H. Michael Marquardt

From: <wlbagley@xmission.com>
To: "H. Michael Marquardt" <research@xmission.com>
Cc: <ba748@lafn.org>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2003 9:04 AM
Subject: Re: Charles Wandell - re: Agnes Smith

Glad to return your many favors, Mike.

Daily Corrine Reporter
Corrine, Utah
Saturday, 2 August 1871
Page 2/2-3
[Second Letter]
Argus [Charles Wandell], "History of Mormonism: The Revelation of Polygamy Invented by Joseph Smith as a Cover for Incest . . . Open Letter to Brigham Young," Daily Corrine Reporter, 2 August 1871, 2/2-3.

2/2:

Don Carlos Smith, brother to Joseph, died in Nauvoo, in 1842, leaving no male issue. After the usual period of mourning had passed away, Joseph went to Agness, his brother's widow, and stated to her that it was not right that Don Carlos' name should be lost in Israel; and that it was the duty of his next of kin to fulfill a certain office for him, in the hope that a son might be born which would bear his name. During this conversation no pretense to any new "revelation" upon the subject; but simply quoted Deut. xxv: 5, 6, in support of his position. This conversation Agnes subsequently reported to my wife; and afterward to me. Like a true and proper woman, she told Joseph she preferred doing her own choosing in the matter which so nearly concerned herself; which she afterward did by marrying a Gentile, and leaving Nauvoo.

Joseph left Agnes evidently with a large sized "flea in his ear;" but, as was his wont, went to his room and "inquired of the Lord" upon the subject, and, of course, received a revelation! This he showed to his wife, who took it, and after reading it, made a burnt offering of it then and there! Such is the history of the revelation, of which you claim yours to be a true copy. What that document was, you had no personal knowledge, as you were in England at the time. And this, Sir, is all you know, and all the Church knows about that revelation. If it commanded polygamy, or if it was intended for the particular benefit of Agness, it was a document worthy of the flames.

[Charges that Bishop Whitney's alleged copy from the original is kept in a "dark and secret resting place"]

-30-

grove or on current historians, but rather will focus on that aspect of private experience which codifies who and what we are—or think we are—today.

Since our private memories are so dysfunctional—and so focused on the secular world—it is going to be increasingly hard to construct a meaningful narrative which can grasp our diverse experiences. It will be more and more difficult to provide a unifying story. It is vital however, that we try.

Tim Rathbone

Brigham Young's Masonic Connection and Nauvoo Plural Marriages

Brigham Young's enciphered diary entry [for January 6, 1842] eluded decryption by historians from Thomas Bullock to the present decade, in spite of the fact that it strongly resembles the well-known Royal Arch Masonic cipher. Although there are several variations of the Royal Arch cipher, Brigham's version is unique. But as the key to the cipher is only officially taught in Royal Arch Chapters one wonders how, if not through ritual exposes, Brigham could have learned about it.

The cipher was finally solved on May 21, 1991 by Art deHoyos (himself a Mason), who decoded it as follows: "I was taken into the lodge. J. Smith was Agnes."

The letters W and S are interchangeable, and deHoyos suggests that the word "was" which can also be read "saw" might be an acronym for "Wedded And Sealed," "Sealed And Wedded" "Washed, Anointed, Sealed" or something similar.

Indeed, D&C 132:41 refers to "the holy anointing" in reference to plural marriage. deHoyos's research notes identify "Agness" as Agnes Smith, the Widow of Don Carlos Smith, whom, John C. Bennett stated was married to Joseph by Brigham.

I am inclined to accept not only the decryption and acronym, but suggest the whole might be expanded to read: "I, Brigham Young, was taken into the lodge room, where Joseph Smith was wedded and sealed to Agnes Coolbrith Smith."

Joseph Smith's history records the following on this day: "Truly this is a day of days . . . in which the God of heaven has begun to restore the ancient order of His kingdom." . . . This sealing to Agnes is the conceivable explanation for this otherwise cryptic entry.

This is the first contemporary record of a sealing for time and the first proxy sealing of this dispensation. This is Joseph's sixth marriage, the first of many to take place in the Lodge Room with Brigham Young officiating as the sealer. This sealing takes place six months after the death of Don Carlos Smith.

On his deathbed Don Carlos asked Joseph to marry Agnes. Agnes was the first widow Joseph married. Since Agnes was the widow of Joseph's brother, this would be a strict Old Testament, Levirate marriage in harmony with the scripture found in Matthew 22:24. If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. Brigham Young sealed Agnes to Joseph Smith for time; after which Joseph Smith stood as proxy for his dead brother Don Carlos Smith when Brigham Young sealed Agnes to Don Carlos for eternity.

The sealing was a foreshadowing of what would occur five months later in the same room. When Joseph Smith would introduce the endowment.

This entry sets the pattern for (1) the sealings of husband and wives; and (2) the concealing of sealings and plural marriages in a cipher or code. William Clayton, Willard Richards, Erastus Snow, Wilford Woodruff and others occasionally encrypted their entries in some form of Taylor shorthand.

Book Notices

Doug Cahoon

Building Zion: The Latter-day Saints in Europe. Bruce A. Van Orden. Deseret Book, 1996. 345 pp., $19.95.

California Saints: A 150-Year Legacy In The Golden State. Richard O. Cowan and William E. Homer. Religious Studies Center, BYU, 1996. 452 pp., $15.95.

Images of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Davis Bitton. Aspen Books, 1996. 198 pp., $11.95.

Jacob Hamblin: His Life in His Own Words. Forward by Richard Lloyd Dewey. Paramount Books with Stratford Press, 1995. 127 pp. $10.95.

Lost Legacy: The Mormon Office of Presiding Patriarch. Irene M. Bates and E. Gary Smith. University of Illinois Press, 1996. 258 pp., $32.50.

Material Christianity: Religion and Popular Culture in America. Colleen McDannell. Yale University Press, 1996. 312 pp., $35.00.

The Mormon Trail: Yesterday and Today. William E. Hill. Utah State University Press, 1996. 216 pp., $19.95.

Prophetic Destiny: The Saints in the Rocky Mountains. Paul Thomas Smith. Covenant Communications, Inc., 1996. 90 pp., $12.95.

Quest For the Gold Plates: Thomas Stuart Ferguson's Archaeological Search for the Book of Mormon. Stan Larson. Freethinker Press with Smith Research Associates, 1996. 305 pp., $24.95.

Utah's "Dixie" Birthplace: Washington City, Utah. Compiled by Harold P. & Priscilla J. Cahoon. Washington City Historical Society / CFP Books, 1996. 282 pp.

View of the Hebrews: 1825 2nd Edition. Ethan Smith text, edited with introduction by Charles D. Tate, Jr. Religious Studies Center, BYU, 1996. 230 pp., $19.95.

Willard Richards Diary:

January 17, 1842
"17 Dined at Sister Agness ~~[illegible]~~ with Joseph
& Sister Harris"

Agnes Smith married to Joseph Smith,
ceremony performed by Brigham Young

check Temple Lot Case - about Agnes Smith? - Mary Ann Sheffield West

I was taken into the Lodge

J Smith saw Agnes

Jan. 6, 1842

See John C. Bennett - Order Lodge

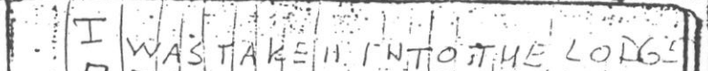
He
I
time

He

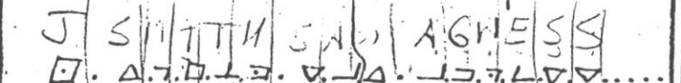
4 Mo. March 15+16 1842

Maj 5th - Duc End In G.

I was taken into the Lords



Sunday 6th 1842



Sunday 6th 1842

Brigham Young Journal

Sunday 18th 1842

This Evening I am with my wife & one by my fire side for the first time for 8 years we enjoy it and feele to praise the Lord

I preach'd in the forenoon and baptized 5 persons and confirmed them and blessed them and in the afternoon I preached from Romans 9 Ch

Romans 9 Ch

Agnes M. Smith (Don Carlos Smith's widow & family)
lived in "~~the~~ two front rooms" of
Aaron Johnson's brick house - next to original
Times & Seasons office.
(The Relief 2:346)

Feb. 1842

Tim
called

Don Carlos Smith died 7 Aug. 1841

from Book of the Law of the Lord

Our assortment is tolerably good—very good, considering the different purchases made by different individuals at different times, and under circumstances which controlled their choice to some extent; but I rejoice that we have been enabled to do as well as we have, for the hearts of many of the poor brethren and sisters will be made glad with those comforts which are now within their reach.

The store has been filled to overflowing, and I have stood behind the counter all day, dealing out goods as steady as any clerk you ever saw, to oblige those who were compelled to go without their usual Christmas and New Year's dinners, for the want of a little sugar, molasses, raisins, &c., &c; and to please myself also, for I love to wait upon the Saints, and be a servant to all, hoping that I may be exalted in the due time of the Lord.

With sentiments of high consideration, I remain your brother in Christ.

JOSEPH SMITH.

Thursday, 6.—The new year has been ushered in and continued thus far under the most favorable auspices, and the Saints seem to be influenced by a kind and indulgent Providence in their dispositions and [blessed with] means to rear the Temple of the Most High God, anxiously looking forth to the completion thereof as an event of the greatest importance to the Church and the world, making the Saints in Zion to rejoice, and the hypocrite and sinner to tremble. Truly this is a day long to be remembered by the Saints of the last days,—a day in which the God of heaven has begun to restore the ancient order of His kingdom unto His servants and His people,—a day in which all things are concurring to bring about the completion of the fullness of the Gospel, a fullness of the dispensation of dispensations, even the fullness of times; a day in which God has begun to make manifest and set in order in His Church those things which have been, and those things which the ancient prophets and wise men desired to see but died without beholding them; a day in which those things begin to be made manifest, which have been hid from before the foundation of the world, and which Jehovah has promised should be made known in His own due time unto His servants, to prepare the earth for the return of His glory, even a celestial glory, and a kingdom of Priests and kings to God and the Lamb, forever, on Mount Zion, and with him the hundred and forty and four thousand whom John the Revelator saw, all of which is to come to pass in the restitution of all things.

Rejoicing of the Prophet.

Conference held at Zarahemla, at which that stake was discontinued; a branch was organized in place thereof, and John Smith appointed president.

Wednesday, 12.—The ship *Tremont* sailed from Liverpool for New Orleans with the Saints, about this time.

The following notice was published in the *Times and Seasons:*

Tithings and Consecrations for the Temple of the Lord.

From this time the Recorder's Office will be opened on the Saturday of each week for the reception of the tithings and consecrations of the brethren, and closed on every other day of the week. This regulation is necessary, to give the Trustee and Recorder time to arrange the Book of Mormon, translation of the Bible, Hymn Book, and Doctrine and Covenants for the press, all of which the brethren are anxious to see in their most perfect form, consequently the Saints should be particular to bring their offerings on the day specified, until further notice, but not relax their exertions to carry on the work.

The Elders will please give the above notice in all public meetings, until the plan is understood.

WILLARD RICHARDS,
Recorder for the Temple.

NAUVOO, Jannary 12, 1842.

I rode south about seven miles to my wood land, accompanied by Brother John Sanders and Peter Maughan,*

* Peter Maughan was born May 7, 1811, at Breckenridge, in the parish of Parley, county of Cumberland, England. He married Miss Ruth Harrison in 1829. He was baptized into the Church by Elder Isaac Russell in 1838, and emigrated to Nauvoo with his family of six children, now motherless, his wife having died in 1841. He came on ths ship *Rochester,* in company with Brigham Young and several other members of the quorum of the Twelve on their return home. He was a man of keen intelligence and commanding personal influence.