

## Outline on Nauvoo Polygamy (1841-1844)

1. Introduction to ideas on marriage in Mormonism
  - Kirtland period
  - a. Fanny Alger, Miss Hill?
  - b. Others - recollections
    - W.W. Phelps, Shirliff, Mary Lightner, Aaron Lyon (Far West, MO)
  - c. rumors
  - d. other places prior to 1840 - William Clayton's dreams in England
2. Joseph Smith's 1841-42 Plural Marriages
  - a. other men who were married
  - b. check into those who performed marriages for Joseph Smith
  - c. unsuccessful attempts
3. John C. Bennett (and others) Relations with Women, 1841-42
4. Married Women and the sealing law
5. Eternal Marriage part preached openly
  - Wilford Woodruff Journal - dates for sealings
6. Spiritual Wifery and Celestial Marriage
  - [Joseph Smith's 1842-43 plural marriages]
  - [Other places besides Nauvoo - Maine, New York, Ramas, England?, where to put?]
7. Conclusion

### Appendices:

1. list of Joseph Smith and others plural wives
2. statements of some of the women? / Eliza Partridge, Statement or Temple Lot Testimony (?)
3. photos of documents (?)

### Research methods:

list each marriage, women who made statement(s) of marriage to Joseph Smith; also list of no statements by wives  
 statements of witnesses (list all witnesses)  
 as far as possible have in chronological order and include other men who married into polygamy  
 types of ceremonies and places (homes etc.)  
 tell when each person heard about plural marriage  
 fit into family kingdom  
 any patterns?  
 any type of system formulated about married life in lifetime of Joseph Smith?

Sources, LDS Archives:

1. Levi Richards Journal
2. Willard Richards Journal
3. Rhoda Richards Journal

RLDS Archives:

1. Temple Lot Case
2. other statements(?)

Other:

1. book on Eliza R. Snow - when to be published?

Comments: Though the practice of plural marriage was to be kept by silence by those participating and witnessing the marriage, accounts were written by some of those involved with its early practice in Nauvoo.

The sexual nature of marriage to more than one woman at a time is less known and only in a few cases are the historical events recounted by persons who were eyewitnesses to what occurred. From accounts of a few failures we learn how women reacted to such proposals of marriage.

Whether marriages were spiritual (or heaven) or physical (earthly relationships) needs to be looked at.

Date statements made?  
1869 1902

Statements of Wives of Joseph Smith

[Kirtland period]

[statement of men who performed marriages which united women to Joseph Smith]

Statements of Women/Wives:

1. their age at time
2. when they died
3. date of marriage
4. place of marriage, location, house etc.
5. whether marriage by civil authority is binding
6. whether marriage was recognized
7. who performed marriage, any marriage ceremony?
8. witnesses to marriage
9. self marriage?
10. how introduced to principle/teaching (how they were approached)
  - a. prayer?
  - b. revelation to marry wives?
  - c. telling he was inspired to have them as wives?
11. if women perviously married:
  - a. husband died?
  - b. separated?
  - c. divorced?
  - d. children by husband
12. eternal vs time marriages
13. when first wife sealed to husband (problem)
14. consumation of marriage sexually
  - a. prior to May 1843
  - b. after sealing to Emma
15. why marry the following:
  - a. young women
  - b. married women
  - c. mother of a wife
16. concubines vs regular wife (2nd wife?)
17. confrontation with Emma Smith (other men's wives?)
18. any Lamanite women?
19. women who rejected advancement, list
20. Nauvoo Temple Seapling after Joseph Smith's death

## Doctrine & Covenants and Illinois State Law Prohibit Polygamy

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### Polygamy Was Against the Law

Polygamy was against the law in Illinois. An Illinois state law was enacted February 12, 1833:

"Bigamy consists in the having of two wives or two husbands at one and the same time, knowing that the former husband or wife is still alive. If any person or persons within the State, being married, or who shall hereafter marry, do at any time marry any person or persons, the former husband or wife being alive, the person so offended shall, on conviction thereof, be punished by a fine, not exceeding one thousand dollars, and imprisoned in the penitentiary, not exceeding two years." (Revised Laws of Illinois, Vandalia: Greiner & Sherman, 1833, pg. 198-199).

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### Polygamy was against the Doctrine and Covenants

The first edition of the Doctrine and Covenants (1835) included a section on LDS Marriages:

"Inasmuch as this Church of Christ has been reproached with the crime of fornication and polygamy, we declare that we believe that one man should have one wife, and one woman but one husband, except in the case of death, when either is at liberty to marry again." (History of the Church, vol. 2, pg. 247, it is interesting to note that this section in the D&C was in every single edition until 1876 when the D&C first included D&C 132).

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One of the best books on the subject of Mormon polygamy is "Mormon Polygamy; A History", by Richard S. Van Wagoner, Signature Books, Salt Lake City, 1989, 2nd edition.

Another source which may be helpful is Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought, vol. 29, No. 2 "A Trajectory of Plurality: An Overview of Joseph Smith's Thirty-three Plural Wives".

Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought, vol. 27, No.1, Spring 1994 "Nauvoo Roots of Mormon Polygamy, 1841-46: A Preliminary Demographic Report" by George D. Smith. pp.1-72.

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