

SIDNEY RIGDON, notorious as one of the Mormon leaders, was indicted for solemaizing marriages without license, and tried at the present term of the Court of Common Pleas of this county. The performance of the marriage ceremony by Rigdon having been proven, on the part of the prosecution, Rigdon produced a license of the Court, which had been granted to him several years ago, as a minister of the gospel of that sect usually called Campbellites, but who call themselves disciples, to continue so long as he remained a minister, in regular standing in that denomination. The prosecution then undertook to prove by parol that he had ababdoned that church, and joined the Mormons, and held principles inconsistent with his former faith. It appeared that the society of disciples kept written minutes of their proceedings, and no church record of his dismissal being offered, the Court rejected the testimony, and a nolle prosequi was entered.

(Chardon Spectator and Geauga Gazette 5 [30 Oct. 1835]:[3], Chardon, Ohio)

In the latter part of October, I received my discharge and in company with Elder H. Riggs, I started for home by way of the rivers, for we were not able to travel by land. When I arrived on the 17th day of November 1843, this was a day of rejoicing to both parents and children. We felt to thank God for his mercy in preserving our lives and bringing us together again. As soon as my health would permit, I commenced going to school, and I attended all church meetings as far as I was able.

On the 14th day of Feb. 1835 a Conference was called which lasted several days. On the 14th of the month the Quorum of Twelve Apostles was organized for the first time in this dispensation. At this Conference there was also organized the First Quorum of Seventies. I was called as one of the members of the First Quorum and was ordained to the office of Seventy on the 28th of Feb. 1835. The next season I labored on the Lord's house, and continued so to labor until the Temple was finished and dedicated.

On the 17th day of Jan. 1836 I was married, taking for my wife Nancy Miranda Gibbs, daughter of Aaron and Prudence Gibbs. She was born in Benson, Rutland County, Vermont, 27 July, 1818. She was 17 years and 6 months old at the time of our marriage. We were married in company with two other couples by Prophet Joseph Smith in Kirtland, before a concourse of people. Several hundred witnessed the ceremony. It was done to establish the precedent of public marriage by the church instead of taking out a license from the county court, and the marriage notice being published several times in the church, which custom was allowed by the laws of the State. At the time we were married, there were close to 3000 people assembled within the church and on the outside of the church.

In the spring of 1838 I went from Kirtland with my family, which then consisted of a wife and one child, which was born on the 23rd Feb. 1837 (a girl) whom we named Nancy Ermina. Also in the company was my father, Reynolds Cahoon. We travelled to Missouri. When I started on this journey, I left behind a good house of 7 rooms, well finished and furnished, a good lot and all paid for, which I had labored hard to get. I could not dispose of it so I turned the key and locked the door and left it. From that day to this I have not received anything for my property. It is now in the hands of strangers. However, we left it and went on our journey to Missouri. 1837

We travelled by land pitching our tents by the way as occasion required; It being cold weather, we would sometimes get lodgings in a house. After a long and toilsome journey, we arrived in Far West on the 5th of May. We rejoiced to find the Saints prospering and in good spirits. I remained in Far West until fall of the year. I remained in Far West until the fall of the year, laboring with my hands for the support of my family, and then I moved to Adam Ondi Ahman, Missouri where I commenced to build for myself a log house. I was compelled to stop on account of the mobbers who came upon us. This was a time of grief. The mob, who infested this beautiful region of country, were constantly creating excitement after excitement, adding rumor to rumor until we were forced to watch them by night as well by day. We were so harassed that we were not able to build houses or even spare time to procure food for our families. We lived in such peril. Our fare was poor. We could not get our corn ground. We had to punch holes in pieces of tin and grate the ears of corn on the tin to make meal for our bread. We had to live on this kind of food for six months.

*The Autobiography
of
William Farrington Cahoon*

*formerly of
Harpersfield, Ashtabula Co., Ohio*

*Now of
Salt Lake City, Utah Territory*

December 25th 1891

comp. Lila Cahoon, ca March 1999