[Affidavit of David Fullmer et al]

Salt Lake City
Oct. 10th 1869

We hereby jointly and severally certify that on the twelfth day of August A. D. 1843 Hyrum Smith presented to the High Council in his brick Office at Nauvoo Assembled, the Revelation on Celestial Marriage, given to Joseph Smith, and written on the twelfth day of July 1843. And that the teaching of Hyrum Smith referred to in the minutes of the Council on said twelfth day of August 1843 was on the subject of said Revelation endorsing the same and injoining it on the council.

In testimony whereof we hereunto affix our names this 10th day of Oct. 1869

his
David Fullmer, Thos Grover, Aaron Johnson James X Allred

mark

Attest Jos. F. Smith
Territory of Utah
County of Salt Lake [sic; Juab] S.S.

Personally appeared before me Jacob G. Bigler Prob[a]te Judge for Juab County, Terriotry [Territory] aforesaid, David Fullmer, Thomas Grover, and Aaron Johnson who were by me sworn in due form of law, and [u]pon their oath say that the forgoing statement by them made and signed, is true.

David Fullmer, Thomas Grover, Aaron Johnson

Subscribed and sworn to by the
said David [F]ullmer, Thom[a]s Grover
and Aaron Johnson this tenth day
of October Ad. D. eighteen hundred and sixty nine.

Jacob G. Gigler [sic; Bigler]
Prob[a]te Judge.

(Joseph F. Smith Collection, Affidavit Book 2:47-48, LDS archives; typed copy)
Territory of Utah    S.S.
County of Salt Lake

Be it remembered that on this fifteenth day of June A. D. 1869 personally appeared before me [sic], James Jack, a Notary Public in and for said County, David Fullmer, who was by me Sworn in due form and upon his oath saith; that on or about the twelfth day of August A. D. 1843 while in meeting with the High Council, (he being a member thereof) in Hyrum Smith's brick office in the City of Nauvoo, county of Hancock, State of Illinois; Dunbar Wilson made enquiry in relation to the Subject of a plurality of wives as there were rumors afloat respecting it, and he was "Satisfied there was something in those rumps, and he wanted to know what it was." Upon which the said Hyrum Smith Stepped across the road to his residence and Soon returned, bringing with him a copy of the, revelation on Celestial Marriage given to Joseph Smith July twelfth A. D. 1843 and read the Same to the High Council and bore testimony to its truth. The said David Fullmer further saith that to the best of his memory and belief, the following named persons were present William Marks, Austin A. Cowles, Samuel Bent, A Cutler [in pencil] George W. Harris, Dunbar Wilson, William Huntington, Levi Jackman, Aaron Johnson, Thomas Grover, David Fullmer, James Allred, and Leonard Soby. And the said David Fullmer further saith, that Wm. Marks, Austin A. Cowles, and Leonard Soby were the only persons present who did not receive the Revelation and testimony of Hyrum Smith and that all the others did receive it from the teaching and testimony of the said Hyrum Smith. And further that the copy of Said Revelation on Celestial Marriage published in the Deseret News Extra of September fourteenth A. D. 1852 is a true copy of the Same.

Subscribed and Sworn to [signed by David Fullmer]
By the said David Fullmer the day &
year first above written James Jack
Seal Notary Public

(Joseph F. Smith Collection, Affidavit Book 1:27-28, LDS archives; typed copy)
BLOOD ATONEMENT AND THE

I had the honor to seal one woman* to Joseph under his direction. I could name ten or a dozen of his wives who are now living in this terri-
tory, so that for any man to tell me that Joseph did not teach polygamy, he is losing his time, for I know better. It is not hearsay, nor opinion
with me, for I positively know of what I speak, and I testify to the truth,
and shall be willing to meet all opponents on the subject through all
eternity.

As to the Church here having apostatized that is all a mere matter
of assertion, destitute of truth. President Young and his associates are, and
have been doing everything they can to carry out the plans and instruc-
tions of the Prophet Joseph, and an eternity will prove to the condemna-
tion and confusion of all their enemies. Any one who says to the con-
trary does not know Joseph nor the mission the Lord gave him to fulfill. * * *

Truly yours,

William Clayton.

AFFIDAVIT OF HOWARD CORAY

Territory of Utah
County of Salt Lake.{23}

As many false statements have been made in relation to the
authorship of the revelation on celestial marriage, I deem it but
justice to all lovers of truth for me to express what I know con-
cerning this very important matter.

On the 22nd day of July, A.D. 1843, Hyrum Smith, the
martyred Patriarch, came in a carriage to my house in Nauvoo;
he invited me and my wife to take a ride with him; accordingly,
as soon as we could make ourselves ready, we got into his car-
rriage and he set off in the direction of Carthage. Having gone
a short distance, he observed to us that his brother Joseph Smith,
the Prophet, had received a revelation on marriage, that was
not for the public yet, which he would rehearse to us, as he
had taken pains to commit it to memory. He then commenced
rehearsing the revelation on celestial marriage not stopping till
he had gone quite through with the matter. After which he
reviewed that part pertaining to plurality of wives, dwelling at
some length upon the same, in order that we might clearly
understand the principle. And on the same day (July 22, 1843,)
he sealed my wife, formerly Martha Jane Knowlton, to me; and
when I heard the revelation on celestial marriage read on the

*See affidavit of Lucy Walker Smith.

ORIGIN OF PLURAL MARRIAGE

stand in Salt Lake City, in 1852, I recognized it as the same as
that repeated to me by Brother Hyrum Smith. Not long after
this I was present when Brother David Fullmer and wife were
sealed by Brother Hyrum Smith, the martyred Patriarch, ac-
cording to the law of celestial marriage. And, besides the foregoing,
there was quite enough came within the compass of my observa-
tion to have fully satisfied my mind that plural marriage was
acted in the city of Nauvoo.

Howard Coray.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 18th day of June,
A.D. 1882.

[Seal.]

James Jack, Notary Public.

AFFIDAVIT OF DAVID FULLMER*

Territory of Utah
County of Salt Lake.

Be it remembered that on this fifteenth day of June, A.D.
1865, personally appeared before me, James Jack, a notary public
in and for said county, David Fullmer, who was by me sworn
in due form of law, and upon his oath saith, that on or about
the 22nd day of August, A.D. 1843, while in meeting with the
High Council [he being a member thereof] in Hyrum Smith's
brick office, in the City of Nauvoo, County of Hancock, State
of Illinois, Dunbar Wilson made inquiry in relation to the sub-
ject of plurality of wives, as there were rumors about respecting
it, and he was satisfied there was something in those rumors,
and he wanted to know what it was. Upon which Hyrum Smith
stepped across the road to his residence, and soon returned
bringing with him a copy of the revelation on celestial mar-
rriage given to Joseph Smith July 12, 1843, and read the same
to the High Council, and bore testimony to its truth. The said
David Fullmer further saith that, to the best of his memory
and belief, the following named persons were present: Wil-
liam Marks, Austin A. Cowles, Samuel Bent, George W.
Harris, Dunbar Wilson, William Huntington, Levi Jackman,

*Similar affidavits by most of the members of this High Council as
Nauvoo are also on file.
Aaron Johnson, Thomas Grover, David Fullmer, Phineas Richards, James Allred and Leonard Soby, and the said David Fullmer further saith that William Marks, Austin A. Cowles and Leonard Soby were the only persons present who did not receive the testimony of Hyrum Smith, and that all the others did receive it from the teachings and testimony of the said Hyrum Smith; and further, that the copy of said revelation on celestial marriage published in the Deseret News extra of September 14, A.D. 1852, is a true copy of the same.

Subscribed and sworn to by the said David Fullmer the day and year first above written.

[Seal.] James Jack, Notary Public.

AFFIDAVIT OF LEONARD SOBY

Be it remembered that on the 23rd day of March, in the year 1886, before, Joshua W. Roberts, notary public for the City of Beverly, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, Leonard Soby, of said city, county and state, was by me duly sworn, and upon his oath saith:

That on or about the 12th day of August, 1843, I was a resident of Nauvoo, Hancock County, State of Illinois, and being a member of the High Council of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was present at a meeting of said council at the time herein above stated; Thomas Grover, Alpheus Cutler, David Fullmer, William Huntington and others; when Elder Hyrum Smith, after certain explanations, read the revelation on celestial marriage.

I have read and examined carefully said revelation, since published in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants of said Church, and say to the best of my knowledge and belief it is the same word for word, as the revelation then read by Hyrum Smith.

The deponent says further, that the revelation did not originate with Brigham Young, as some persons have falsely stated, but was received by the Prophet Joseph Smith, and read in

*Leonard Soby was at first opposed to this revelation, and shortly after the martyrdom he left the Church. When this statement was given he was not a member of the Church.

ORIGIN OF PLURAL MARRIAGE

the High Council by his authority as a revelation to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

When read to this deponent and said High Council, I believed it was a revelation from Jesus Christ, and I believe so now.

Leonard Soby.

Subscribed and sworn to by the said Leonard Soby the day and year first above written.

Witnessed by:

James H. Hart,
Samuel Harrison.

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN W. RIGDON

State of Utah
County of Salt Lake.

John W. Rigdon, being duly sworn, says: I am the son of Sidney Rigdon, deceased. Was born at Mentor, in the State of Ohio, in the year 1830, and am now over seventy-five years of age. My father, Sidney Rigdon, joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that year, and was in 1833 ordained to be Joseph Smith’s first counselor which position he held up to the time Joseph the Prophet was killed, at Carthage jail, in 1844. That Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon moved from Kirtland, with their families, to the State of Missouri, during the winter of 1847, but Rigdon did not reach Far West, in the State of Missouri, until the last of April, 1838. That during the troubles in Missouri, in the year 1838, Joseph Smith, Hyrum Smith, his brother, Sidney Rigdon, Lyman Wight and others, whose names I do not now remember were arrested and imprisoned in Liberty jail, about forty miles from the village of Far West, in Caldwell County, Missouri, where they all remained incarcerated for several months. That while said Joseph Smith, Hyrum Smith, Sidney Rigdon, Lyman Wight and others were prisoners in said Liberty jail, as aforesaid I, with my mother, wife of Sidney Rigdon, Emma Smith, wife of said Joseph Smith, and Joseph Smith, son of Joseph and Emma Smith, went to see the said prisoners during the latter part of the winter of 1838. We all went together in the same carriage and came home.
He apostatized on the strength of that revelation.

"The High Council of Nauvoo was called together by the Prophet Joseph Smith, to know whether they would accept the revelation on celestial marriage or not.

"The Presidency of the Stake, Wm. Marks, Father Cowles and the late Apostle Charles C. Rich were there present. The following are the names of the High Council that were present, in their order, viz: Samuel Bent, William Huntington, Alpheus Cutter, Thos. Grover, Lewis D. Wilson, David Fullmer, Aaron Johnson, Newel Knight, Leonard Soby, James Alfred, Henry G. Sherwood and I, think, Samuel H. Smith.

"Brother Hyrum was called upon to read the revelation. He did so, and after the reading said, 'Now, you that believe this revelation and go forth and obey the same shall be saved; and you that reject it shall be damned.'

"We saw this prodigy verified in less than one week. Of the Presidency of the Stake, Wm. Marks and Father Cowles rejected the revelation; of the Council that were present Leonard Soby rejected it. From that time forward there was a very strong division in the High Council. Those three men greatly diminished in spirit day after day, so that there was a great difference in the line of their conduct, which was perceptible to every member that kept the faith.

"From that time forward we often received instructions from the Prophet as to what was the will of the Lord and how to proceed.

"After this the Prophet's life was constantly in danger. Being one of his life-guard, I watched his interests and safety up to the time of his death.


THOMAS GROVER."