

the opportunity of making the like confession before the publick.<sup>26</sup>

Despite the reference to "sleeping with two females," it is not certain that sexual contact occurred (the issue seems to have been Turley's "bad example"). Nor is it clear whom "President" referred to: William Marks, forty-eight-year-old president of the Nauvoo Stake, or Joseph Smith, president of the church in whose office the council met.<sup>27</sup> (In early 1844, Turley would take as one of his first plural wives a young woman who had sailed with him to America; while his accusers would both be excommunicated, Niswanger in 1842 or 1843, Clapp in 1859.)

**Table 1. Twenty-three Cases of Alleged Sexual Misconduct  
Brought before the Nauvoo Stake High Council, 1840-44**

<u>Plaintiff vs. Defendant</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
George Miller vs. Chauncey L. Higbee	20 May 1842
George Miller vs. Catherine Warren	25 May 1842
George Miller vs. Lyman O. Littlefield	27 May 1842
George Miller vs. Darwin Chase	27/28 May 1842
George Miller vs. Joel S. Miles	27 May 1842
George Miller vs. Justus Morse	28 May 1842
Elijah Everett vs. Gustavus Hills	3/4 September 1842
William Marks vs. Enoch King and Mary Ware Eggleston	21/28 January/11 February 1843
William Marks vs. Henry Cook	21 January 1843
William Marks vs. John Thorp and Sarah Miller	21 January 1843
[William Marks vs.] John C. Annis	21 January 1843
[William Marks vs.] Thomas Prouse and Charity Thorp	21 January 1843
[William Marks vs.] William Wilsey	28 January 1843
[William Marks vs.] John Blazzard and Mrs. Pool	28 January/4 February 1843
Charles C. Rich vs. James Reed and Mary Powell	28 January 1843
[William Marks vs.] John Wells Taylor and Mary Cook	28 January 1843
Thomas Woolsey vs. Job Green	4 March 1843
Isaac Allred vs. John P. Hendrickson	1 April 1843
Israel Brown vs. Elizabeth Rowe	22 July 1843
Austin Cowles vs. George J. Adams	1/7 September 1843
Sidney Roberts vs. Quartus S. Sparks	17 or 18 November 1843
Joseph Smith vs. William Henry Harrison Sagers	25 November 1843
Lucinda Sagers vs. William Henry Harrison Sagers	13 April 1844

Of greater significance were the accusations brought a year later, in May 1842, against

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<sup>26</sup>Ibid.

<sup>27</sup>D. Michael Quinn, in The Mormon Hierarchy: Origins of Power (Salt Lake City: Signature Books in association with Smith Research Associates, 1994), 632, suggests that it was Smith who forgave Turley. On the other hand, the minutes of the next meeting of the high council refer specifically to "President William Marks" (30 March 1841).

May 20th Council met according to adjournment

The Committee appointed, on the 30th of April last to to draft a piece to be published in the Times & Seasons submitted the same to the Council.

On motion Resolved that the said piece by accepted by the Council & published in the "Times & Seasons"

Adjourned till tomorrow at 12 o'clock at this place  
Hosea Stout Clerk

[Book # 2]

Minutes of the High Council  
of the  
Church of Jesus Christ  
of

Latter Day Saints of Nauvoo  
Hancock County Illinois

From the 20th of May 1842 to the 19th February 1843

Names of the members of the High Council

William Marks, President of the Council

Austin Cowles

Charles C. Rich President's Councillers

- |   |                  |    |                       |
|---|------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1 | Sammel Bent      | 7  | Thomas Grover         |
| 2 | James Allred     | 8  | Aaron Johnson         |
| 3 | Lewis D. Wilson  | 9  | Newel Knight          |
| 4 | Alpheus Cutler   | 10 | William Huntington Sr |
| 5 | David Fulmer     | 11 | Leonard Soby          |
| 6 | George W. Harris | 12 | Henry G. Sherwood     |

May 20th 1842. Council met at the ~~Store of Joseph Smith~~ Lodge Room

Charge against Chancy L Higbee by George Miller For unchaste and unvirtuous conduct with the widow Miller and others. Plead not guilty. Two were appointed to speak on each side Viz-- (6) George W. Harris (7) Thos Grover (8) Aaron Johnson (9) Newel Knight.

The defendant Plead for an adjournment as he was not ready for trial for the want of his evidence.

The council decided that his reasons were not sufficient for an adjournment and proceeded to trial.

Three witness testified that he had seduced them and at different times been guilty of unchaste and unvirtuous conduct with them and taught the doctrine that it was right to have free intercourse with women if it was kept secret &c and also taught that Joseph Smith authorized him to practise these things &c.

On motion of President Hyrum Smith

Resolved, That he (Chancy Higbee) be expelled from the Church and the same be made publick through the medium of the "Times and Seasons."

2nd Charge against Robert D. Foster by Nathan F Knight for unchristianlike conduct in not being willing to settle with me honorably for work that my son did for him and for a ten dollar bill that he had of my son which said bill was counterfeit but he refused to give it up and my son was deprived of the privilege of taking it back and exchanging it where he got it. Pl[e]ad not guilty One were appointed to speak on each side Viz (11) Leonard Soby and (12) Joshua Smith Pro tem.

One were appointed to speak on a side Viz 5) Fulmer and 6) Harris. The matter of difficulty appeared to be in relation to the manner of organizing a branch of the Church in Chicago, and some ordinations which took place. Decided by the President that the ordinations were legal and that Elder Richardson had no right to demand their licence which was unanimously sanctioned by the Council.

The case of Elisha Hoops was next brought up on the complaint by letter from Pike Co. Ill. for getting drunk and using bad language which thing he confessed, and asked forgiveness but thought that he did not use bad language. President Marks give him some instructions which he accepted. he was continued in the Church.

Joseph Smith against Harrison Sagars.

"Nauvoo City November 21st 1843.

Brother Marks

Dear Sir I hereby prefer the following charges against Elder Harrison Sagars, namely:

1st For trying to seduce a young girl, living at his house by the name of Phebe Madison.

2nd For using my name in a blasphemous manner, by saying that I tolerated such things in which thing he is guilty of lying &c. &c.

Joseph Smith"

The defendant plead not guilty. One were appointed to speak on a side, Viz: 7) Grover and 8) Johnson.

The charge was not sustained, but it appeared that he had taught false doctrine which was corrected by President Joseph Smith, and the doctrine which was corrected by President Joseph Smith, and the defendant was continued in the church. Council adjd till Saturday the 9th of Dec. next at 2 O'clock P.M.

Hosea Stout Clerk

Dec. 9th 1843 Council met according to adjournment at the house of President Marks. Pres[id]ents William Marks and Charles C Rich Presiding

1) Bent 2) Allred 3) Wilson 4) Jacob Syffertt pro tem. 5) Fulmer 6) Harris 7) Abram O. Smoot pro tem. 8) Johnson 9) Knight 10) Hugh Herrenshaw pro tem. 11) Soby 12) Joseph M. Cole pro tem.

Albert Gregory against Charles Wandall.

1st Unchristian-like conduct towards certain colored brethren, by leaving them at Cleaveland in Ohio, after having engaged to conduct them to Nauvoo.

2nd A violation of his word in not using his endeavors to deliver their effects at Nauvoo according to promise

Two were appointed to speak on the case, to wit: (9 Knight and 10) Herrenshaw. The charges were not sustained.

Decided that he be honorably acquitted. Adjourned till Saturday the 16th at 2 O'clock P.M.

Joseph M. Cole Clerk pro

tem.

Dec 16th 1843 Council met according to adjt at the upper room of Joseph Smith Store.

There being no buisness before the Council it adjd till Saturday the 23rd at two O'clock P.M.