

Jan. 2, 1890

The Journal of L. John Nuttall

I arose early, and arrived at Kansas City at 8 a.m. Porter 25 cents. Took breakfast at the Railway Hotel 50 cents. I found that I could remain here most of the day and make good connections. So I bought a ticket to Independence 55 cents and went there by train. On arrival I walked up through the principal parts of the City to the Court House a fine building, now on the site of the former Court House where Bp. Partridge was beaten in the early days of the Church. From there I walked to the Temple Block which I found by enquiry. (sic) On the opposite corner of the street from the Meeting House I called on Mr. Hailey for information. He invited me into his house where I found Mrs. Halley and found they were relatives of Bro John Jacques, they are Josephites and were out at Salt Lake City last summer. I soon got into conversation as they seemed very free and kind. Afterwards Mr. Hailey went with me onto the Temple Block and explained as to its original size & how it had been encroached up by streets, blocks &c. until now it is only about or not quite half its former size. It is fenced in by a post and wire fence and planted out into grass and fruit trees. I stepped off the boundaries of the land and made a rough diagram of it, also of the location of the little Meeting House in the N. E. corner, built by the Hedrickites the present owners. The title to the property being in their [trust], Bishop Richard Hill as the Trustee. Bro. Hill as their present leader. While I was stepping off the ground Mr Hailey left me as the wind was blowing too cold for him, and being thus alone I went to the Middle of the Block and there offered up my prayers and thanksgiving for this great privilege of standing on this sacred ground, praying that it might be preserved from the hands of wicked & ungodly men until the Lord should give it to His chosen people to erect thereon a Holy Temple to His Name. My soul was filled with Joy, and a desire to live to see that day when Zion shall be triumphant.

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I found Mr. Hill at his residence. He is a Wheelwright of the firm of Hill & Humphreys. He received me very kindly and entered into conversation, asked after Pres. Woodruff, Cannon & Smith & the affairs of the Church generally, told me about the affairs of himself & people, and of the cause of their securing the titles to the Temple Block. Their leader Mr. Hedrik being inspired to do so, and his followers in their poverty had carried out his wishes, so that they now have all the deeds & titles to what is left of the Block and have [had] possession for 27 years. He showed me the files of deeds which I handled & examined some of them. \* \* \*

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I conversed with Hill for some time. He was very agreeable. He said the Josephites wanted to get the titles to the Temple Block from them, but they should not have them under any consideration. Rather than the Josephites should have the title at any price, he would rather give the titles and land for nothing to those whom they considered the most worthy. He felt very friendly to our people and hoped the day would soon come when we would be able to see eye to eye and be brethren in very deed.

March 21,  
1892

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Went with Prest. Woodruff at 10 a.m. at his request to the Templeton Hotel, where the examination of witnesses is being held, in regard to the ownership of the Temple Block at Independence, Missouri. Pres. Woodruff had been before the commissioner last week and given his testimony in Chief. And he was now there for cross examination. Mr. C. A. Hall, President of the Hedrkite Church, was in attendance in behalf of this people. And Bishop E. L. Kelly did the cross examining, they badgered Pres. Woodruff a good deal; but he got along very well. At noon recess he asked me in regard to the persistent questioning as to presenting revelations received by the Prophet Jos. Smith to the Saints, for their acceptance, &c., and wondered what they wanted. I told him they did so for the purpose of proving by him that the revelation on Celestial marriage

was not valid, because it had not been accepted by the Saints in the days of the Prophet Joseph Smith, that is, in his life time, and it was not even made public. He was more on his guard in the afternoon and gave them some strong testimony. We were there from 1:30 to 5:45 p.m. These two men are very mean and seem to delight in making light of the things of God. I was very much pleased that Prest. Woodruff got along so well under their persistent questions to make him cross himself in his evidence.

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**I learned last night that Sister John W. Woolley at Centerville is very sick. Pres. Joseph F. Smith purposed going to see her this morning. He requested me to accompany Sister Lucy Walker Kimball to the investigation at the Templeton Hotel as a witness, she having been one of the Prophet Joseph Smith's wives while he lived. I went with her at 9:45 a.m. She explained to me the manner in which the Prophet Joseph first made known to her the principle of Celestial Marriage, and their subsequent feelings before she was sealed to him, and the manner she received the testimony of its truth, and of her conviction. While at Pres. Woodruff's office, Pres. Jos. F. Smith returned from Centerville and reported that Sister Julia Ensign Woolley, wife of Bro. John W. Woolley, died this morning at 6 o'clock, and the funeral is to be on Thursday next at 2 p.m. At Br. Smith's request I telephoned to Bro. Samuel W. Woolley at Grantsville, and Pres. Abram Hatch at Heber City, and telegraphed to Bro. Hiram S. Woolley at Paris, Idaho, and E. D. Woolley at Kanab.**