

POLYGAMY IN MISSOURI

My sister Mary was married to Thomas B. Marsh, one of the first Quorum of the Twelve chosen in 1835. He was a good man, very loyal and active. When the Law of Plural Marriage was started, I became his first and only plural wife. But many other things entered in, and he became estranged and dropped out, so that he did not come West.

I was determined to come, so I left him and came out with my brother, Zadoc K. Judd, and his wife, Minerva Dart. At Winter Quarters, during the time of starvation, I met a fine man whose wife had died, leaving him with two young sons. He asked me to marry him, which I did, but he too, died before Spring. The boys and I managed to weather through, and I felt that with the outfit, I could make it to Zion....

So here I was, alone woman with a good outfit. You know about Jacob's wife, Lucinda, she was not a bad woman, she was just weak. As the time to go West came on she couldn't face it; we were all still badly undernourished. She had a way to return to her home and plenty, and she took it. I do not entirely condemn her.

You know the story from there. Someone told Jacob about me, he came to my cabin; I had the door locked and was busy reeling a hank of yarn into a ball. When he knocked, I called out that he would have to wait a while until I got my arms free so that I could lift the latch.

He had to wait a few minutes, but when he did come in, we both liked each other instantly. I gave him a chair, and he told his story. I wanted to marry him, but I thought I should be fair with him. "In justice to you, Jacob; I must tell you that I may never be able to bear you a child. I have been married to two good men and never concieved."

"You shall not only bear a child, but you shall bear children," Jacob said at once, "and like Jacob and Rachel of old, our sons shall be Joseph and Benjamin."