3 separate affidavits from Leonard Soby
(Daniel Bachman)
BLOOD ATONEMENT AND THE

Aaron Johnson, Thomas Grover, David Fullmer, Phineas Richards, James Allred and Leonard Soby. And the said David Fullmer further saith that William Marks, Austin A. Cowles and Leonard Soby were the only persons present who did not receive the testimony of Hyrum Smith, and that all the others did receive it from the teachings and testimony of the said Hyrum Smith; and further, that the copy of said revelation on celestial marriage published in the Deseret News extra of September 14, A.D. 1852, is a true copy of the same.

David Fullmer.

Subscribed and sworn to by the said David Fullmer the day and year first above written.

[Seal.]

James Jack, Notary Public.

AFFIDAVIT OF LEONARD SOBY

Be it remembered that on the 23rd day of March, in the year 1886, before, Joshua W. Roberts, notary public for the City of Beverly, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, Leonard Soby, of said city, county and state, was by me duly sworn, and upon his oath saith.

That on or about the 11th day of August, 1833, I was a resident of Nauvoo, Hancock County, State of Illinois, and being a member of the High Council of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was present at a meeting of said council at the time herein above stated; Thomas Grover, Alpheus Culler, David Fullmer, William Huntington and others; when Elder Hyrum Smith, after certain explanations, read the revelation on celestial marriage.

I have read and examined carefully said revelation, since published in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants of said Church, and say to the best of my knowledge and belief it is the same, word for word, as the revelation then read by Hyrum Smith.

The deponent says further, that the revelation did not originate with Brigham Young, as some persons have falsely stated, but was received by the Prophet Joseph Smith, and read in

*Leonard Soby was at first opposed to this revelation, and shortly after the martyrdom he left the Church. When this statement was given he was not a member of the Church.

ORIGIN OF PLURAL MARRIAGE

the High Council by his authority as a revelation to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

When read to this deponent and said High Council, I believed it was a revelation from Jesus Christ, and I believe so now. Leonard Soby.

Subscribed and sworn to by the said Leonard Soby the day and year first above written.

Witnessed by:

James H. Hart,
Samuel Harrison.

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN W. RIGDON

State of Utah
County of Salt Lake)

John W. Rigdon, being duly sworn, says: I am the son of Sidney Rigdon, deceased. Was born at Mentor, in the State of Ohio, in the year 1820, and am now over seventy-five years of age. My father, Sidney Rigdon, joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that year, and was in 1833 ordained to be Joseph Smith's first counselor which position he held up to the time Joseph the Prophet was killed, at Carthage jail, in 1844. That Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon moved from Kirtland, with their families, to the State of Missouri, during the winter of 1837, but Rigdon did not reach Far West, in the State of Missouri, until the last of April, 1838. That during the troubles in Missouri, in the year 1838, Joseph Smith, Hyrum Smith, his brother, Sidney Rigdon, Lyman Wight and others, whose names I do not now remember were arrested and imprisoned in Liberty jail, about forty miles from the village of Far West, in Caldwell County, Missouri, where they all remained incarcerated for several months. That while said Joseph Smith Hyrum Smith, Sidney Rigdon, Lyman Wight and others were prisoners in said Liberty jail, as aforesaid I, with my mother, wife of Sidney Rigdon, Emma Smith, wife of said Joseph Smith, and Joseph Smith, son of Joseph and Emma Smith, went to see the said prisoners during the latter part of the winter of 1838. We all went together in the same carriage and came home.
He apostatized on the strength of that revelation.

"The High Council of Nauvoo was called together by the Prophet Joseph Smith, to know whether they would accept the revelation on celestial marriage or not.

"The Presidency of the Stake, Wm. Marks, Father Cowles and the late Apostle Charles L. Rich were there present. The following are the names of the High Council that were present, in their order, viz: Samuel Bent, William Huntington, Alpheus Cutler, Thos. Grover, Lewis D. Wilson, David Fullmer, Aaron Johnson, Newel Knight, Leonard Soby, James Alfred, Henry G. Sherwood and, I think, Samuel H. Smith.

"Brother Hyrum was called upon to read the revelation. He did so, and after the reading said, 'Now, you that believe this revelation and go forth and obey the same shall be saved, and you that reject it shall be damned.'

"We saw this prediction verified in less than one week. Of the Presidency of the Stake, Wm. Marks and Father Cowles rejected the revelation; of the Council that were present Leonard Soby rejected it. From that time forward there was a very strong division in the High Council. Those men greatly diminished in spirit day after day, so that there was a great difference in the line of their conduct, which was perceivable to every member that kept the faith.

"From that time forward we often received instructions from the Prophet as to what was the will of the Lord and how to proceed.

"After this the Prophet's life was constantly in danger. Being one of his bodyguard, I watched his interests and safety up to the time of his death.


"THOMAS GROVER."

"DAVID FULLMER'S TESTIMONY.

"Territory" of Utah. County of Salt Lake.

"Be it remembered that on this fifteenth day of June, A. D. 1845, personally appeared before me, James Jack, a notary public in and for said county, David Fullmer, who was by me sworn to due form of law, and upon his oath saith, that on or about the twelfth day of Aug., A. D. 1843, while in meeting with the High Council as being a member thereof, in Hyrum Smith's brick office, in the city of Nauvoo, County of Hancock, State of Illinois, Danube Wilson read the revelation on celestial marriage, given to Joseph Smith, July 22th, A. D. 1843, and read the same to the High Council, and bore testimony to its truth. The said David Fullmer further saith that, to the best of his memory and belief, the following named persons were present: Wm. Marks, Austin A. Cowles, Samuel Bent, Geo. W. Harris, Danube Wilson, Wm. Huntington, Levi Jackson, Aaron Johnson, Thos. Grover, David Fullmer, Philocharis Richards, James Alfred and Leonard Soby. And the said David Fullmer further saith that Wm. Marks, Austin A. Cowles and Leonard Soby were the only persons present who did not receive the testimony of Hyrum Smith, and that all the others did receive it from the teaching and following of the said Hyrum Smith. And further, that the copy of said revelation on celestial marriage, published in the Deseret News extra of September 16th, A. D. 1845, is a true copy of the same.

(Signed) DAVID FULLMER.

"Subscribed and sworn to by the said David Fullmer the day and year first above written.

[SEAL] JAMES JACK.
Notary Public."

"LEONARD SOBY'S TESTIMONY.

The following was published in the Ogden Herald in January, 1846:

"Our readers will remember, that in the correspondence which passed between Elder Littlefield and Joseph Smith, jun., of the reorganized church, some time since, Mr. Smith challenged Elder Littlefield to give the names of parties who were present and heard the revelation on celestial marriage.
read before the High Council at Nauvoo.

Among the names given by Elder Littlefield was that of Leonard Soyby. The prophet of the reorganized church knew where Mr. Soyby resided, and instructed a member of his church in high standing to draw up an affidavit, stating that Mr. Soyby was not present at such meeting, and never heard the revelation read.

"The affidavit was drawn up under the instructions of Joseph Smith, jun., and Mr. Gurley, who was something of a lawyer, and called on Mr. Soyby at his home in Beverly, New Jersey, and requested him to sign it. The affidavit stated that Mr. Soyby was present at the High Council meeting referred to, but did not hear the revelation read. When Mr. Gurley requested Mr. Soyby to sign the document, Soyby objected, saying he was present at the meeting, and did hear the revelation read, and could not sign an affidavit to the contrary. This undoubtedly dissuaded his interlocutor, and Mr. Soyby added, "If you will draw up an affidavit setting forth that I was there and did hear the revelation read, I will sign it for you." Mr. Gurley, however, did not want that kind of testimony, and retired rather crestfallen, but wiser, and has since apostatized from the reorganized church.

"Mr. Soyby, quite recently, had business in the State of Pennsylvanias, and while there related the occurrence to a gentleman named Samuel Harrison.

"Leonard Soyby is about the only person now living who was present at the High Council meeting at which the revelation on celestial marriage was read. His home is at Beverly, New Jersey."

We annex the following extracts from a communication written to the "Deseret News" by James S. Brooks, of San Bernardino, Cal., and dated March 26, 1886.

"I saw an account in January last, in the Ogden Herald, where Mr. Leonard Soyby, of New Jersey, is made to testify that he was present at the High Council in Nauvoo, and that he heard the revelation on celestial marriage there read; also that an affidavit had been represented to him by Mr. Gurley, dictated by Mr. Joseph Smith, the leader of the Josephite faction, which he, Mr. Soyby, was requested to sign, stating that he was not present at that council, and did not hear the revelation read, which he refused to do, but offered to sign one to the contrary. Knowing that to be one of the props upon which the Josephites build their excuse for rejecting the revelation, I showed this article to one of their members in this place. He said: "Mr. Gurley will say anything now that he has left our church."

"I saw immediately that they were no more ready to accept that evidence than any other; indeed they do not want the truth; it is not facts that they are seeking after. In order to do away with that quibble I wrote to Mr. Soyby myself, informing him of the statement of the interview between himself and Mr. Gurley, as published in the Ogden Herald, asking him if it was correct, and below a copy of the letter I sent him. It is well to have such evidence on record, as Mr. Soyby is now the only living witness that was present at the council, as I see by the "Deseret News" that Mr. Thomas Grover died last month, he too having left his testimony as to being present and hearing it read.

"LEONARD SOBY'S LETTER.


"James S. Brooks:

"Dear Sir—Yours of 12th at hand, and would state the facts given in the Herald in regard to myself and Mr. Gurley are true. I was present at the High Council in Nauvoo when that revelation was read, and know it to be true, and I hope the Lord will bless you to see the truth as I do.

"Respectfully, your humble servant,

"Leonard Soyby, (wili-o-o)."

HOWARD COUNTRY'S TESTIMONY.

"Territory of Utah, County of Salt Lake."

"As many false statements have been made in relation to the authorship of the revelation on celestial marriage, I deem it just and equitable to all lovers of truth for me to express what I know concerning this important matter.

"On the 22nd day of July, A. D. 1847, Hyrum Smith, the martyred Patriarch, came in a carriage to my home in Nauvoo. He invited me and my wife to take a ride with him; accordingly, as soon as we could make ourselves ready, we got into the carriage and he set off in the direction of Carthage. Having gone a short distance, he observed to us that his brother, Joseph Smith, the Prophet, had received a revelation on marriage, that was not for the public yet, which he would rehearse to us, as he had taken pains to commit it to memory. He then commenced rehearsing the revelation on celestial marriage, not stopping till he had gone quite through with the matter. After which he reviewed that part pertaining to plurality of wives, dwelling at some length