the opportunity of making the like confession before the public.\textsuperscript{26}

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.\textsuperscript{27} (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.)

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<td>Lucinda Sagers vs. William Henry Harrison Sagers</td>
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Table 1. Twenty-three Cases of Alleged Sexual Misconduct  
Brought before the Nauvoo Stake High Council, 1840-44

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

\textsuperscript{26}Ibid.

\textsuperscript{27}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 Councillors

1. Sammel Bent
2. James Allred
3. Lewis D. Wilson
4. Alpheus Cutler
5. David Fulmer
6. George W. Harris

7. Thomas Grover
8. Aaron Johnson
9. Newel Knight
10. William Huntington Sr
11. Leonard Soby
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[ident]s William Marks and Charles C Rich Presiding

Albert Gregory against Charles Wandelk.
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.
Isaac Higbee took the place of of William Huntington who was absent.

Lucinda Sagars against Harrison Sagars. Charge.

"To the Presidency and the Twelve.
Inasmuch as you have declared officially that you will deal with all persons who teach or have taught the abominable doctrine of spiritual wives. This is to notify you that Harrison Sagars is guilty of that said sin, which thing can be proven by credible witnesses, and if he is not chastised for it by the church the law of the land will be enforced against him.

H. Sagars left his family in December last since such time he has not provided for them in any way what ever. The cause of the innocent demand[s] action immediately and you are the ones to take the matter in hand.

Lucinda Sagars."

"Brother Harrison Sagars.
Dear Sir as this complaint has been handed over to the High Council, by the First Presidency to act upon. You are requested to appear before said Council on Saturday the 13th inst. at my house at 2 o'clock P.M. to answer the within above charges.
Nauvoo City April 10th 1844.

William Marks, President of said Council."

Defendant plead not guilty. Two were appointed to speak on a side to wit 5) D. Fulmer 7) J.G. Devine on the part of the plaintiff and 6) G. W Harris and 8) A Johnson on the part of the defendant.

Decided that as the first part of the charge had been brought before the Council before (on the 25th of Nov 1843 See Page 21) and he tried on it; that the Council had no wright to deal with him on that item. And that the Second part was not sustained and therefore that he should remain in the Church.

Adjourned till the 27th inst. at One o'clock P. M.

Hosea Stout Clerk.

April 27th 1844 High Council met according to adjournment at the residence of President Marks. No buisness. Adjourned till the 4th day of May Proximo at one o'clock P.M.

Hosea Stout Clerk.

May 4th 1844. High Council met according to adjournment in the upper room of Jos Smith’s Brick Store. Councillor Samuel Bent informed the Council that as he was going to be absent on a mission for some time that he had chosen Brother Shadrack Roundy to act in his place in the Council during his absence, which was sanctioned by the Council.

Adjourned till next Saturday the 11th inst at ** o'clock P.M.

Hosea Stout Clerk

May the 11th 1844 High Council met according to adjournment at [minutes end here]
[Unbound Nauvoo High Council Minutes]

High Council met agreeably to adjournment on the 18th day of May 1844

present Shidrick Roundy Acting President
J D Parker George W Harris
Territory of Utah

SS.

County of Salt Lake

Be it remembered that on this twenty-eighth day of August A.D. 1869 personally appeared before me, James Jack, a Notary Public in and for Said county, Nathan Tanner who was by me sworn in due form of law, and upon his oath saith, that, in the Spring of 1844 at Montroes, Lee County, Iowa, he heard President Joseph Smith, while in conversation with himself, Harrison Sagers, [blank] Daniels and others, teach the doctrine of Celestial Marriage or plurality of wives, and subsequently he heard the Prophet teach the doctrine publicly from the Stand in Nauvoo, in a manner that he perfectly understood, not only that the Prophet believed it, but that it was in force at that time. Subscribed and sworn to by the Said Nathan Tanner Nathan Tanner the day & year first written James Jack Notary Public

[Note: Also found in second record book entitled "40 Affidavits on Celestial Marriage," p. 78.]
One Cent Reward.

WHEREAS my husband, the Rt Rev. W. H. Harrison Sagers, Esq., has left my bed and board without cause or provocation, this is to notify the public not to harbor or trust him on my account, as I will pay no debts on his contracting.

More anon,

LUCINDA SAGERS,

June 7, 1844, (?f. *)

(Novus Expositor 1 [7 June 1844] : [3])
Court martial re Francis M. Higbee, 3 June 1842:

"The Charge was, that the Deft. neglected or refused to give orders for a Court of assessment on the 14th of May, & also for a Court of Appeals on the 28th of May in his Regt. after the General Parade on the 7th of May 1842, & thereby depriving the Legion of the use of the Funds which would have been assessed, & has suffered delinquents to escape Justice, all done in open violation of our Ordinance of the Court Martial of said Legion. ...

"The Deft. admitted his guilt in not giving orders as above charged agst. him. ..."

--"Capt. John H. Tippets versus Francis M. Higbee, Col.," 3 June 1842, Nauvoo Legion Papers, LDS Church Archives.
Re Wilson Law's court martial, 9 May 1844

Charge: "for unbecoming conduct as an Officer and a Gentleman"

William Miller speaking: "I heard Mr. Law say, that Mr. Smith was the most foul, corrupt, guilty of crimes of the darkest kind of any man, at any time on the Earth ..."

Aaron Johnson speaking: "Mr Law after reading the affidavit said Mr. Smith was the most base, vile and corrupt villain of any man on the Earth ..."

C. H. Wheelock speaking: "I heard Mr. Law say, on the Monday following I was at his house in company with Mr. Blakesley, he then said he knew Mr. Smith was the greatest villain, and guilty of the darkest deeds of any man on the earth - he said Mr. Smith was a whoremaster - all his religion was to carry out his points - He did not know but that he was guilty of every thing but murder - I did not ask him questions, the conversation was all abuse of Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith ..."

John Scott speaking: "I was at Mr. Laws a few days before they were cut off - he asked me several questions - he said he did not believe that ever there was a more cursed scoundrel than Joseph Smith ever hung between the heavens and the earth, he said it voluntarily ..."

--"Evidence taken at a Court Martial held on Major General Wilson Law, 9 May 1844, Nauvoo Legion Papers, LDS Church Archives."