

A History of Plural Marriage
in the Mormon Church

by
John E. Thompson

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NOTE: I lost the original of these
three pages so here is the rough
draft -

CHAPTER TWO

JOSEPH SMITH AND PLURAL MARRIAGE:
A HISTORY OF DECEPTION

¶ Andrew Jensen, at the time Assistant Church Historian of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, stated listed the names of twenty-seven women who had been married to Joseph Smith. // Historical Record, pp. 233-4. // Other estimates have been less conservative. John J. Stewart ^{claims} estimates that ^{the Prophet married between} there were three or four dozen ^{alone between} from April 1841 of 1841 ^{and his} until Smith's death in 1844. // Stewart, John J., Brigham Young and His Wives (Salt Lake City: Mercury Publishing Co, 1961), p. 31. // Fawn M. Brodie listed forty-nine women who, ~~in all probability,~~ had been sealed to Joseph Smith during his lifetime. // Brodie, Fawn M., No Man Knows My History (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1945), pp. 335-6. // ~~What appears to have been the most reliable list was that of Stanley S. Ivins who felt that~~ ^{And,} ~~Joseph Smith had wanted~~ ^{there were about} ~~least 84 women, who may have been married to Joseph Smith~~ ^{not counting others who were sealed to him after his demise,} in his own lifetime. // Cited in Tanner, Jerald and Sandra, Mormonism--Shadow or Reality, (Enlarged edition Salt Lake City: Modern Microfilm Co., 1972), p. 211. // In view of this evidence, it is impossible to ~~state, as some Latter-day Saints are fond of doing,~~ ^{not claim} that plural marriage, ~~was~~ ^{though} revealed to Joseph Smith, ~~but not~~ ^{was never} practiced by him. ~~(as Samuel W. Taylor accuses some of calling plural marriage the invention of a rather lusty Brigham Young).~~

Fill this note out!
Tanner,
Stewart,
etc.

cf. p42
Campbell

¶ As a matter of fact, there is considerable evidence to the effect that Smith ^{took plural} ~~married~~ wives before the revelation of ~~allowing~~ plural marriage was ^{even written down,} ~~made public.~~ The revelation,

(printed in modern editions of the Doctrine and Covenants) in Utah as Section 132) was written down on July 12, 1843.

For instance, sources agree there is no doubt that Joseph Smith married Louisa Beaman

on April 5, 1841. ^{#cf Stewart, Brigham, p. Brodie, p. 335} ~~as a plural wife.~~ Fawn Brodie. In addition,

lists at least five other plural wives before that time, beginning with Fannie Alger. ^{when} Joseph took ^{her} as his wife in Kirtland, Ohio in 1836. Brodie, p. 335 ^{with regard to this affair,} John Whitmer wrote

records that Joseph Smith, Jr., "in the fall of 1836, ^{Joseph Smith, Jr., S. Rigdon and other leaders of the Church at Kirtland, Ohio,"} at the time of the Kirtland Safety Society Episode, \rightarrow "lusted after the forbidden things of God, such as covetousness,

and in secret combinations, spiritual-wife doctrine, that is plurality of wives." John Whitmer, History ^{(Salt Lake City, Modern Microfilm, n.d.)/ p. 21.} In

view of the fact that John Whitmer was ^{chosen by revelation // D+C, Sec 47 //} ~~at that time, by~~ to be the Church Historian during this period, ~~revelation, God's chosen historian,~~ this is a highly

significant statement. ~~(see Doctrine and Covenants Sec. 47)~~

And, ^{one of the three witnesses to the Book of Mormon,} Oliver Cowdery referred to Smith's marriage to Fannie as

"a dirty, nasty, filthy affair" Tanner, J & S, Mormonism ~~1842~~ ^{p. 2}

~~Kingdon, Vol. 1, p. 27~~ ^{Salt Lake City, Modern Microfilm, 1972, p. 122} ~~Benjamin~~

F. Johnson, church Patriarch, states that Cowdery's fall from grace began ~~during this period~~ when he ^{discovered} ~~found~~ Joseph and Fannie together ^{in a compromising manner.} Tanner, J & S, Mormonism, p. 204.

But now, there is evidence that plural marriage goes back even further than Fannie Alger, ^{Smith's children with} ~~and Joseph Smith~~

Kenneth W. Godfrey, ^{writing in Dialogue, said he believes} ~~stated that on the authority of President Joseph F. Smith, W. W. Phelps and Apostle Orson Pratt, he~~

~~believes~~ there is evidence to show that "Joseph Smith seriously considered plural marriage as a part of the restitution of all things ~~as~~ as early as 1831." Kenneth W. Godfrey, "The