have said that Emma Smith hired a German doctor to go to the town where she lived and when her children by Joseph were ill, the doctor tried to poison them. (Could this be a misinterpretation of the account we have somewhere else that a plural wife of Josephs dreamed that Emma tried to poison her and her children and Joseph told her that Emma would dethrone Jehovah if she thought it would serve her purpose— that being, of course, to end the practice of plural marriage. LKN)

Another possible case of "front husband" is Sylvia Sessions Lyon. She was married to Windsor P. Lyon (no relation to the Lyon family that T. Edgar Lyon came from) in Missouri and then moved to Nauvoo. He had never been active in any Church activity in Nauvoo, yet in New York, Ohio, and Missouri he had been very energetic as a missionary and in local Church government. His Salt Lake descendants today said he was a business man and quite wealthy for that day. In Missouri he had loaned Thomas B. Marsh who was then president of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, $3,000.00, for which Marsh signed a note. When it fell due he refused to pay— or at least kept stalling, and Lyon entered a suit against him in a civil court, for which he was brought to trial before the High Council and excommunicated. The poor man didn't know it was not allowed to sue the president in a civil court— he should have taken it to a Church court. Apparently at Nauvoo he was angry and just refused to have a thing to do with the Church, although he operated the largest drug store in the city— still standing, with his house and carriage barn.

Sylvia gave birth to perhaps three children, all at Nauvoo, and all died when a year or two old. Three stone head stones in the old cemetery mark them. One child lived, and she hoped for a boy, but it was a girl and she was named Josepha. The descendents claim that Josepha was the daughter of Joseph Smith. They have accompanying pedigree charts to make it up but do not want the information known while they are alive. Patty Sessions, Sylvia's mother was also a plural wife of Joseph and lived with her husband David on the lot adjoining the Lyon residence.

Windsor P. Lyon was not a member of the church from about 1838 to 1846. According to the idea that "all old covenants are done away" she could have been released from being the wife of Lyon and considered he had lost her because he would not join the Church and so she married Joseph Smith. When time came for going West, Windsor decided to move to Iowa City, Iowa. Heber C. Kimball persuaded him to come back into the Church— Thomas B. Marsh had been excommunicated before this, so he returned.
Kimball hauled a portable baptismal font from the Temple to the Lyon home and on a Sunday Morning in Feb. 1846, baptised him back into the Church. The next day he received his endowments in the Temple, married a plural wife and was sealed to her, then stood proxy for Joseph Smith in the sealing of his wife, Sylvia. In Iowa City two more children died, but Josephina who was born in Feb. 1844, lived and came to Utah. Windsor P. Lyon had children from his second wife and all of them lived. Was Sylvia an RH negative victim? Lyon died in Iowa City, but his second wife married a banker and remained there and Sylvia came to Utah.

NOTE: I have no documentation for any of the above at this time. It may have a million holes in it.