

Preface

In the early 1950s, Richard and Pamela Price (both members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints [RLDS] which has always opposed polygamy) began a focused effort to discover the true roots of the origination of the doctrine of polygamy among some members of the early Church. The results of their decades of study can be found in their *Joseph Smith Fought Polygamy* series of books.

Joseph Smith Fought Polygamy, Volume 1

Published in 2000 (by Price Publishing Co. and available through Restoration Bookstore), this volume surprised historians with the new possibility that polygamy was most likely introduced into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints as early as 1832 when missionaries made converts in the Saco, Maine, area from among members of the Cochranite denomination—a small group widely known for practicing polygamy and using the term “spiritual wives” in reference to the practice.

LDS missionaries to the Cochranites included such men as Brigham Young and Orson Hyde who would later become famous for promoting polygamy among the LDS. It is now believed that many ex-Cochranites brought their polygamous beliefs with them when they joined the LDS Church, and that some of the LDS apostles and their close friends secretly adopted polygamy—perhaps as early as the Kirtland era, but definitely by 1842 in Nauvoo.

To counter such malignancies, Joseph Smith began a relentless battle against the practice at Kirtland, but was unable to completely stamp it out. He did not invent LDS polygamy. Just as today’s Churches find themselves facing the popular cultural trend of gay marriage, so did Churches in Joseph’s day find themselves facing the popular cultural trend of polygamy.

Joseph Smith Fought Polygamy, Volume 2

Published in 2014, Volume 2 documents Joseph Smith's continued struggle against polygamy from the Kirtland to Nauvoo eras. This volume is especially important because it documents the extent to which Joseph personally opposed the growing polygamy movement and the persons involved in it.

The myriad of false testimonies seemingly implicating Joseph have been trumpeted, nearly unopposed, for generations. Completely missing from those narratives is the extensive body of information detailing how Joseph opposed and struggled against polygamy, the practitioners thereof, and those who wrongly accused him of the practice. Volume 2 serves as a forum to not only consider the opinions of those who promoted polygamy in the Church, but to also consider the opinions of those who opposed it—persons such as Joseph Smith! Volume 2 documents the ardent emphasis with which Joseph's words and writings evidence his support for monogamy and his condemnation of plural marriage in its various forms and names. These numerous, authentic accounts of Joseph's valiant battle against polygamy should cause objective readers to reevaluate any previous conclusions that Joseph Smith supported polygamy.

Joseph Smith Fought Polygamy, Volume 3

Although Richard Price died in 2014, Pamela, at age ninety-one, continues their life's work with the 2018 release of Volume 3. Well over half of a century in the making, this volume firmly establishes that (especially in 1842–1844 at Nauvoo) men and women nearest to Joseph increasingly turned against him and entered into multiple polygamy-related conspiracies against him. Some did so to falsely attach polygamy to Joseph's name to weaken him through defamation that they could take over the Church. Others did so in order to enrage outsiders into a state of riot to destroy the Church. Yet, others did so to vex Joseph so that he would succumb to their demands to change the Church so that it officially would embrace polygamy.

These conspiracies included not just harmful words aimed against Joseph, but criminal acts too—including sabotage, racketeering, fraud, forgery, riot, false arrest, assault, death threats, and

murder! Also of note in this volume is inclusion of the newest DNA evidences that refute the Utah LDS Church's¹ long-standing fable that Joseph fathered children by polygamous wives.

Of historical interest, Richard Price's decades-old, hand-written, preface drafts to this volume are also provided below. Both were written by him before the era of personal computers and the Internet. The first (written about 1965) cites how only the modern wonder of microfilm had made it possible to accomplish the research necessary to draft this volume. The second (dated 1975) credits the invention of photocopy machines as equally important in completing that task. These preface drafts—written decades prior to the actual completion and publication of this Volume 3—are emblematic of Richard's farsightedness and serve as a reminder of the more than half century of labor that has gone into this project.

Richard Price's 1960s Preface to This Volume

Thanks to the miracle of *modern microfilming*, at last that dramatic chapter in American history, known as the Saga of Mormonism, has come to light in unlimited detail. [The details of] that subject, which has long been supposed to have had few, if any, original sources (outside the archives of the Churches involved) is now available from a multitude of original newspapers, books, and letters. These [sources], collected and blended, like pieces in a great puzzle, present a fascinating and crystal clear picture of the day-to-day events [transpiring at] the beginning of the Latter Day Saint movement. Since there is so much information now available to the painstaking scholar, only

1. The term "Utah LDS Church" is used frequently in this book. The authors understand that the LDS Church today is not just in Utah. However, this term is used to identify the portion of the Church that followed Brigham Young to Utah.

In addition, in the past two volumes of *Joseph Smith Fought Polygamy*, indication was given that Utah LDS Church writers and/or historians have been the ones who have promoted Joseph Smith as a polygamist. However, in the fall of 2014, the LDS Church officially stated, in an article entitled "Plural Marriage in Kirtland and Nauvoo," that Joseph was a polygamist. This is now the official position of the LDS Church. Thus in Volume 3, when referencing those promoting Joseph as a polygamist, the term "Utah LDS Church" or "Utah LDS Church leaders" is generally used.

that [newly considered] part of the story is contained in this volume.

It is well known that many have written upon the subject. Various scholars have made a valuable contribution to the social science [of the history of the Church] by the recording and [expanding on] the elements of this phenomena. But they have, almost without exception, failed to tell the other side of the story—we tell it—Joseph’s innocence. . . .

Richard Price’s 1975 Preface to This Volume

Today more material is available to the serious scholar of Mormonism than ever before, due to the miracle of *modern photocopying*. Now, even individuals may have in their homes copies of documents which [in the past] only libraries could access.

In addition, more diaries and other original source materials are available [now] than were [readily] available in Nauvoo [when the original events transpired]. Even eyewitnesses sometimes did not understand the thinking of many of their peers as [can] today [be discerned from their collected] writings. Recently, new documents have been found which shed fascinating rays of light upon this interesting subject.

Another problem that has hindered the student who seeks the truth about polygamy is that the story has never been completely told. What [they do] find are only sketchy [accounts that do not consider the full story].

Our intention is to [publish] the material that is new [and unknown] and to tell the story, the whole story, of the Latter Day Saints as it pertains to polygamy, just as it happened—to tell both sides of the story impartially, and to tell it all! Also of interest is the effort to tell it from Joseph Smith’s point of view—many books have been written from the [point of view] of his enemies, or [even] his “friends” (who misused his teachings), but no book is in print today in which Joseph Smith [is given] opportunity to [in his own words] defend himself.

Pamela continues to help manage Restoration Bookstore, edit *Vision* magazine, and write the final book in this series—*Joseph Smith Fought Polygamy*, Volume 4. That volume will continue to document Joseph’s innocence of polygamy—until his death—including the stunning information that Brigham Young confessed to Schuyler Colfax (Vice President of the U.S. under Ulysses S. Grant) that Joseph was not the author of polygamy in the Church, but that he, Brigham, was! Likewise, Volume 4 will prove LDS DC Section 132 to be false, debunk the accounts of each alleged plural wife of Joseph and Hyrum, and expose the lies told against Joseph by his opponents.

Volume 4 will definitely establish how Joseph’s assassination was desired, and perhaps even actuated, by enemies within the Church who terrorized and attempted to assassinate other Smith family members after Joseph was killed. These enemies then forged and altered documents, records, revelations, and diaries to continue “spinning the yarn” on the fable that Joseph Smith was the author of polygamy.