

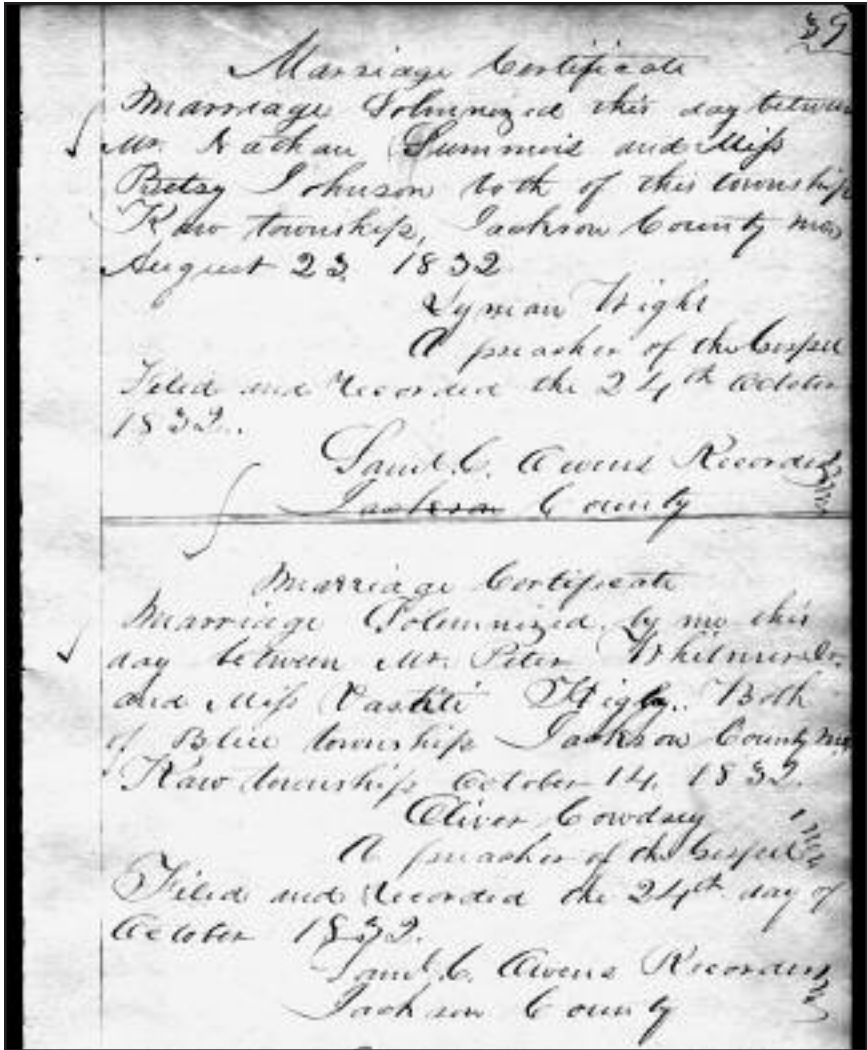
Early Marriages Performed by the Latter-day Saint Elders in Jackson County, Missouri, 1832-1834

*Compiled and Edited with an Introduction by
Scott H. Faulring*

During the two and a half years (1831-1833) the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints lived in Jackson County, Missouri, they struggled to establish a Zion community. In July 1831, the Saints were commanded by revelation to gather to Jackson County because the Lord had declared that this area was “the land of promise” and designated it as “the place for the city of Zion” (D&C 57:2). During this period, the Mormon settlers had problems with their immediate Missourian neighbors. Much of the friction resulted from their religious, social, cultural and economic differences. The Latter-day Saint immigrants were predominantly from the northeastern United States while the “old settlers” had moved to Missouri from the southern states and were slave holders. Because of the Missouri Compromise of 1820, Missouri was a slave state. Eventually, by mid-July 1833, a militant group of Jackson County Missourians became intolerant of the Mormons and began the process of forcefully expelling them from the county.¹

And yet in spite of these mounting hostilities, a little-known aspect of the Latter-day Saints’ stay in Jackson County is that during this time, the Mormon elders were allowed to perform civil marriages. In contrast to the legal difficulties some of the elders faced in Ohio, the Latter-day Saint priesthood holders were recognized by the civil authorities as “preachers of the gospel.”² Years earlier, on 4 July 1825, Missouri enacted a statute entitled, “Marriages. An Act Regulating Marriages.” The law stated “that every judge

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and justice of the peace of this state, and every stated and ordained minister or preacher of the gospel, shall be and hereby is authorized and empowered to perform the ceremony of marriage within this state; and all marriages heretofore solemnized by any of the said persons shall be deemed good and valid.”³

Beginning in February 1832 and continuing to February 1834, at least a dozen marriages were performed by the following priesthood holders: Oliver Cowdery performed three, W. W. Phelps performed two, Lyman Wight per-

formed two, Sanford Porter performed two, Harvey Whitlock performed one, Elisha Groves performed one, and Parley P. Pratt performed one. Seven of the marriages occurred in 1832, four in 1833 and one in 1834. The couples married during this twenty-four month period included Orrin Porter Rockwell and Luana Beebe, Joseph Knight Jr. and Betsy Covert, Nathan Summers and Betsy Johnson, Peter Whitmer Jr. and Vashti Higley, Daniel Crandall and Perintha Abbott, Oliver Cowdery and Elizabeth Ann Whitmer, John Whitmer and Sarah Jackson, James Lewis and Anna Jones, Joshua Smith and Lavica Keeney, Warriner Porter and Amy Sumner, and Enos Smith and Arilla Miller. As required by the Missouri marriage statute, these marriages were recorded with the county clerk and are found in the first volume of the Jackson County Marriage Record Book by Samuel C. Owens, county recorder.⁴

The following transcription has been extracted from the official Jackson County marriage record. Dividing lines between marriage records have been added for readability. No attempt has been made to correct spelling or punctuation. Underlining in the original document is reproduced in the transcription. Square brackets are used to provide missing letters or add editorial comment. An illegible word that has been crossed out in the original is indicated by an equal sign within vertical lines (e.g., | = |). Insertions are enclosed in angle brackets (e.g., <Solemnized>). Minimal paragraphing has been added. Individual biographical information of those named in these records, if any can be found, is supplied in the notes accompanying the applicable marriage record. All of the marriage record entries reproduced below were originally recorded in Samuel C. Owens' handwriting.

Marriages Performed by the Mormon Elders in Jackson County, Missouri, 1832-1834

Kaw Township Jackson County Missouri February 16th 1832.

Marriage Certificate.

Marriage | = | <Solemnized>⁵ by me this day, Between Mr. Oren⁶ Porter Rockwell⁷ of Blue Town ship,⁸ and Miss Luana Beebe⁹ of Kaw Township,¹⁰ both of Jackson County, State of Missouri.

Oliver Cowdery¹¹
A preacher of the Gospel

State of Missouri
County of Jackson Sct.

I, Samuel C. Owens¹² Recorder for the aforesaid County, do hereby Certify, that the foregoing Marraige [marriage] Certificate was Recorded in my Office on the 26th day of March A. D. 1832.

Samuel C. Owens Recorder J. C.¹³

Kaw Township Jackson County Missouri March 22nd 1832.

Marriage Certificate.

Marriage Sol[e]mnized by me this day between Mr. Joseph Bright¹⁴ [Knight] Jun.¹⁵ and Miss Betsy Covert [Covert]¹⁶ both of Kaw Township, both of Jackson Co., Mo.

Oliver Cowdery }
A preacher of the Gospel }

State of Missouri }
County of Jackson Sct. }

I Samuel C. Owens Recorder, for the aforesaid County do hereby Certify that the foregoing Certificate of Marriage was Recorded in my Office on the 26th day of March A. D. 1832.

Samuel C. Owens Recorder J. C.

State of Missouri }
County of Jackson } Sct

This is to certify that the undersigned a minister of the Gospel on the 14th day of July solemnized the rites of matrimony between Joseph Wilson¹⁷ & Polly Chamberlain.¹⁸ Given under my hand this 15th day of August 1832

Harvey Whitlock¹⁹ M. G.²⁰

Filed and recorded this 15th day of August 1832,

Samuel C. Owens, Recorder Jackson County

Marriage Certificate

Marriage Sol[e]mnized this day between Mr. Nathan Summers²¹ and Miss Betsy Johnson²² both of this township.

Kaw Township, Jackson County Mo.

August 23, 1832

Lyman Wight²³
A preacher of the Gospel

Filed and recorded the 24th October 1832.

Saml. C. Owens Recorder }
Jackson County }

Marriage Certificate

Marriage Solemnized by me this day between Mr. Peter Whitmer Jr.²⁴ and Miss Vashti Higley²⁵ both of Blue Township, Jackson County, Mo.

Kaw Township October 14, 1832

Oliver Cowdrey }
A preacher of the Gospel }

Filed and recorded the 24th day of October 1832.

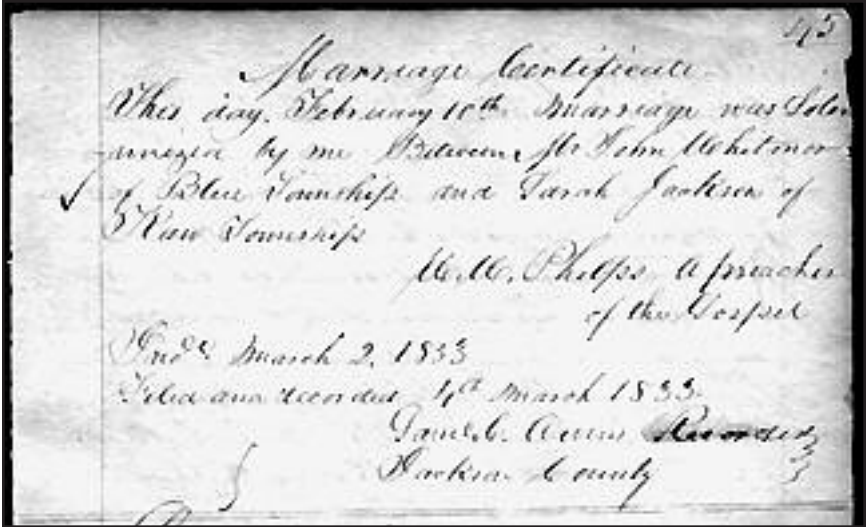
Saml. C. Owens Recorder }
Jackson County }

Marriage Certificate

Marriage Solemnized this day by me between Mr. Daniel Crandle²⁶ and Miss Perintha Abbot²⁷ both of Kaw Township.

Kaw Township Jackson County, Missouri Oct 24 1832

Lyman Wight }
A preacher of the Gospel }



[Marriage Certificate]³⁴

On the 10th of May 1833 marriage was Solemnized by me between James Lewis³⁵ and Anna Jones³⁶ both of Blue township

W. W. Phelps }
A preacher of the Gospel }

Filed and recorded July 5th 1833

Saml. C. Owens Recorder J. C.

November 9th 1833.

I do hereby certify that I Elijah H. Groves³⁷ did act as parson or minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and did solemnize the bonds of matrimony between Joshua Smith³⁸ and Lavica Keeney³⁹ on the twentieth day of October in the year of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Eighteen Hundred and Thirty three, both of the County of Jackson and State of Missouri

In the presence of	}	Given under my hand and seal
Benjamin Carpenter ⁴⁰	}	this day and date above written,
Joel Smith ⁴¹	}	
James Mansel ⁴²	}	Elijah H. Groves
Recorded Decr 21st 1833,		Saml C. Owens Clk

State of Missouri }
County of Jackson } Sct

I Sanford Porter⁴³ a minister of the Gospel, do hereby certify that on the 14th day of February 1834 I united in matrimony Enos Smith⁴⁴ and Arilla Miller⁴⁵ both of Jackson County. Given under my hand this 14th day of February 1834.

Sanford Porter M G

Recorded February 20th 1834,

Saml C. Owens Clk

State of Missouri }

County of Jackson } Sct

I Sanford Porter a minister of the Gospel do hereby certify that on the 6th day of December 1833 I united in matrimony Warriner Porter⁴⁶ and Amy Sumner⁴⁷ both of Jackson County. Given under my hand this 6th day of December 1833,

Sanford Porter M G

Recorded February 20th 1834,

Saml C. Owens Clk

Notes

1. At least two of the marriages documented here were actually performed in Jackson County after the formal expulsion of the Saints from the county in November 1833.

2. On the legal issues and challenges faced by Joseph Smith, Sidney Rigdon and other Mormon elders in Ohio, see M. Scott Bradshaw, "Joseph Smith's Performance of Marriages in Ohio," *BYU Studies* 39, no. 4 (2000): 23-69.

3. *Laws of the State of Missouri, Revised* (State of Missouri, 1825), 527.

4. The first volume of the Jackson County Marriage Record Book is in the Recorder's Office, Jackson County Annex Building, Independence, Missouri. When I first examined the record in 1996 the original book was available for research, but it has since been replaced by a microfilmed copy. A duplicate handwritten copy of the marriage record was made sometime in the late 1800s and is also available on microfilm. See "Marriage Records, 1827-1917, Jackson County, Missouri," Family History Film #1019759, Family History Library, Salt Lake City. The transcription published here is taken from either the original book or the duplicate, both contain the same text except as noted.

5. Inserted word written directly on top of unreadable word.

6. Orrin's name reads "Aaron" in the duplicate manuscript copy.

7. Orrin Porter Rockwell (1813-1878) was among the first converts to the Church of Christ (earliest designation for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) in 1830. His parents' family had lived in Manchester, New York, since about 1817 and Orrin Porter became friends with Joseph Smith Jr. during the 1820s. Orrin Porter moved to Missouri in 1831. While living in Jackson County, Rockwell operated a ferry on the Big Blue River. He remained in Missouri suffering with the Saints as they were persecuted and eventually driven from the state in 1839. He accompanied Joseph Smith and others to Washington, D.C. in 1839-1840 as they petitioned the federal government for redress of their losses in Missouri. Orrin Porter and Luana's marriage ended in separation sometime in 1842. He later married three wives and fathered a total of fourteen children with all his wives. Orrin Porter Rockwell went west the church and became the subject of many wild west stories, both fictional and nonfictional. See Dean C. Jessee, ed., *Papers of Joseph Smith, Volume 2: Journal, 1832-1842* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1992), 510 (hereafter Jessee, *Papers of Joseph Smith*); and Richard S. Van Wagoner and Steven C. Walker, *A Book of Mormons* (Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1982), 250- 53.

8. Blue Township surrounds the town of Independence. On 3 August 1831, Joseph Smith helped lay the cornerstones and dedicated the temple site on a rise of ground about one-half mile west of the village of Independence in Blue Township. See Joseph Smith Jr., *History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, ed. B. H. Roberts, 2d ed., rev., 7 vols (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1971), 1:199; and John Whitmer, *The Book of John Whitmer*, 32, Community of Christ (formerly RLDS) Archives, published in Bruce N.

Westergren, ed., *From Historian to Dissident: The Book of John Whitmer* (Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1995), 86-87.

9. Luana Hart Beebe (1814-1897) was born and raised in upstate New York and probably moved temporarily to Ohio (by June 1831) and then, in the latter half of 1831, to Missouri with her parents, Isaac and Olive Beebe. After her marriage to Rockwell in 1832, she remained in Missouri until the Latter-day Saints were driven from the state in 1839. Luana and Orrin Porter had five children together. Her marriage to Orrin Porter Rockwell ended in separation in 1842. Luana received a patriarchal blessing from Hyrum Smith on 22 January 1843 in Nauvoo. In January 1846, also in Nauvoo, she was sealed to John Alpheus Cutler. See Lyndon W. Cook, *The Revelations of the Prophet Joseph Smith* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1985), 255; and genealogical data on www.familysearch.org.

10. Kaw Township is located a few miles west of Independence, Missouri, immediately west of the Big Blue River. One of the first Jackson County converts was Joshua Lewis, a resident of Kaw Township. In the summer of 1831, when Joseph Smith and other Church officials arrived on their first visit from Kirtland, Ohio, they assembled at Lewis' log cabin. It was there, on 2 August, that Sidney Rigdon dedicated Jackson County as the first gathering place for the Saints. See T. Edgar Lyon, "Independence, Missouri, and the Mormons, 1827-1833," *BYU Studies* 13, no. 1 (Autumn 1972): 10-19; and S. Kent Brown, Donald Q. Cannon, and Richard H. Jackson, eds., *Historical Atlas of Mormonism* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1994), 38.

11. Oliver Cowdery (1806-1850), one of the Three Witnesses of the Book of Mormon, was the church's Second Elder at this time. He was also the leader of the Lamanite Missionaries who arrived in Jackson County in January 1831 to preach the restored gospel to the displaced Native American tribes sequestered in the western territories bordering the United States. Oliver remained in the Jackson County area until August 1831 when he traveled back to Kirtland with the Prophet Joseph Smith and others. Elder Cowdery's stay in Ohio was relatively short. He attended a series of special church leadership conferences during which he was appointed to carry the manuscript revelations and the funds needed to buy printing supplies so they could print the Book of Commandments in Missouri. Oliver Cowdery departed northeastern Ohio on 20 November 1831 accompanied by John Whitmer who had been called to journey with him. They arrived in Jackson County on 5 January 1832. During the next eighteen months, Oliver participated in the printing operations in the town of Independence managed by W. W. Phelps and attended to conferences and other church business. When the mob attacked the printing establishment in late July 1833, Oliver Cowdery was in Independence, but was warned that the mob was looking for him and he went into hiding. It was decided that Cowdery should depart immediately for Kirtland to advise the Prophet on the situation and seek guidance. He arrived in Kirtland on 9 August 1833, a mere two weeks after the Jackson County mobbings. Oliver did not return to Missouri until the autumn of 1837 and he was subsequently cut off from the church at Far West in April 1838 over differences with the Prophet Joseph Smith. After a ten and a half year absence, Cowdery returned to the Church in the autumn of 1848 and was rebaptized. He was making serious plans to migrate to the Salt Lake valley but was prevented by chronic bad health and eventually his death in March 1850. See John Whitmer, *Book of John Whitmer*, 38, published in Westergren, *From Historian to Dissident*, 102; Cook, *Revelations of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 14; Far West Record, 118-26, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Archives, published in Donald Q. Cannon and Lyndon W. Cook, eds., *Far West Record: Minutes of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1830-1844* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1983), 162-71; and Richard Lloyd Anderson and Scott H.

Faulring, eds., *Witness of the Second Elder: The Documentary History of Oliver Cowdery* (Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Press, forthcoming).

12. Samuel C. Owens (1800-1847), an early settler of Independence, Missouri, served as recorder for Jackson County (ca. 1827-1842). He was also a wholesale merchant who did considerable business with the Mexican trade via the Santa Fe Trail, and had a general store opposite the southwest corner of the Independence town square. Owens took an active leadership role in the efforts to expel the Latter-day Saints from Jackson County. In July 1833, he was appointed by the mob to the committee "to wait upon the Mormon leaders." Owens remained in Independence until he was called upon to serve in the Mexican-American War. Major Samuel C. Owens was killed on 28 February 1847, while leading an assault during the Battle of the Sacramento. See *History of Jackson County, Missouri* (Kansas City: Union Historical Company, 1881), 104, 105, 179, 182, 256, 261-62, 263, 264, 297, 334, 397, 633; and *Niles' National Register*, 3 July 1847.

13. Clerical abbreviation for Jackson County.

14. The surnames "Knight" and "Covert" were misspelled or miscopied as "Bright" and "Covent" by Owens.

15. Joseph Knight Jr. (1808-1866), the youngest son of Joseph Knight Sr. and Polly Peck, was born in Vermont and moved to Chenango County, New York, with his parents while just an infant. In 1826, Joseph worked on his family's farm with Joseph Smith Jr. and they became lifelong friends. He and his father's family were some of the earliest believers in the restoration and the Book of Mormon. Joseph Knight Jr. was baptized on 28 June 1830 by Oliver Cowdery. In 1831, he moved along with the Colesville Saints to Ohio and then shortly after to Jackson County, Missouri. Joseph is credited with building the first mill for the church's use and helped construct the *Evening and Morning Star* printing office and store in Independence. He remained in Jackson County, working his mill so as to be able to feed the Saints until December 1833. Knight remained in Clay County, Missouri, until he removed further north to Far West in July 1837. Forced out in April 1839, Joseph moved to Quincy, Illinois, then Lima and shortly thereafter to Nauvoo. On the advice of Joseph Smith, Joseph relocated to LaHarpe, where he tended to Stephen Markham's mills until 1844. He left Nauvoo with the Saints in 1846, was later Bishop at Winter Quarters, and emigrated to Utah in 1851. Joseph Knight Jr. married three plural wives, one in 1847, and two in 1852. See William G. Hartley, "*They Are My Friends*" *A History of the Joseph Knight Family, 1825-1850* (Provo, Utah: Grandin Book Company, 1986); Dean C. Jessee, ed., *The Papers of Joseph Smith, Volume 1: Autobiographical and Historical Writings* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1989), 496; Jessee, *Papers of Joseph Smith*, 2:563-64; and genealogical data on www.familysearch.org.

16. Betsy Covert (1813-1876) was born to James Covert and Martha Judd in Mayfield, Ohio. There is a strong possibility that Betsy first heard about Mormonism when the Lamanite missionaries (i.e., Oliver Cowdery, Peter Whitmer Jr., Parley P. Pratt, and Ziba Peterson) visited the Kirtland-Mentor-Mayfield area in November 1830. She may have joined the church in Mayfield (which is only about 11 miles from Kirtland). Both of her parents remained in Mayfield and died there. Prior to March 1832, Betsy emigrated to Jackson County where she met and fell in love with Joseph Knight Jr. Together they had five girls and a boy, only three of the females lived to maturity. Betsy moved from Missouri to Nauvoo and eventually to Salt Lake City where she died. See Hartley, "*They Are My Friends*" *A History of the Joseph Knight Family*; and genealogical data on www.familysearch.org. It should be noted that the data on www.familysearch.org incorrectly lists either Kirtland, Ohio, or various places in Missouri as the marriage location.

17. No biographical information could be found on Joseph Wilson.

18. Polly Chamberlain (1812-1849), daughter of Solomon Chamberlain and Hope Haskins, who were early converts of the Church, was born in Massachusetts. She moved with her parents to Jackson County in the fall of 1831. Polly married Emer Harris, a brother of Martin Harris, in January 1846 at Nauvoo. See Susan Easton Black, comp., *Membership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: 1830-1848*, (Provo, Utah: Electronic database as part of the Infobase *LDS Collectors Edition*, 1997), s.v. "Chamberlain, Polly" (hereafter cited as Black, *Membership*); and genealogical data on www.familysearch.org.

19. Harvey G. Whitlock (1809-1874), born in Massachusetts, was baptized and ordained an elder in the LDS Church before June 1831. He was ordained a high priest on 3 June 1831 by Joseph Smith. Harvey was appointed by revelation (D&C 52: 25) to go to Jackson County, Missouri, accompanied by David Whitmer in June 1831. Elder Whitlock moved his family to Missouri in 1831 where they were members of the Whitmer branch. The Whitlocks were among the Saints expelled from Jackson County in 1833. Harvey lost his priesthood and church membership in 1835 and was reinstated in 1836. Elder Whitlock fell away from the Church during the difficulties in northern Missouri 1838. He later lived in Iowa and moved to Salt Lake City by 1850 where he was listed as a doctor. Moving to California in 1864, he joined the Reorganized (RLDS) Church (now Community of Christ). See Cook, *Revelations of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 8; Jessee, *Papers of Joseph Smith*, 2:602; and Black, *Membership*, s.v. "Whitlock, Harvey G."

20. Minister of the Gospel.

21. Nathan Summers (1808/10-1889/99), surname also spelled Sumner, was born in Virginia and died in Oregon. See genealogical data on www.familysearch.org.

22. Elizabeth "Betsy" Johnson (ca. 1812-1860s) was born in Virginia and died sometime before 1870, location un known. See genealogical data on www.familysearch.org.

23. Lyman Wight (1796-1858) joined the Mormon Church in Kirtland in late 1830 and was baptized by Oliver Cowdery. Shortly thereafter he was ordained an elder. During the Kirtland conference of June 1831, Lyman was ordained as the church's first high priest by Joseph Smith and he then ordained Joseph a high priest. In a revelation (D&C 52:7) received shortly after the conference, Lyman was called to travel to Missouri. While living in Jackson County, Wight was the leader of the Prairie Settlement, located close to the Indian border. Lyman remained in Jackson County until late 1833. In January 1834, he volunteered to go to Kirtland to seek the advice of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Once in Ohio, Wight assisted Joseph in the recruitment and organization of Zion's Camp. Lyman was appointed second in command during the march of Zion's Camp and at its conclusion, by direction of the Prophet, he issued handwritten discharges to the camp's participants. Wight was called to be an apostle in 1841. After the murder of the Prophet Joseph Smith, he led a group of Saints to Texas where he established a colony and was later cut off from church membership in 1848 for apostasy. See Cook, *Revelations of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 82-83; Jessee, *Papers of Joseph Smith*, 2:603-04; and S. Kent Brown, Donald Q. Cannon, and Richard H. Jackson, eds., *Historical Atlas of Mormonism* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1994), 38.

24. Peter Whitmer Jr. (1809-1836) was one of the Eight Witnesses of the Book of Mormon and helped guard the Book of Mormon manuscript while it was being printed. He was called by revelation (D&C 30:5-6) in September 1830 to travel with Oliver Cowdery to preach the gospel to the Native Americans (Lamanites). They arrived in Jackson County in January 1831 and established contact with the Lamanites but were soon ejected from the Indian territories by the federal Indian agent who was fearful that the Mormon elders might cause trouble among the Native Americans. Prevented from preaching to the Indians, Peter supported himself as a tailor. He briefly returned to north-

eastern Ohio in September 1831 where he stayed for several months. Peter returned to Missouri in 1832 and remained in Jackson County until he and the rest of the Saints were expelled in late 1833. Exiled to Clay County, Whitmer settled in the town of Liberty. In 1836, Peter filled the vacancy of his deceased brother Christian on the Missouri high council. Peter died of consumption (tuberculosis) on 22 September 1836 in Clay County, Missouri. Peter and Vashti's last child was born eight months after Peter's death. See Richard Lloyd Anderson, *Investigating the Book of Mormon Witnesses* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1981), 125-26; and Cook, *Revelations of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 25-26.

25. Vashti Higley (1807-?) was born in Fayette, Seneca County, New York. Little is known about her life either before or after her marriage to Peter in 1832. Together they were the parents of three girls, Emma, Kate, and Vashti P. See Richard Lloyd Anderson and Scott H. Faulring, *The Book of Mormon Witnesses: A Resource Guide* (Provo, Utah: Authors, 1998), 6; and genealogical data on www.familysearch.org.

26. Daniel Crandle (?-?), evidently a member of the Church, filed a redress petition on 11 May 1839 in which he claimed a loss of three hundred dollars for "the loss of property and tim[e] and expenses and Sufferage in Jack Son County and davis County in the State of missouri" See Clark V. Johnson, ed., *The Mormon Redress Petitions: Documents of the 1833-1838 Missouri Conflict* (Provo, Utah: BYU Religious Studies Center, 1992), 174; spelling follows original document.

27. No biographical information could be found on Perintha Abbot.

28. See note 11 above on Oliver Cowdery.

29. Elizabeth Ann Whitmer (1815-1892) was born in Fayette, Seneca County, New York, to Peter Whitmer Sr. and Mary Musselman. Her brothers (David, John, Christian, Jacob and Peter) were witnesses of the Book of Mormon. Elizabeth probably moved to Missouri in 1832 with her parents. She had known Oliver since the spring of 1829 when he stopped at her parent's farmhouse on his way to meet Joseph Smith for the first time. Together Elizabeth and Oliver had six children between August 1835 and May 1846. Unfortunately only one child, Maria Louise, lived to maturity. Elizabeth and Maria were inseparable both in life and death. They lived together, even after Maria married in 1856, and died within forty-eight hours of each other in 1892. See Anderson and Faulring, *Witness of the Second Elder*, forthcoming; and Mary Bryant Alverson Mehling, *Cowdrey-Cowdery-Cowdray Genealogy: William Cowdery of Lynn, Massachusetts, 1630, and His Descendants* (New York: Frank Allaben Genealogical Co., [1911]), 172.

30. Parley P. Pratt (1807-1857) was born in Burlington, New York. He married Thankful Halsey in 1827. Parley first heard about the Book of Mormon from an old Baptist deacon. Shortly after reading the book, Pratt was baptized by Oliver Cowdery and ordained an elder. In October 1830, he was called by revelation (D&C 32:2) to serve a mission to the Lamanites with Oliver Cowdery, Peter Whitmer Jr., and Ziba Peterson. Parley arrived with his missionary companions in Jackson County, Missouri, in January 1831 and accompanied Oliver Cowdery into the Indian territories where Cowdery preached to the council of the Delaware Indian Nation. Parley returned to Kirtland in late winter where he met with Joseph Smith and reported on their missionary labors in Missouri. Pratt subsequently made several trips to Jackson County, Missouri, and was a member of Zion's Camp in 1834. He was called as one of the first latter-day apostles in February 1835. Parley served as a missionary in various parts of the world (e.g., England, Chile, and the eastern United States). Elder Pratt was murdered in Arkansas by the estranged husband of one of his (Pratt's) plural wives. See Parley P. Pratt, *Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt*, edited by his son, Parley P. Pratt (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1979); Cook, *Revelations of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 45-47; and Jessee, *Papers of Joseph Smith*, 2:581.

31. John Whitmer (1802-1878) was one of Joseph Smith's scribes for a part of the Book of Mormon translation in June 1829. He was also among the Eight Witnesses of the Book of Mormon and one of the earliest converts. He was dispatched to Kirtland, Ohio, as the presiding elder in late December 1830. John was appointed church historian on 8 March 1831. In November 1831, John accompanied Oliver Cowdery to Missouri with the manuscripts of Joseph Smith's revelations and the monies consecrated for publication of the revelations in the Book of Commandments. John and Oliver arrived in Jackson County on 5 January 1832. Whitmer served as a transcribing clerk, making copies of the revelations and commandments for departing missionaries in early 1832. John remained in Jackson County until the Saints were expelled from the county in late 1833. Whitmer settled in Liberty, Clay County. In July 1834, he was called to serve as counselor in the Missouri church presidency. John returned to Kirtland in 1834 and remained there until 1836. Upon returning to Missouri, Whitmer settled in Far West, Caldwell County, and assumed his position a counselor in the Missouri presidency. He was cut off from the church for procedural misconduct and apostasy in March 1838. John remained a lifelong believer in the Book of Mormon even though he did not return to the Church. See John Whitmer, *The Book of John Whitmer*; published in Westergren, *From Historian to Dissident The Book of John Whitmer*; Cook, *Revelations of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 25-26; and Anderson and Faulring, *Book of Mormon Witnesses: A Resource Guide*, 47.

32. Sarah Jackson (1809-1873) was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She and John had five children (two girls and three boys) born to them between May 1834 and February 1849. She lived in Far West until her death. See Anderson and Faulring, *Book of Mormon Witnesses: A Resource Guide*, 47; and genealogical data on www.family-search.org.

33. William W. Phelps (1792-1872) converted to the church in western New York in 1830, but was not able to be baptized until June 1831 in Kirtland, Ohio. That same year, he was appointed to be the church's printer and editor (assisted by Oliver Cowdery). Phelps helped establish the church printing operations in Independence, Missouri, in early 1832, and was the main editor of the *Evening and Morning Star* from 1832-1833. He was publishing the Book of Com mandments when the church's printing office was demolished by the Jackson County mob on 23 July 1833. Phelps moved to Liberty, Clay County, in late 1833. He stayed in Liberty until April 1835 when he departed for Kirtland. In 1835, Phelps assisted with the publication of the first Doctrine and Covenants and hymn book. He left Kirtland in April 1836, and in 1836-1837, with John Whitmer, administered church affairs and helped establish the town of Far West as a gathering location for the Saints. Phelps was cut off from the church for procedural misconduct and apostasy in March 1838. He repented and asked for readmission to the church which Joseph Smith compassionately granted in July 1840. W. W. Phelps remained faithful for the remainder of his life, serving the church in a variety of callings, including clerk for the Prophet Joseph Smith and later as speaker of the house of representatives in the territorial government in Utah. See Cook, *Revelations of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 87-88; and Jessee, *Papers of Joseph Smith*, 1:505.

34. The heading "Marriage Certificate" is not used on any of the subsequent marriage record entries.

35. James Lewis (1814-1902), born in Ohio, moved to Randolph County, Indiana by 1830. He first heard about the Book of Mormon in early 1831 and was baptized in July 1831 by Zebedee Coltrin. Shortly thereafter James was ordained a priest. He served as a missionary and then moved to Jackson County by 1832. Expelled from Jackson County, Lewis relocated to Liberty, Clay County, and eventually settled at Crooked River, Ray County, Missouri in 1837. He remained faithful in the church and emigrated to Utah.

Lewis took a plural wife in the 1860s and they had three children. James died in Albion, Idaho. See Black, *Membership*, s.v. "Lewis, James Stapleton;" and genealogical data on www.familysearch.org.

36. Ann Jones (1809-1875) was born in Kentucky to John Jones and Sarah Sumpter. How and when she joined the church is not known. Her and James had eight children together. Ann died in Corinne, Box Elder County, Utah. See Black, *Membership*, s.v. "Lewis, James Stapleton;" and genealogical data on www.familysearch.org.

37. Elisha H. Groves (1797-1867) first heard about the restored gospel through the preaching of Samuel H. Smith, the Prophet Joseph Smith's younger brother, in 1831. After Elisha joined the church his wife divorced him. He moved to Jackson County by October 1832 and remained until he was driven out of the county in November 1833. Groves joined Zion's Camp when it arrived in Clay County in 1834. He served several short term missions and went to Kirtland in 1835 where he received a patriarchal blessing from Joseph Smith Sr. While in Kirtland, Elisha attended the grammar and Hebrew schools. In 1836, Joseph Smith advised him to wed Lucy Simmons. Elisha moved to Clay County, Missouri, and then to Far West and Adam-ondi-Ahman. He was driven from the state of Missouri in 1839 and eventually settled in Nauvoo. Groves came west to Utah in 1848 where he lived for the rest of his life. See Davis Bitton, *Guide to Mormon Diaries and Autobiographies*, 132; and Black, *Membership*, s.v. "Groves, Elisha Hurd."

38. No biographical information could be found on Joshua Smith.

39. No biographical information could be found on Lavica Keeney.

40. There was a Benjamin Carpenter who was a member of the church, but he lived in Norton, Ohio. It may be that he went to Missouri either on a temporary visit or to live there. The RLDS (now Community of Christ) membership records have a Benjamin Carpenter, born September 1872 in Stafford, Connecticut, who joined the Reorganized Church in June 1864. See Far West Record, 10, published in Cannon and Cook, *Far West Record*, 19, 252; Early Reorganization Minutes, 1852-1871, Book A, 565; and Early Reorganization Minutes, 1872-1905, Book B, 3, both in the Community of Christ Archives.

41. No biographical information could be found on Joel Smith.

42. No biographical information could be found on James Mansel.

43. Sanford Porter (1790-1873) joined the church in August 1831 after the Mormon missionaries spent three days explaining the doctrines of the restoration to him. He was ordained an elder and moved to Jackson County by April 1832. Sanford and his wife Nancy named their thirteenth and last child, Lyman Wight Porter; he was born 5 May 1833 in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri. See Joseph Grant Stevenson, *Porter Family History* 2nd ed., (Provo, Utah: J. Grant Stevenson, 1967); and Black, *Membership*, s.v. "Porter, Sanford."

44. No biographical information could be found on Enos Smith.

45. No biographical information could be found on Arilla Miller.

46. Chauncy Warriner Porter (1812-1868), the son of Sanford Porter and Nancy Warriner, probably moved to Jackson County with his parents in 1832. Warriner and Amy had eight children, three girls and five boys, including twins born in December 1846 that died shortly after their birth. He married a plural wife, Lydia Ann Cook, in May 1846 who bore them thirteen children. After Amy's death in 1847, Porter took a second plural wife, Priscilla Strong, in February 1848, who had eleven children. Warriner and family emigrated to Utah Territory in October 1848 and in time he was called into service as the presiding elder over East and West Porterville, Morgan County, Utah. See

Black, *Membership*, s.v. "Porter, Chauncy Warriner;" and genealogical data on www.familysearch.org.

47. Amy Sumner (1815-1847) was born in Ohio and sometime before the summer of 1832 her parents joined the Church and moved the family to Jackson County, Missouri. Her father, Jonathan Sumner, is listed as an attendee at several church conferences or councils in Jackson County during the summer and fall of 1832. Amy received her endowments and was sealed to her husband in the Nauvoo Temple in January 1846. She died at Winter Quarters, Nebraska Territory, on 6 April 1847. See Black, *Membership*, s.v. "Porter, Chauncy Warriner;" and genealogical data on www.familysearch.org.