Quarterly Conference held March 3rd and 4th 1883
Sunday 2 PM (page 271)

Prest. Smoot then made brief explanations in regard to the progress of
the Tabernacle.

Prest. W. Woodruff then occupied the stand reading from the Doc. and Govt.
relative to the sealing ordinance. narrative followed by Prest. Jos. F. Smith who
gave a history of the coming forth of the revelation on Celestial Marriage;
and said as follows. Bro Woodruff has read a portion of a Revelation written
in 1846, known as the Revelation on Celestial Marriage which was
revealed in 1831 one thousand eight hundred and thirty one. but never written until July
12, 1843 but was not then given as a commandment to the Church, but was given for
a specific purpose and was not presented to the Church until 1852 or 3. it
was then first read to the Church in Conference assembled up to that time it
was not in force unto the whole church but only to those to whom it was given
but since 1852 it has been binding upon the whole church there were many
speculations in regard to its real meaning what was the duty of the Latter day
Saints in regard to this Revelation and what was meant by the principles here set
forth Joseph received it in 1831 but he was told by the Lord that the time was
not come to reveal it, and was forbidden to publish it save it be to a few. Joseph
did entrust this to a few soon after 1831.

Seaman E. Johnson one of the Apostles revealed this [illegible] from Joseph, we also
understand that Oliver Cowdery received it from Joseph did not know of any others
that Joseph [illegible] entrust it to. L. E. Johnson testified of this
to Orson Pratt as early as 1832 or a little later, and Brother Orson Pratt has
left his written testimony of the facts relating to this matter; Oliver Cowdery
was not so discreet in regard to this matter but in consequence of his conduct
brought reproach upon the Church bringing upon the Church the accusation of
formication and polygamy - he wrote an article to stave off the impression that
had been made which was published in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants which
has been left out of the New Edition because it was not one of the Revelations in which
times Joseph Smith was commanded to take wives, he hesitated and postponed
it, seeing the consequences and the trouble that it would bring and he shrank
from the responsibility, but he prayed to the Lord for it to pass as Jesus did,
but Jesus had to drink it to the dregs so it was with Joseph Smith, the Lord had
revealed it to him, and said now is the time for it to be practiced but it was
not until he had been told he must practice it or be destroyed that he made the
attempt - in 1841 he had 15 wives sealed to him from this time until his death
he had 12 wives sealed unto him-Emma, his wife yielded but it was not without
considerable argument that she consented and with her own hand gave to Joseph
Smith four wives in this new and everlasting covenant their names are Emily
and Eliza Partridge and Sarah and Mara Lawrence the latter two being sisters of
Henry Lawrence of Salt Lake City and I have their testimony and of the many
witnesses of the ceremony of thier marriage-not withstanding this young [illegible]
Joseph (the son of Joseph the Prophet) has published to the world that his Father
never had a plurality of wives. I do not think that Emma (Joseph Smith's wife)
ever made such an assertion and if [illegible] did she lied. Soon after the marriage
of Joseph to the four ladies mentioned Emma reported of having given them to
Joseph and told Joseph that if would not give them up, she would bring him up
before the law and become very bitter about this time under this thread and on
account of the determined manner of Emma, Joseph went to his brother Hyrum and
had a talk with him about it. Hyrum told Joseph if you will write the Revelation
I will take it and go and see Emma for I can convince her that it is true. Joseph
smiled at Hyrum saying you do not know Emma as well as I do - but Hyrum said he
still had faith that he could do as he said, and to satisfy his brother Hyrum,
Joseph caused the Revelation to be written on the 12th July 1843. Joseph with
Hyrum went into the office and Joseph commanded [illegible] Clayton to write as he [illegible]