In 1874, Blair again met and talked to James Whitehead, To make the diary passage clearer then the few letters intended for wordsin Blair's diary we have included brackets for those words in the following portion of the diary entry of 17 June 1874:

[Whithead] Says J[oseph] did te[ach]- p[olygamy]- and pr[actice] too. That E[mma]- knows it too that she put h[a]nd of Wives in Jos[eph] ha[n]d W[hitehead]. Says Alex H Smith asked him when sleeping with him at his house in Atlon [14 May 1864], if J[oseph]- did p[ractice] & tea[ch]. p[olygamy], and he, W[hitehead]. told him he did. W[hitehead]- Says Wm Marks and Hyrum by command of God ordained Joseph King & priest [Whitehead] Says D[avi]d [Smith] will yet be a Prince so it was predicted by J[oseph]. S[mith].[1]

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[1] William W. Blair Diary, original in Library-Archives, Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Independence, Missouri, call no. J14. Part of diary entry of 17 June 1874 in Linda King Newell and Valeen Tippetts Avery, Mormon Enigma: Emma Hale Smith (Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Company, 1984), 300.

# Succession

In 1864 James Whitehead was interviewed by Alexander Hale Smith (son of Joseph Smith, born 2 June 1838). The following is from Alex Smith's diary for 14 May 1864:

> May Saturday the 14th ... then went to see Old Bro Whitehead stayed all night with him he gave me some useful information told me some things that I did not know and can not understand [other unrelated items; then one page torn out of diary] Bishop Whitney held the horn and pored the oil John Taylor Wilard Richards, Alpheus Cutler W. W. Phelps Dr Bernheisel, R Cahoon Word of my Father Bretheren I am no longer your Prophet This is your prophet (Laying his hand on his son Josephs head) I am going to rest[1]

The next year, 1865, William W. Blair visited Emma Smith Bidamon (widow of Joseph Smith) and also Alexander Smith. He recorded for 17 May 1865, "Wednesday 17 Sister Bidamon and Alex gave us that, found on the opposite page." B;air's diary on that opposite page recorded:

> Sister E. Bidamon Said in Spring of 1844 G. J Adams rejoiced that the the matter was now Settled - they now knew that who Josephs Successor would, - it was little Joseph - he had just seen him ordained Bro Whitehead told Alex Smith, that in the Spring of 1844 just before Josephs death, Young Jos was ordd in a Council by his father, John Taylor Willard Richards Alp Cutler, W W Phelps. Dr. Bernhisel &c Bishop Whitney were present. Bishop W held the horn of oil & Jos afterward Stated on the public Stand that he was no longer their prophet, putting his hand on young Jos head he said this is your prophet - I am going to rest.[2]

Blair wrote for 14 June 1874 "Met Bro. James Whitehead, in the hall, and when I grasped his hand the holy spirit fell upon me, and witnessed to me that he was indeed a bro. in the Son." on 16 June William Blair visited with Whitehead, he recorded the following important entry in his diary under the date of 17 June 1874:

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[1] Alexander Hale Smith Diary, 1863 and 1864, original in RLDS archives, Independence, Missouri, call no. J 91. Diary entry of 14 May 1864.

[2] William W. Blair Diary, original in RLDS archives, call no. J 7. Diary entries of 14 and 17 May 1865. See also published account by Blair in True Latter-Day Saints' Herald 8 (1 October 1865):101. Part of entry in Restoration Studies I (Independence: Herald Publishing House, 1980), 141.

Yesterday Bro. Whitehead told me that in the winter or spring of 1843-44. Joseph organized the Kingdom of Danl. with 50 Councillors; and that on the Sunday following he brought Young Josep[h] on the Stand, in the public meeting, and, putting his hand on his head, said, "Bro & Srs., I am no longer your prophet, - this is your prophet. I have finished my work, and am going to rest." Bro. W[hitehead]. Said Young Joseph was ordained by Joseph & Hyrum, in the Council room in the Brick Store["]; and that Hyrum was appointed his guardian till he should become of age. He said he was Joseph Clerk at this time and after, that he did not see the ordination take place, but heard it freely talked over in the office. Br. W[hitehead]. says he heard Joseph say in public, that if B. Young had the lead of the church he would lead it to ruin. (or to hell) Says J did te- p- and pr- too. That E- knows it too that She put hnd of Wives in Jos hnd W. Says Alex H. Smith asked him when sleeping with him at his house in Atlon, if J- did p & tea. p, and he, W. told him he did. W - Says Wm Marks and Hyrum by command of God ordained Joseph King & priest Says Dd will yet be a Prince so it was predicted by J.S.[3]

Ronald K. Esplin has written:

It is possible some such public mention was made, perhaps on more than one occasion, as was the case with the Prophet's announcement that he had shifted the burden of the kingdom to the Twelve, but it seems unlikely any formal action was taken publicly and no record survives.[4]

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[3] William W. Blair Diary, RLDS archives. Diary entries of 14, 16 and 17 June 1874. In the diary handwritten letters were added to the entry of 17 June 1874. Underline indicate the letters that were added by Blair: "She put hnd of Wives in Jos hnd;" this would be: "She [Emma] put h[a]nd of Wives in Jos[eph] h[a]nd."

[4] Brigham Young University Studies 21 (Summer 1981):317n54.

Jan. 19, 1841:

"For I design to reveal unto my church things which have been kept hid from before the foundation of the world, things that pertain to the dispensation of the fulness of times." (D&C 124:41)

Revelation of July 12, 1843 on eternal and plural marriage:

"Wednesday July 12 Received a Revelation in the office in presence of Hyrum & Wm Clayton"
(Joseph Smith Diary)

"This A.M. I wrote a Revelation consisting of 10 pages on the order of the priesthood, showing the designs in Moses, Abraham, David and Solomon having many wives & concubines &c. After it was wrote Prests. Joseph & Hyrum presented it and read it to E[mma]. who said she did not believe a word of it and appeared very rebellious."
(William Clayton Diary) In The Revelations of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 294.

"Joseph Smith III, for example, recorded: 'Visited James Whitehead [at Alton, Illinois] had chat with him. He says that he saw the Rev about 1 foolscap paper. Clayton copied it and it was this copy that mother burned.' (Joseph Smith III Diary, 20 April 1885, RLDS Library-Archives)."
(Ibid.,p. 348, fn. 10)