Dear Sister Goodrich,

I came into the city last Sunday to spend the week, and learned that Elder Willard was about to start for England in a few days. I therefore took my pen to fulfill my promise to you which was to write the first opportunity. I believe I promised to keep a journal for you and let you have it every once and awhile. I commenced to do so for a few weeks after you left, and then I was taken down sick with Chills and Fever. It was not able to anything for 3 months I had been in the city. Only a few days when I was taken sick I exhausted until many years strenuous then I went out on the prairie to sister Donnov where I have stayed most of my time since, and we all enjoy tolerable health at this time. I made a visit to sister Webster three days this week to do her some service for her health has improved very much this spring while there I opened your box of letters and found them all safe and in good condition. Let them hang all day in the sun then mailed them off again for the present. The bed you left sister Phelps has borrowed and will pay it or pay for the use of it as we all thought better used then set up in a box. 

Brother Jude's health is not quite good at this time he complains of his feet and leg. I expect he will write you by this same opportunity he wrote to you in the winter and expected the letter had reached you, but he heard a few days since it had not gone by some mistake. Elder J. E. Page is living in the house with S. and S. Webster, sister J. says she is much pleased and it makes it very agreeable for her, they both seem to be much more strong in the faith than when you left, and even believe all things to the building up of the Kingdom and they have gone to Pittsburg you may think I feel much like one left alone, but I would not be in their case for all I have ever seen, but as a thousand times glad that I have lived to see this day also I want some of sorrow to be for a season I now rejoice that I was counted worthy to be called to endure the trial of my faith, which will work out for me a more exceeding weight of glory. Oh! Now often I wish I could converse with S. and S. Goodrich but that has to be dispensed with for a time and we must all prepare to stand in our lot the temple is progressing rapidly even beyond our most singular expectations the brethren seem more than ever united and determined to stand by each other under all circumstances the event of the journey just now arrived bringing William S. Smith and his family from St Louis where they have been lately a few days to recruit the health of his sick wife to has to bring her here alive and once more Brother and Sister Smith are to start for Kansas the sister Taylor tells me she had written so I expect has told you all particular about Kansas. 

Brother Smith is well and sister Dema and family I have just now seen her her little baby is a very fine child his name is David Almon. She takes much comfort with it and seems to get along as well as can be expected we can be expect that she feels attached to the church, not understanding her great sufferings that she has had to endure she appears to be disgusted with the course that J. Rigdon pursued and seems to take more interest in the completion of the temple and building up of the Fort (or Port) Hadassah.

I have said nothing about your dear boy yet. I conclude to have exhausted your patience by this time without his name I left his last Sunday this day went well him this evening and will then let sister Lembow know of this chance to write. I wish her boy Willford I will make that excuse for me not allowing his name sooner could he grow fast looks muddy and well in quite cheerful and happy and said he will not leave his Aunty to live with us or Ha he often says about you both.
and his sisters, they are quite fresh in his memory. He grows interested every week.

I hear him read lessons most days but some times he plays truant during conference

pretty in his cap, he was pleased with him but more particular with his knife, I

President. 3 Young and let him stand up so that he could see them as they spoke.

Willford much he wanted him very minutely after meeting. I took him to Brother

baby a little girl about a year old he was very anxious to take baby and candle out

it. He Benbow came after us he wanted to have baby and candle put into the

buggy, family 3 and S Hunter invited him to come again, he told Su he would bring

up to your house and S and Sister Hester told them of this chance to write and they

all well at home this morning, and how sister Woodruff you will please give my

kindest respects to Elder Y. and hope he will join with you in writing to me the

first convenient season until we meet again. Will look anxiously for your return

upon the dedication of the Temple.

With best wishes for you health and increasing happiness and the prosperity

of the cause of Zion. I remain your Sister in the Gospel.

H. S. Ellis

Brother and Sister Kolbec send their love to you and are writing to their Brother

Willon you say think I am selfish but I would not ask any one I am writing until

I had done for fear they should want to fill my letter full of their loves.

R. S. Ellis
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)
that hath not (or will not receive), shall be taken away that which he hath (or might have had).” Plaibly 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.

“I called my sister to private audience, and with fear and trembling and feelings I cannot express, commenced to open the subject to her, when, 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 Leoda 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.

“A short period, President Smith and company, viz., George Miller, Wm. Clayton, J. N. Smith, and Eliza and Emily Partridge (who were the wives of the Prophet) came again to Macedonia (Ramsus), 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 16th and 17th of May, 1843, returning to Nauvoo on the 18th.

“Again, on the 19th of October, the same year, President Smith made us another visit at Macedonia 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 Macedonia and taught her in my hearing the doctrine of celestial marriage, declaring that an angel appeared unto him with a drawn sword, threatening to slay him if he did not proceed to fulfill the law that had been given to him. And commanded 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.

“Apostle Lorenzo Snow’s Testimony.

“The following affidavit was made before J. C. Wright, clerk of Box Elder County, Utah, Aug. 28, 1863:

“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 foreknew 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 conversation was prolonged, I think, one hour or more, in which 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 Henrow’s Affidavit.

“Territory of Utah, County of Salt Lake.

“Do I remember that on this twenty-eighth day of August, A. D. 1843, personally appeared before me, James Jack, a notary public in and for said county, John Henrow, who was by me sworn in due form of law, and upon his oath said that in the spring or fall 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 Henrow, 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 M. 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.
(Signed) John Benbow.

* * * Subscribed and sworn to by the said John
Benbow, the day and year first written.

(Signed) 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 sev-
eral years before his death, and not
only so, but that he did also prac-
tice 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 writ-
ten.

* * *

Ella M. Partridge’s Affidavit.

"Territory of Utah,
County of Millard."

"Be it remembered that on the first day
of July, A. D. 1849, personally appeared be-
fore me, Edward Partridge, probate judge
in and for said county, Ella 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, 1843, 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 presence of Emma (Hale) Smith, (now Emma Biddle-
mon) and Ella M. Partridge Smith, (now
Emma M. Lyman.)

(Signed) Ella M. Partridge

* * * Subscribed and sworn to by the said
Ella M. Partridge, the day and year first
above written.

(Signed) Ella Smith,
Probate Judge.

(Sister Young, in her autobiography,
published in The Woman’s Expositor,
Vol. 14, page 38, says: “The first
intimation I had from Brother Jo-
seph that there was a pure and holy
order of plural marriage, was in the
spring of 1842, but I was not mar-
rried until 1849. 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 Ella, who was also married to
the Prophet Joseph with Emma’s
consent. Emma, about this time,
gave her husband two other wives—
Martha and Sarah Lawrence.”)

“One more statement will suffice
for the present, although, if neces-
sary, many more sworn statements of
reliable individuals could be fur-
nished upon the subject, besides the
testimonies of scores of living wit-
nesses in absolute denial of the al-
lleged ‘last testimony of Sister
Emma.’

“Lovina Walker’s Certificate.

"I love Walker (oldest daughter of Hy-
rum Smith), hereby certify, that while I
was living with Aunt Emma Smith, in Fulton
City, Fulton County, Illinois, in the year
1849, she told me that she, Emma Smith,
was present and witnessed the marrying or
sealing of Ella Partridge, Ella Partridge,
Sarah 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 15th day of June, A. D. 1869, at Salt