Wednesday, 18.—Rode on horseback, accompanied by Dr. Richards and Clark Leal, to John Benbow's, and searched out the N. E. quarter of section 15, 6 N. 8 W. and contracted for the refusal of the same, at three dollars per acre; dined at Brother Benbow's, visited Brother Sayer's, &c., which, with business at the different offices, closed the day.

Joseph Smith, History of the Church, Vol. 5, p. 21

Friday, 3.—In the forenoon I rode out in the city, and sold to Brother Harmer lot 1 in block 123, and in the afternoon rode to Brother John Benbow's, on horseback, accompanied by Emma and others.

Joseph Smith, History of the Church, Vol. 6, p. 53

Wednesday, 11.—I was at home this morning. In the afternoon I went with my brother Hyrum, William Law, and our wives, to Brother John Benbow's.

Scott H. Faulring, An American Prophet's Record, p. 419


30 Sunday I rode to Br John Benbow's on the prairie 6 miles from Nauvoo & preached at his house & spent the night. This was the first time I had been to his house since my return to Nauvoo. I spent the time vary pleasantly. While there his farm looked almost like the garden of Eden. I never had seen more work done in one year on a prairie farm than on his. He had surrounded it & crossed it with heavy ditches & planted thorn hedges. His dwelling, barns, sheds, garden yards, orchards, &c were all beautifully aranged. It much resembled some of the farms of old England. It will be a pleasant retreat for a summers ride from Nauvoo. The little Neigh-bourhood now consists of five families from England all well united excepting Wm. Benbow who has denied the faith & is a family by himself. I spent the evening conversing with the Brethren. 6 miles.
What made his sins still greater was that he tried to hide them under the cloak of religion, and in such there is no such thing as repentance or remission of sins. He soon after married a very pretty young girl, and though the character she bore was not of the best, she was good enough for him. I met them both at a dinner given on the 6th of the following August [1845], at Brother John Benbow's who owned a large farm on the prairie. My parents, with about fifty persons, were present. William Smith's countenance that day plainly bespoke the bitterness that was raging within. It was said that he only married the girl for spite, at all events they were not happy, and it was only a short time before they separated. His brethren labored with him and tried to do him all the good they could, and my father spoke truly, for William Smith was always dissatisfied, otherwise the Twelve were one.
In the letter reproduced below, dated 10 June 1844, James Jones exudes confidence about the gospel and his new life. Repeatedly he reaffirms his own faith and encourages his son to believe. Four of the children who accompanied him to Nauvoo—John, age twenty-two; Herbert, age twenty; Mary, age seventeen; and Hannah, age twelve—lived with him. Another son, Peter, age twenty-four, worked away. The family lived on a ten-acre farm at the Great Mound, six miles east of Nauvoo [18] his cultivated property promised abundant crops. Among his neighbors were the John Benbow, William Benbow, and John Kay families, fellow English converts. The Benbows lived near each other and more than two miles south of the Mound, the Kays within a mile of Jones. Some time before October 1845, an ailing Jones moved in with the Kays but was under his daughters' care.
[Affidavit of John Benbow]

Territory of Utah
County of Salt Lake S.S.

Be it remembered that on this twenty-eighth day of August, A. D. 1869 personally appeared before me James Jack, a Notary Public, in and for said county, John Benbow, who was by me sworn in due form of law, and upon his oath saith that in the Spring or forepart of the Summer of 1843 at his house, four miles from Nauvoo, County, of Hancock State of Illinois, President Joseph Smith taught him and his wife, Jane Benbow, the doctrine of Celestial Marriage, or plurality of wives, Hyrum Smith being present.

And further, that Hannah Ells Smith also lived at his house Several months in 1844 after the Prophet's death.

And further, that President Smith frequently visited his wife Hannah at his house.

Subscribed and sworn to
by the said John Benbow
the day & year first written

John Benbow
James Jack, Notary Public

(Joseph F. Smith Collection, Affidavit Book 1:74, LDS archives; typed copy)
PLURAL MARRIAGE.

that hath not (or will not receive), shall be taken away that which he hath (or might have had), viz., giving me to understand that the talents represented wives and children, as the principle of enlargement throughout the great future to those who were heirs of salvation.

"If called my sister to private audience, and with fear and trembling and seedings I cannot express, committed to open the subject to her, whom, just as he had promised, the light of the Lord shone upon my understanding and my tongue was loosed, and I, at least, was convinced of the truth of what I was attempting to teach.

"My sister received my testimony, and in a short time afterwards consented to become the wife of President Smith.

"Subsequent to this I took her to the city of Nauvoo, where she was married, or sealed for time and eternity, to President Joseph Smith, by his brother Hyrum Smith, in the presence of myself and Louisa Beaman, who told me she had also been sealed or married to the Prophet Joseph. This was at the residence of my sister, the widow of Lyman R. Sherman, who also was a witness.

"After a short period, President Smith and company, viz., George Miller, Wm. Clayton, J. M. Smith, and Eliza and Emily Partridge (who were the wives of the Prophet) came to my house in Macedon, where he remained two days, lodging at my house with my sister as man and wife (and to my certain knowledge he occupied the same bed with her). This visit was on the 10th and 17th of May, 1843, returning to Nauvoo on the 18th.

"Again, on the 10th of October, the same year, President Smith made us another visit at Macedon and remained till the 21st. He was accompanied by Wm. Clayton. At this time (Oct. 20th, 1843), he sealed my first wife to me for time and all eternity.

"He also visited my mother at her residence in Macedon and taught her in my hearing the doctrine of celestial marriage, declaring that an angel appeared unto him with a drawn sword, threatening to kill him if he did not proceed to fulfill the law that had been given to him. And counseled my mother to be sealed to his uncle, Father John Smith (father of Geo. A. Smith), to which she consented, and to my certain knowledge was subsequently sealed to him by the Prophet.

"After the death of the Prophet, I told President Brigham Young what he (Joseph Smith) had said to me relative to my taking Mary Ann Hale to wife. Pres. Young said it was right and authorized Father John Smith to seal her to me, which he did on the 14th of November, 1844.

(Signed).

B. F. JOHNSON.

4APOLYTE LORNEZO SNOW'S TESTIMONY.

"The following affidavit was made before J. C. Wright, clerk of the County, Utah, Aug. 28, 1859:

"In the month of April, 1843, I returned from my European mission. A few days after my arrival at Nauvoo, when at President Joseph Smith's house, he said he wished to have some private talk with me, and requested me to walk out with him. It was toward evening, we walked a little distance and sat down on a large log that lay near the bank of the river; he there and then explained to me the doctrine of plurality of wives.

"He said that the Lord had revealed it unto him and commanded him to have women sealed to him as wives, that he foresaw the trouble that would follow and sought to turn away from the commandment, that an angel from heaven appeared before him with a drawn sword, threatening him with destruction unless he went forward and obeyed the commandment.

"He further said, that my sister Eliza R. Snow had been sealed to him as his wife for time and eternity.

"He told me that the Lord would open the way, and I should have women sealed to me as wives. This was all very strange to me, and I, thinking, asked him what he meant by this, and he told me many important things.

"I solemnly declare before God and holy angels, and as I hope to come forth in the morning of the resurrection, that the above statement is true.

(Signed) Lorenzo Snow.

"JOHN BENHOWER'S AFFIDAVIT.

"Territory of Utah,

County of Salt Lake, ss.

"Be it remembered that on this twenty-eighth day of August, A. D. 1856, personally appeared before me, James Jack, a notary public in and for said county, John Benhower, who was by me sworn in due form of law, and upon his oath said that in the spring or forepart of the summer of 1843, at his house, four miles from Nauvoo, County of Hancock, State of Illinois, President Joseph Smith taught him and his wife, Jane Benhower, the doctrine of celestial marriage, or plurality of wives, Hyrum Smith being present.

"And further, that Hannah Ellis Smith, a wife of the Prophet, boarded at his house two months during the summer of the same
 year; and the said Hannah E. Smith also lived at his house several months in 1844, after the Prophet's death. And further, that President Smith frequently visited his wife Hannah at his (J. B.'s) house.

"Subscribed and sworn to by the said John Benbow, the day and year first written. [SEAL] JAMES JACK. Notary Public.

"I might continue to multiply those statements and testimonies both of the living and the dead until your paper could not contain them, but the foregoing is sufficient to prove that Joseph Smith did teach the doctrine of plural marriage several years before his death, and not only so, but that he did also practice what he taught. Further, the fact is established that Joseph Smith received the revelation on celestial or plural marriage, and the eternity of the marriage covenant, prior to July 12th, 1843, the time when a portion of said revelation was written. • • •

"ELIZA M. PARTRIDGE'S AFFIDAVIT.
"Territory of Utah," 1853.

"Be it remembered that on the first day of July, A. D. 1869, personally appeared before me, Edward Partridge, probate judge in and for said county, Eliza M. Partridge Lyman, who was by me sworn in due form of law, and upon her oath saith, that on the 11th day of May, 1848, at the City of Nauvoo, County of Hancock, State of Illinois, she was married or sealed to Joseph Smith, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, by James Adams, a High Priest in said Church, • • • in the presence of Emma (Hale) Smith and Emily D. Partridge. [SEAL] ELIZA M. (P.) LYMAN.

"Subscribed and sworn to by the said Eliza Maria Lyman, the day and year first above written. [SEAL] EDWARD PARTRIDGE, Probate Judge.

"EMILY DOW PARTRIDGE'S TESTIMONY.
"Territory of Utah, County of Salt Lake," 1853.

"Be it remembered that on this the first day of May, A. D. 1869, personally appeared before me, Elias Smith, probate judge for said county, Emily Dow (P.) Young, who was by me sworn in due form of law, and upon her oath said, that on the 11th day of May, A. D. 1865, at the City of Nauvoo, County of Hancock, State of Illinois, she was married or sealed to Joseph Smith, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, by James Adams, a High Priest in said Church, • • • in the presence of Emma (Hale) Smith, (now Emma Bidsmon) and Eliza M. Partridge Smith, (now Eliza M. Lyman.) [SEAL] EMILY D. P. YOUNG.

"Subscribed and sworn to by the said Emily D. P. Young, the day and year first above written. [SEAL] ELIZA SMITH, Probate Judge.

(Sister Young, in her autobiography, published in the Woman's Exponent, Vol. 14, page 38, says: "The first intimation I had from Brother Joseph that there was a pure and holy order of plural marriage, was in the spring of 1842, but I was not married until 1843. I was married to him on the 11th of May, 1843, by Elder James Adams. Emma was present. She gave her free and full consent. She had always, up to this time, been very kind to me and my sister Eliza, who was also married to the Prophet Joseph with Emma's consent. Emma, about this time, gave her husband two other wives—Maria and Sarah Lawrence.")

"One more statement will suffice for the present, although, if necessary, many more sworn statements of reliable individuals could be furnished upon the subject, besides the testimonies of scores of living witnesses in absolute denial of the alleged last testimony of Sister Emma.

"LOVINA WALKER'S CERTIFICATE.

"Lovina Walker (oldest daughter of Hyrum Smith), hereby certify, that while I was living with Aunt Emma Smith, in Fulton City, Fulton County, Illinois, in the year 1866, she told me that she, Emma Smith, was present and witnessed the marrying or sealing of Eliza Partridge, Emily Partridge, Maria Lawrence and Sarah Lawrence to her husband, Joseph Smith, and that she gave her consent thereto. (Signed) LOVINA WALKER.

"We hereby witness that Lovina Walker, made and signed the above statement, on this 16th day of June, A. D. 1898, at Salt