THE WARSAW SIGNAL
AND AGRICULTURAL, LITERARY AND COMMERCIAL REGISTER.

NS No. 6. Warsaw, Illinois, March 20, 1844. No. 123.

For the Warsaw Signal.

Mr. Editor: --

In all probability, you have heard of the existence of a body in Nauvoo City, called the "High Council," whose business it is to investigate all the affairs that concern the church, to try all offenders against the laws of said church, and punish accordingly. Of course, this court is considered by the members, to use the words of Mr. Dillon, in his history of the Inquisition, the most just, correct and holy of all others. I had often heard of this court, and my curiosity was aroused to see it, and I had the fortune to have it perfectly satisfied in the following manner. Being in that city, last December, I heard considerable talk of the doctrine of *Spiritual Wives,* which doctrine, I find has been, and is now being taught to a great extent in that place, the proofs of which are daily presenting themselves, but in what *shape,* I shall leave you to determine.

Being compelled to remain in that city on account of the closing of the river, I was happy to learn that there was to be a trial of one of their Priests, *not* for teaching said doctrine, but for teaching it *too publicly.* Accordingly on the day of the trial, I repaired to the council chamber and by good luck, obtained a seat, the room being crowded to excess. It was with much difficulty that I could learn the names of all concerned, but shall endeavor to give them as correct as possible: but previous to my going farther, I will say, that before this occurrence transpired, I cared little or nothing about their creed, consequently was not carried away, as other[s] are against them, on account of their faith; and therefore I watched their proceedings strictly, but without prejudice. But it was impossible to be there long, without seeing that it was fixed and settled between Smith and the accused (the trial merely being got up for effect,) that it should all be blown over. The parties concerned, as near as I could find out, were, Joseph Smith, complainant, Harrison Sagers, defendant, and the two principal witnesses were, Lucy Sagers, wife of the said Sagers, and her sister, Miss Mason, to whom he had been teaching this doctrine for the last two years; which fact was clearly proven, and would have been satisfactory to any court but such an accursed Inquisition as this. The evidence here produced, is of too black and despicable a nature to be described; and had the accused been dealt

with according to his crime, he would have been divested of his office, as priest, and cut off from the church. As is common, however, in all cases of importance, that come before this tribunal, instead of meeting his just deserts, after a short address from the Prophet, which was more to screen himself and brother, than to chastize, the said Sagers was *discharged* by the Prophet, notwithstanding the suit was brought before the said High Council; and that body did not act officially on that subject, no vote being taken. I must say that a more ungallant speech than that of the Prophet, was never spoken in the presence of females -- in fact, so lewd and lascivious, that it was with difficulty that I could sit still and hear it. I would say more, but my time is short, and I am afraid I have occupied too much of your columns already; but if you should think this worthy of notice, I will give you a more full account at a future period, but shall now close, subscribing myself yours, &c.

A TRAVELER.

Nauvoo City November 21st 1.

Br= Marks Dear

Sir I hereby pr

the following Charges against

Harison Sagers namely

1st for trying to Seduce a you

Girl living at his house by the

of Phebe Madison

2d for using my name in a bla

=mous manner by saying that I told

such things in which thing he is

of Lying &c &c Joseph Smith

MS 155 Supplement folder 1
10 April 1842

JS Collection

MAR 1843

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 Hyrum Sagers is guilty of 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 Sagers left his family in December last since which time he has not provided for them in any way whatever The cause of the innocent demand action immediately and upon you are the ones to take the matter in hand -

Lucida Sagers

Brother Harrison Sagers 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 Councel on Saturday
the 13th instant at my house at 2, O
P.M to answer the within charges
Nauvoo Ct April 10 1844

William Marks Pres
of Sd Council

wm

wm

Jos Hadlock - says that he heard the defendant teach the doctrine of spiritual wives, and that he said he believed it to be the order of God. it was before he had his trial before this Council. that deft said his whole salvation ~~was~~ rested on having 2 certain girls to wit Amanda Bigbie and Phebe Madison and that was the way they came to part - that he was knowing to it and it was the cause of their seperation and that the deft did not provide for his family - he never heard deft say anything to any female about spiritual wives &c they seperated last fall his wife would take the things out of the house 3 days she might come back and he would go

P. Wells. testifies as Hadlock, and that he had good authority relative to spiritual wife doctrine, was said last fall between himself and the deft and Hadlock was all alike in the conversation on the doctrine he thought it was all a joke

Mrs Hadlock. says deft taught spiritual wife doctrine that it was the order of God, and practised it also taught that there would be no glory without it females taught it last fall. says that deft told his wife if she would go away three days and come back again he would go away &c and he never provided for her since. he frequently comes to see his child wanted to raise children (to raise a righteous Branch) that he must get an old woman to get young women for him. that a person must swear false about spiritual wives if need be after they come into the covenant. deft said all spiritual wives are virtuous deft and wife parted by agreement on the 8th of Dec= witness said if Joseph or Hyrum wanted her for a spirit Eternity she would do it in a minute that deft wanted her to get Phebe Madison to have him for Eternity deft said never leave his wife but if she wanted to go she was welcome to all that said deft and his mother all all was what he said

After the President had spoke different ones of the Council spoke showing the necessity of the parties laying aside all their difficulties and living together in peace. Decided that as the first part of the charge had been brought before the Council before (on the 25th of Oct 1843) and he tried on it that the Council had no right to deal with him on that item. and that the second part was not sustained and therefore that he should remain in the Church.

Trial of Harrison Sagers defendant and his wife Lucinda Sagers Plaintiff ect.

Lucinda Sagers
vs
Harrison Sagers

2

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Archives

Vol 2

I laboured hard through the day. I set my window frames in the second story in the fore part of the day 5 in Number.

23d It was a rainy morning. I felt unwell.

24th It was a cold rainy day. Could not work on the house.

25th We set three window frames in the Back Story second & laid up about 3 feet of Brick.

I was called in the evening to a Council with the Twelve. When I arived at Joseph Smith's Store I found the High Council sitting on a case of Harrison Sagers for some improper Conduct or offer towards some female.

At the close President Joseph Smith made an address upon the subject which was highly interesting & its tendency was to do away with evry evil & practice virtue & Holiness before the Lord. That the Church had not received any license from him to commit adultery fornication or any such thing but to the contrary if any man Commit adultery He Could not receive the Ceslestial kingdom of God. Even if he was saved in any kingdom it could not be the Celestial kingdom.

He said he thought the many examples that had been manifest John C Bennet & others was sufficient to show the fallacy of such a course of conduct. He condemned the principle in toto & warned those present against going into those evils, for they would shurely bring a Curse upon their heads.

After meeting Joseph Smith met the the Twelve & informed us that <u>General Fryeson</u> was in town & wished an interview with us. He had come for the purpose of getting a memorial written to congress but it was late & we had not time during the evening so we dispersed.

26th Sunday After setting my affairs in order I went to President Joseph Smith house & found Presidents Joseph Smith & Hiram Smith, with the

quorum of the Twelve in council with General Fryason before whome was read the affadvits of Hiram Smith, B Young, P. P. Pratt Lyman Wight George W. Pitkin & Sidney Rigdon & spent the day in conversing about these things.

27th I visited various parts of the town. It was a cold day. I visited Br Hammer who has just got up the comb busines. I saw some specemins of his work which was good.

* I sold Wm. Parsons one half of the lot I bought of him east of the Temple for $45 dollars. He has the stable & I the part containing the house.

28th 29 & 30 Spent the Time about the city in various kinds of business.

Dec 1st 1843 I Commenced work at my gangway doors & cleaning out my sullars. * I was sued in company with J Taylor By M Madison for a debt of about $40. The first time that I was ever sued in my life.

¶ ¶ Dec 2d 1843 Seventh Day morning I felt quite unwell yet I met with the quorum & conversed upon a variety of subjects among which were the progress of the work of God & the emegration of the Saints, the light blessings & glory that awaiteth Zion & the blessings that approach those who keep the Law of God. Truth & virtue will bring exhaltation to the soul in the security of knowledge while Bigotry & superstition will Join vice in debasing man in ignorance untill he degrades humanity & looses the objet for which he was created. /P P. Pratt Orson Hyde W Woodruff G A Smith & O Spencer all of us received our Anointing preperitory for further Blessings from 1 oclk to 6 PM./

[ ]

Dec 3d Sunday I met with the quorum & herd an address deliverd by President Joseph Smith. The fore part of the day was taken up on the appeal to

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1st item Nov. 21, 1843
JS to Br Mallis – charges against Elder Harrison Sagers
trying to seduce ... Phebe Madison

2. Lucinda Sagers

3. William Marks
date set April 10, 1844

4. Amanda Higbee and Phoke Madison – Jos Hadlock (Minutes?)
brought before Council before – 25 Nov. 1843