

Preface

Joseph Smith Fought Polygamy, Volume 2, is the Prophet Joseph Smith's story. It is a continuation of documented facts concerning the young Prophet's ongoing fight against polygamy, which is also known as plural marriage, spiritual wifery, and celestial or eternal marriage.

An earlier publication, *Joseph Smith Fought Polygamy*, Volume 1, documented how polygamy was brought into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints as early as 1832 when missionaries made converts in the area of Saco, Maine, among members of a denomination called Cochranites. The Cochranites, whose leader was Jacob Cochran, were noted for practicing polygamy and having plural wives that were referred to as spiritual wives.

Newly baptized ex-Cochranites gathered to Kirtland, Ohio, which at that time was the headquarters of the Church where the Saints were gathering. The Cochranites brought their polygamous beliefs and doctrines with them, which caused the young Church to be reproached with the crime of polygamy.

Joseph Smith began a relentless battle against the new false doctrine at Kirtland, but he was unable to completely stamp it out. He continued to fight that doctrine year after year until he was murdered in June 1844, when the Church was only fourteen years old. This volume contains documentation of his battle during the Nauvoo era, the final years of Joseph's earthly life.

The myriad of false testimonies seemingly implicating Joseph in polygamy have been trumpeted around the world for over one hundred and eighty years. Now it is time for the other side to be heard. This second volume is a continuation of Volume 1 of this work. It documents the many statements made by Joseph against polygamy. The documents and emphasis on Joseph's spoken words and actions are evidences which support his monogamous beliefs, and his condemnation of plural marriage in all

forms. These numerous, authentic accounts of Joseph's valiant battle against polygamy should cause those who believe him to have been a polygamist to closely examine and consider his declarations on this subject in preference to those who bore counter testimonies to his. The records published during his lifetime show him to have continually contended against plural marriage, spiritual wifery, and polygamy in every form by preaching, testifying, and writing against those doctrines and those who were practicing and advocating them.

Whereas Volume 1 described how polygamy came into the Church, Volume 2 shows how Joseph Smith opposed the practice up to 1842. Volume 3 will continue describing Joseph's opposition to polygamy from 1842 until his death, June 27, 1844.