

Other:

Letter of Joseph Smith III (son of Joseph Smith) to John Smith (son of Hyrum Smith), 21 March 1848. Both boys were 15 years old.

1848

Nauvoo Hancock Co March 21st

Cousin, You know me better than to suppose for a moment that I will or would condescend to be dictated by any person what I shall write & what I shall not write....

You expiate [sic] largely upon helpin -g to roll on the great work in the track of our father) if you mean by this I must support [crossed out word] Spiritual wifery & the other institutions which have been instituted Since their deaths (for you very well know that they never upheld such doctrines in public or practised them in private) I most assuredly shall be your most Ze intolerate adversary.

I do not now nor shall I ever countenance such iniquity so help me heaven.... You perhaps do not want to change your situation at present but time will show and the Lord judge between you and me.

Your Cousin
Joseph Smith

John Smith
Camp of Israel
Council Bluffs
Winter [Quarters]

care of Henry Phillip

(Joseph Smith III to John Smith, 21 March 1848, Vault MSS 775, Number 2, Box 2, folder1, Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah)

Letter from Joseph Smith III to John Logan Traughber, Jr., dated 13 February 1877. Copy in Joseph Smith Letter Book 1a:29-30, RLDS Archives, Independence, Missouri.

Feb 13th 7 [1877]

Mr. J. L. Traughber Jr; -

Your letter of the 6th is received, I am not offended by your plain question; I will give you a plain answer.

1st The Reorganization is not built upon the "testimony of Mrs Bidamon and her sons; that Joseph, the Martyr, never practiced or sanctioned polygamy." So far as polygamy, or spiritual wifery is concerned, the reorganization denies its correctness without reference to whether he did or did not receive a revelation concerning it; or whether he did or did not practice it. The reorganization simply declare it to be no part of primitive Mormonism. Many of the elders believe that he did receive something regarding it; others believe that he practiced it or something like it; while still others, of whom I am one, believe that he did not receive the document held in Utah to be the Revelation on Celestial Marriage; and further that he did not teach, preach nor practice poly[g]amy.

2nd I do not believe that my father "believed in, practiced privately or publicly; or taught privately or publicly, what is known in Utah as "spiritual wifery" or "Polyg[a]my."

3 I do not believe that he ever professed to be united in Marriage to any other woman than my mother, Emma

I have heard all that you refer to, and more; and am still unconvinced of the chief allegations in the matter. But, if there were all true; it simply proves to me that he did wrong, and it does not destroy my faith in Mormonism

Yours Joseph Smith

Jan. 19, 1841:

"For I design to reveal unto my church things which have been kept hid from before the foundation of the world, things that pertain to the dispensation of the fulness of times."
(D&C 124:41)

Revelation of July 12, 1843 on eternal and plural marriage:

"Wednesday July 12 Received a Revelation in the office in presence of Hyrum & Wm Clayton"
(Joseph Smith Diary)

"This A.M. I wrote a Revelation consisting of 10 pages on the order of the priesthood, showing the designs in Moses, Abraham, David and Solomon having many wives & concubines &c. After it was wrote Prests. Joseph & Hyrum presented it and read it to E[mma]. who said she did not believe a word of it and appeared very rebellious."
(William Clayton Diary) In The Revelations of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 294.

"Joseph Smith III, for example, recorded: 'Visited James Whitehead [at Alton, Illinois] had chat with him. He says that he saw the Rev about 1 foolscap paper. Clayton copied it and it was this copy that mother burned.' (Joseph Smith III Diary, 20 April 1885, RLDS Library-Archives)."
(Ibid., p. 348, fn. 10)