

A note about Andrew Jenson's article on plural marriage in the Historical Record. Wilford Woodruff wrote to Jenson concerning his list of women sealed to Joseph Smith:

"August 6th, 1887

Elder Andrew Jenson,

Dear Brother:

The attention of the Twelve has been called to your number of the "Historical Record" for July [sic], 1887, in which you published a list of the names of women who were sealed to the Prophet [sic] Joseph.

We do not question your good desires in making his name public, but we are lead to question the propriety of giving this publicity to them at the present time. And in accordance with the feelings of the Brethren, we address this letter to you upon the subject.

We do not think it a wise step to give these names to the world, at the present time, in the manner which you have done in this "Historical Record." Advantage may be taken of their publication and, in some instances, to the injury, perhaps, of families or relatives of those whose names are mentioned. There are too many persons living who are interested in these matters, and who may have reasons for not wishing any exposure of this character. We do not see that it will serve any good purpose, either, to make them public, and therefore, we suggest that if it be your intention to give more names, it would be better we think, to refrain from doing so.

With kind regards,

Your brother, W. Woodruff"

(typed copy of letter, Confidential Research File, LDS archives)