

The Kirtland Diary of Wilford Woodruff

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The diary of Wilford Woodruff, fourth president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is one of the significant documents of Mormon history. Covering the years from his acceptance of the faith in 1833 until his death in 1898, President Woodruff's diary offers a keenly perceptive view of life in the early Church from the perspective of a leading official. Joining the Church during the Kirtland era, Woodruff's rise to leadership was almost immediate. He was appointed to the seventies quorum in Kirtland in 1836 and two years later was called to the Council of Twelve Apostles—a calling that culminated with his appointment as President of the Church in 1889. He also served as Church Historian for thirty-three years and was president of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association. Among his civic assignments, Wilford Woodruff sat with the Nauvoo City Council, the Utah Territorial Legislature, and was president of the Utah Horticultural Society.

Revealing a sensitive spirit and an intense feeling of destiny, Woodruff's diary is a masterful chronicle. Explaining his motivation to keep a diary, Elder Woodruff wrote in 1857: "I have been inspired & moved upon to keep a Journal & write the affairs of this Church as far as I can . . . you may say that this is a great deal of trouble very well it has been . . . it has occupied nearly every leisure moment of my time . . . but what of it . . ." He continued:

I have never spent any of my time more profitably for the benefit of mankind than in my Journal writing for a

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great portion of the Church History has been compiled from my Journals & some of the most glorious Gospel sermons truths & revelations that were given from God to this people through the mouth of the Prophets Joseph Brigham Heber & the Twelve could not be found upon the Earth on record ownly in my Journals & they are compiled in the Church History and transmitted to the saints of God in all future generations does not this pay me for my trouble it does.¹

On another occasion, Elder Woodruff wrote:

We are not apt to think of the importance of Events as they transpire with us but we feel the importance of them afterward we are living in one of the most important Generations that man ever lived on Earth & we should write an account of those important transactions which are takeing place before our Eyes in fulfillment of the prophesies & the revelation of God there is a great flood of revelations fulfilling in our day & as they are transpiring before our eyes we want a record made of them.²

Wilford Woodruff was born in Farmington, later named Avon, Hartford County, Connecticut, on 1 March 1807. He assisted his father at the Farmington Mills until he was twenty years old. After buying a farm and sawmill in Richland, New York, in the spring of 1832, he and his brother settled in business.

Although Wilford made no profession of faith until 1830, his life was not devoid of religion. From reading the Bible, he had felt that "the church of God would be re-established upon the earth," and that he should live to see it.³ On 29 December 1833, he heard the preaching of two Mormon elders—Zerah Pulsipher and Elijah Cheney—who were passing through New York.

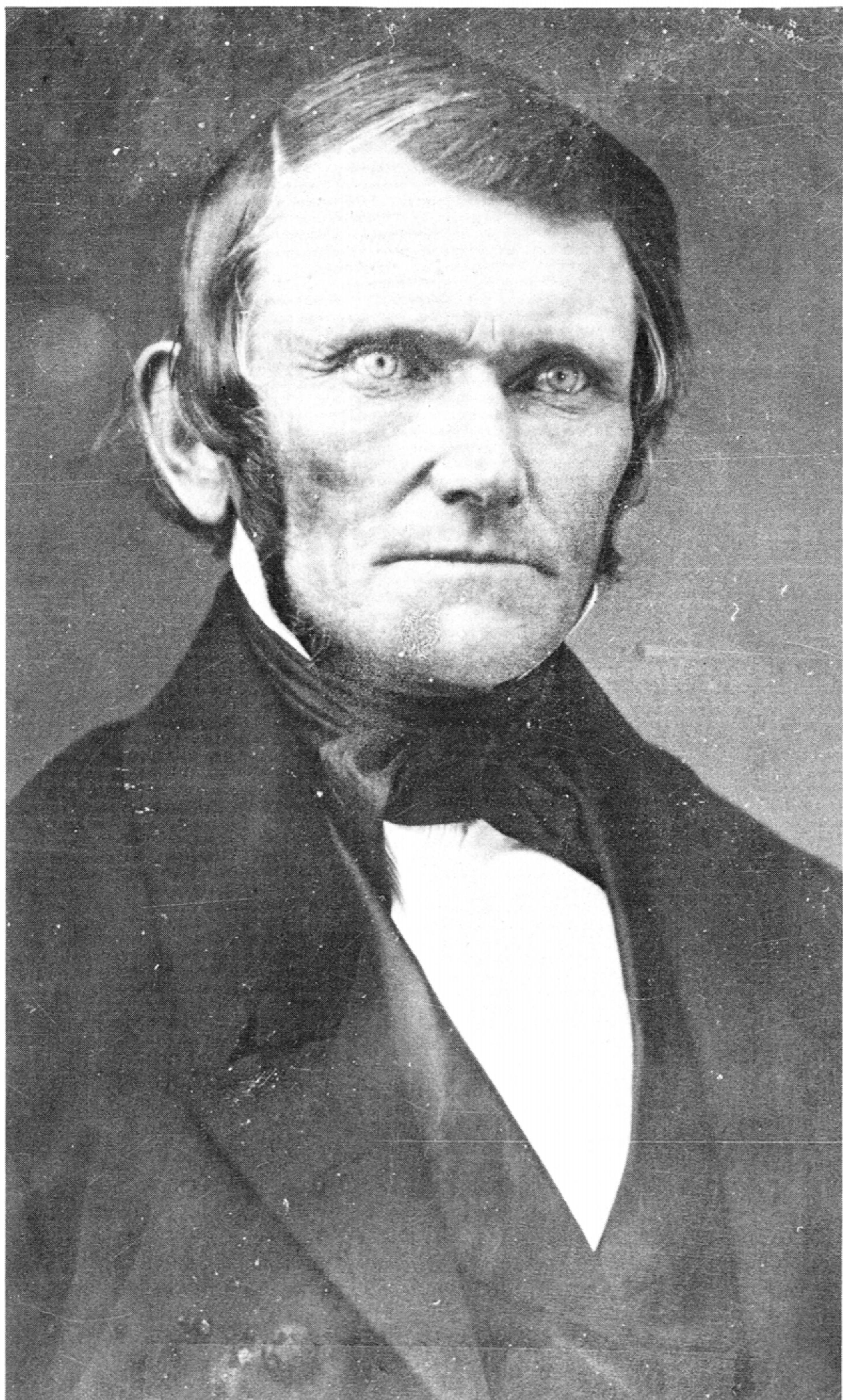
I truly felt that it was the first gospel sermon that I had ever herd I thought it was what I had long been looking for I could not feel it my duty to leeve the house without bearing my witness to the truth before the people I opened my eyes to see my ears to hear my heart to understand & my doors to entertain him who had administered unto us.⁴

¹Wilford Woodruff, "Diary," 17 March 1857. MS, Historical Department of the Church. (Hereafter designated HDC.) All quotations from this diary retain the spelling and punctuation of the original.

²Woodruff, 6 September 1856.

³"History of Wilford Woodruff," *Deseret News*, 7 July 1858, p. 81.

⁴Woodruff, 29 December 1833.



Wilford Woodruff (1807-1898) by courtesy of the Historical Department of the Church.

Feeling that it would be better to be a "door keeper in the house of God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness," Wilford was baptized on 31 December and two days later was ordained a teacher in the newly established branch of the Church at Richland.⁵

About the first of April 1833, Harry Brown and Parley P. Pratt arrived in Richland, recruiting volunteers for Zion's Camp—the company of men being organized to go to the aid of Church members who had been driven from their homes in Jackson County, Missouri. Woodruff accepted the call and on 10 April left Richland for Kirtland, Ohio, which had been designated as the meeting place for the volunteers.

Traveling with Harry Brown, Warren Ingalls, John Murdock, and Orson Pratt, Wilford arrived in Kirtland "at night" on 25 April 1834. His first experience at Kirtland lasted five days:

There for the first time I had a view of our beloved Brother Joseph Smith the Prophet & Seer which God hath raised up in these last days through whom the Saints receive Revelations from time to time. Brother Joseph invited us to take up our abode with him & accordingly we did and boarded at his house most of the time for a week here I became not ownly acquainted with him and his family but with many of the brethren both high Priests, Elders, and private members those which were making it their home at Kirtland and also those which were gathering for the purpose of going up to Zion I here first time became acquainted with Elder Milton Holmes⁶ who traveld with us in the camp to Mo. I was introduced to Elder Brigham Young⁷ Heber C. Kimball.⁸ Br Young gave me a Butcher knife on the 27th of Apreil being the Lords day I attended meeting and herd several of the Brethren preach Brother

⁵Woodruff, 2 January 1834.

⁶Milton Holmes later served as a member of Zion's Camp and was associated with Wilford Woodruff in the second quorum of seventy in Kirtland.

⁷Brigham Young (1801-1877) was thirty-five years old when he first met Wilford Woodruff. He was born in Whitingham, Vermont, and was residing in Mendon, New York, in 1829 when he was converted to Mormonism. He moved to Kirtland in September 1833 and worked on various building projects, including the temple. He was a member of Zion's Camp in 1834 and was appointed one of the Twelve Apostles in February 1835.

⁸Born in Sheldon, Vermont, Heber C. Kimball (1801-1868) was converted to Mormonism in April 1832, moving to Kirtland in the fall of 1833. He served with Zion's Camp in 1834 and was chosen to the Council of the Twelve in February 1835. He was engaged in missionary work in the East in 1835-1836 and returned to Kirtland on 2 October 1836.

Sidney Rigdon.⁹ Orson Hyde.¹⁰ Orson Pratt¹¹ and others spoke Joseph Smith closing during the meeting It appeared to me there was more light mad[e] manifest at that meeting respecting the gospel and Kingdom of God than I had ever received from the whole Sectarian world.¹²

On the first day of May 1834, four baggage wagons and twenty men, including Wilford Woodruff, left Kirtland for Missouri as the first contingent of Zion's Camp. It was two and one-half years before he returned to Kirtland.

After the Camp was disbanded in Missouri in June, Woodruff was employed with Lyman Wight in building and brick-making. At a high council meeting the following November, he was ordained a priest and called by Bishop Edward Partridge to go into the southern states as a missionary. His travels took him through Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky. As a result of his ministry, upward of one hundred persons were baptized, and he organized the first company of Mormon converts to emigrate from the southern states. He returned to Kirtland on 25 November 1836.

Woodruff's diary, during the six months that he remained in Kirtland prior to his departure for a New England Mission on 31 May 1837, is a significant mirror of the men and institutions of Kirtland.¹³ Noteworthy are his lucid account of pentecostal events that transpired in the temple, his observa-

⁹Sidney Rigdon (1793-1876) was a native of St. Clair, Pennsylvania. After moving to Ohio, where he became a popular Campbellite preacher, Rigdon was converted to Mormonism in November 1830. He served as a scribe to Joseph Smith and was appointed first counselor in the Church Presidency in March 1833. In the absence of Joseph Smith with Zion's Camp in 1834, Rigdon assisted Oliver Cowdery in directing the affairs of the Church in Kirtland. He was also a trustee of the Kirtland High School.

¹⁰Orson Hyde (1805-1878) was born at Oxford, Connecticut, and was residing in Ohio when he was converted to Mormonism by Sidney Rigdon in the fall of 1831. He performed five missionary assignments for the Church between 1832 and 1835; returning in October 1836, he spent the winter in Kirtland.

¹¹Orson Pratt (1811-1881) was converted to Mormonism by his brother Parley in September 1830 and went to Kirtland in 1831. He was a member of Zion's Camp and, after returning to Kirtland in 1835, was appointed to the Council of the Twelve. He performed extensive missionary work during the 1830s and taught a grammar school in Kirtland.

¹²Woodruff, 25-30 April 1834.

¹³Detail concerning the Mormon experience in Kirtland is provided in Max H. Parkin, "Conflict at Kirtland: A Study of the Nature and Causes of External and Internal Conflict of the Mormons in Ohio between 1830 and 1838," Master's thesis, Brigham Young University, 1967); Robert Kent Fielding, "The Growth of the Mormon Church in Kirtland, Ohio (Doctoral dissertation, Indiana University, 1957); and the entire issue of *BYU Studies*, Vol. 11, No. 4 (Summer 1971).

tions of Joseph Smith and the Prophet's reaction to opposition, and the undercurrent of dissension and strife that manifested itself and eventually aborted the whole Kirtland experiment. The diary also provides insight into such institutions as the Kirtland Stake, the Kirtland Safety Society, the Monroe Bank, and the organization of the seventies quorums. Equally significant is the view one obtains of Wilford Woodruff himself, sensing a profound depth of commitment in his writings. This is reflected in his intense drive for knowledge, both spiritual and temporal; his unwavering support of Joseph Smith; his willing service and devotion to the cause of Zion; and his eschatological interpretation of events. While not grammatically polished, the style of the diary reflects a sincerity and spiritual forthrightness that illuminates the personality and character of one who eventually inherited the highest office his Church could bestow. The following is a transcription of the forty pages of Wilford Woodruff's 1836-1837 Diary which are devoted to his six months' sojourn in Kirtland.

Nov 25th [1836] Took the parting hand with Elder Sherwood¹⁴ I then set out in company with Elder Smoot¹⁵ on foot in a hard snowstorm for Kirtland we came in sight of the Temple of the Lord¹⁶ before we reached the village & I truly felt to rejoice at the sight as it was the first time that mine eyes ever beheld the house of the Lord built by commandment & Revelation. We soon entered the village & I spent one of the happiest days of my life at this time in visiting Kirtland & the House of the Lord & the Presidents & Elders of the Church I was truly edified to again strike hands with President Joseph Smith Jr. & many other beloved saints of God who are rolling on the mighty work of God & of Israel after being seperated from them for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years & amoung the rest I was filled with joy with the priviledg of again meeting with Elder Warren Parrish¹⁷ & also being made acquainted with his

¹⁴Henry G. Sherwood had come to Kirtland from New York about 1832. He worked on the Kirtland Temple and was a member of the Kirtland high council in 1837.

¹⁵Abraham Owen Smoot (1815-1895) was born in Owen County, Kentucky, and was baptized into the Church by Warren Parrish on 22 March 1835. He was a companion to Wilford Woodruff for a time during Woodruff's mission in the southern states in 1835-36.

¹⁶The first such edifice constructed by the Latter-day Saints, the Kirtland Temple, was built between 23 July 1833 and 27 March 1836 at an approximate cost of \$70,000.

¹⁷Warren Parrish had been a missionary companion to Wilford Woodruff in the southern states and was an officer in the Kirtland Bank. After being suspected of embezzlement in 1837, he united with others for the overthrow of the Church.

companion Sister Parrish. Ther is an enjoyment in meeting our brethren & companions in tribulation that the world knows not off because it flows from a Celestial Source. After spending a short time in conversing with my friends a more important scene was now to open to my view than Kings ever saw or Princes ever Knew in this generation which was to visit the Temple of the Lord & its contents Elder Smoot and myself visited each appartment of the House accompanied by Elder Parrish & I must confess the scenery is indisscribable When I entered the threshhold of the house & Passed into the lower room their was great solemnity if not awe immedately overwhelmed me I felt indeed as if my footsteps were in the Temple of the Lord After walking into the Pulpets erected for the Priest-hoods & viewing the curtains all bespeaking that grandure, solemnity & order that nothing short of wisdom from God could invent. We then visited the upper rooms & there viewed four Egyptian Mumies & also the Book of Abram written by his own hand & not ownly the hieroglyphicks but also many figures that this precious treasure contains are calculated to make a lasting impression upon the mind which is not to be erased many other important views I was Privileged with in the upper story the school rooms. belfry &c. all indicating great architecture & wisdom we then spent some time in visiting the Bank & Printing office But wonder on wonder strikes my sense to look into the casket of the great work of Israels God in these last Days as the Prophet exclaims he does things we looked not for. Two & a half years since I left Kirtland with my Brethren in their Poverty to go fourth to visit our brethren in tribulation in Zion then our Brethren in Kirtland were poor. despised. & even looked upon By the pomp of babylon with disdain & disgrace who stood waiting with eager eyes to behold them sink into forgetfulness. But how changed the scene now I behold a cheerfulness beaming upon every countenance that indicates Prosperity & the noise of the ax & the hammer & the sight of their walls & dwellings newly erected & their Bank & market & esspecially house of God speaks in language loud as thunder that the saints will have a City in prosperity in spite of all the fals Prophets of Baal or even earth or hell because God is with them & his Temple stands in honor of his Kingdom while babylon begins to wonder & will soon perish we spent the day with Elder Parrish [word in shorthand] 9 mile¹⁸

The money I expended i expended in my travels from Paducah KY to Kirtland Ohio fees aboard steam Boats & stagees. board lodgings &c was \$16.65 Also I Paid \$5.00 for a cloak making \$21.65 in all

26th NOV I visited President & Doct Cowdery¹⁹ at the Printing office & made a general settlement with them for the M & Advocate for

¹⁸President Woodruff's shorthand appears to be a kind of Pitman shorthand, but we have not found anyone to date who can read it.

¹⁹Oliver Cowdery (1806-1850) was born at Wells, Vermont. He met Joseph Smith in 1829 during the translation of the Book of Mormon. He went to Missouri in 1831 and, after the destruction of the Church printing press in Jackson County in 1833, returned to Kirtland where he was appointed to take charge of the printing office. He assisted in directing the affairs of the

the subscribers of the South I gave 9 new subscribers to them & Paid them \$41.50 for the M. & Advocate which settleed all matters between us. I received som Counsel from Presidents Smith & Rigdon to Elder Parrishes house & spent the day in writing

Nov 29th [27] Upon this Lords day Elder Smoot & myself accompanied Elder Parrish to the house of the Lord for the first time to behold the Congregation of the Saints assembled within its walls for the Purpose of worshiping God it was truly an interesting scene it brought a lengthy catalogue of transactions contemplations & experience of my youth to my to my mind & the experiance of this day fulfilled many things of a spiritual nature which I had looked for a number of years which I viewed as Promises of God. After I entered the house & was seated I cast my eyes upon the Pulpits aranged in order for the High Priest I beheld the Patriarch Joseph Smith sen. standing in the upper Pulpit. & President Joseph Smith jr. & Elder Carter in the second one & in the third Elders Parley & Orson Pratt & W. Parrish was seated soon Elder Carter arose & opened meeting by Prayer & then Preached the gospel unto us & was followed by President Joseph Smith jr When meeting was dissmised & after an intermision of an hour we again met in the house of the Lord & I was called into the stand in company with Elder Smoot & requested me to Preach to the People I opened by Prayer & read the LVI Chapter of Isaiah & made some brief remarks upon the same & gave a sketch of my travels in the South. I was then followed by Elder Smoot after he closed I was blessed with the privilege of communing with a multitude of Saints in the house of the Lord assembled together from the the east. west. north & south many with whom I had been intimately acquainted I truly felt to thank God that his promises had been verified unto me by giving me a seat & a name within his house & within his walls [Word in shorthand] as of Sons & of daughters Their was four confirmed after the sacrament under the hands of Elder O Hide President J. Smith addressed the conragation & the meeting Closed spent the night with Elder W. Parrish

29 Spent the day in writing wrote two letters one to my Parents & the other to Brother Asahel Woodruff

30 I Setteleld with Elder Reynolds Cahoon²⁰ for the subscriptions put into my hands by the Saints of the South Country for the building

Church in Kirtland during Joseph Smith's absence with Zion's Camp in 1834. "Doct" Cowdery was Warren A. Cowdery (1788-1851), a brother of Oliver. He came to Kirtland in 1836 and was a scribe for the Prophet and also editor of the *Messenger and Advocate*.

The Latter-day Saints Messenger and Advocate was a Church periodical published in Kirtland between October 1834 and September 1837. Oliver Cowdery and John Whitmer also served as editors.

²⁰Reynolds Cahoon (1790-1861) was a counselor to Bishop Newel K. Whitney at Kirtland. He was born in Cambridge, New York, and was a veteran of the War of 1812. He affiliated with Mormonism in October 1830 and went to Missouri in 1831. After returning to Kirtland in 1832, he was appointed to the committee to oversee the building of the Kirtland Temple.

of the house of the Lord in Kirtland Ohio I Paid him one dollar which was all the back money that was due this made \$91.75 cts that I had the charge of that I forwarded for the house. I also Purchase a Latten grammer of Elder P. Pratt²¹ for \$ [smudged] I am now expecting to enter upon a course of study may the Lord open my way in temporal & spiritual things that I may be usful in my day & generation have a good warfare keep the faith & receieve a crown of glory

Dec 1st Repaired to the house of the Lord whare Father Smith²² met a number of Saints to Pronounce upon them a Patriarchal Blessing This was the first meeting of the kind that I ever attended & I found it to be highly edefying & interesting as their was great & glorious things pronounced upon their heads by the spirit of Prophesy & Revelation spent the evening at Elder Parrishes acompanied by Brother Joseph Smith which was an interesting interview

Dec 2nd I Wrote a Letter to Br Azmon Woodruff²³ it being the first Communication between us for two years I also wrote a Letter to Col Joseph Rowlett²⁴ at Owengton Owen County KY.

3rd Traded with Brother Bump²⁵ in Goods \$12.89

4th Sunday I went up to the house of the Lord to worship Elder Parish Preached in the forepart of the day several spoke in the Latter Part of the day President RIGDON called a vote of the Church to discountenance the use intirely of all liquors from the Church in sickness & in health except wine at the Sacraments & for external Washing the vote was carried eunanimously I spent the night with Elder Parrish

5th This monday morning in company with Elder Smoot I entered the School²⁶ & commenced studying the Latten Grammer under the instruction of Professor Haws I commenced boarding also this

²¹Parley Parker Pratt (1807-1857) was a native of Burlington, New York. Following his baptism in 1830, he performed a mission to western Missouri and returned to Ohio in 1831. He was in Missouri again when the Mormons were driven from Jackson County in 1833. Following his appointment to the Council of the Twelve in 1835, he was engaged in missionary activity in the eastern states and Canada.

²²Joseph Smith, Sr. (1771-1840), the father of the Prophet, was the Patriarch to the Church.

²³The eldest brother of Wilford Woodruff, Azmon, was born 29 November 1802.

²⁴Joseph W. Rowlett was born in Kentucky in 1799 and was a relative of Abraham O. Smoot.

²⁵Jacob Bump, a native of Silver Creek, New York, was the chief mason of the Kirtland Temple who did the plastering of the inside of the temple.

²⁶Heber C. Kimball noted that "schools were initiated for the use of the Elders and others. Some studied grammar and other branches. We also employed the celebrated Hebrew teacher Mr Seixas, who gave us much insight in a short time into that language. The first presidency, the twelve, the Bishops, high councillors and Elders and church had been previously commanded to seek learning and study the best books, and get a knowledge of counties, kingdoms, languages &c., which inspired us with an untiring thirst

morning with Brother Bond²⁷ at \$2. dollars Per week I Paid him \$10. dollars in advance

6.7.8.9.10 I spent in school in the evening of the 10 I wrote two Letters one to Elder Alexander & the other to Sister M Atkinson both in Tenn

11th Sunday morning after an interview with Priest Turpin²⁸ I went up to the house of God to worship & O what a meeting May it be printed upon my heart as a memorial forever For on this day the God of Israel sharply reproved this stake of Zion (Kirtland) through the Prophets & Apostles for all our sins & backslidings & also a timely warning that we may escape the Judgments of God that otherwise will fall upon us even the Case of the travels of the Camp of the Saints from Kirtland to Zion in 1834 Was Presented to us for an example [finishes sentence in shorthand]

Spent the Past week in school in the Lords house

18 Sunday I went up to the house of the Lord to worship Sermon delivered by Elder William Smith²⁹ Elder Joseph Young³⁰ admin-

after knowledge." "The Journal and Record of Heber Chase Kimball . . .," 1835, pp. 34-35. MS, HDC.

The school attended by Wilford Woodruff on this occasion was the Kirtland High School which met in the attic story of the temple under the tutelage of H.M. Hawes, Esq., professor of Greek and Latin. "The school numbers from one hundred and thirty-five to one hundred and forty students, divided into three departments, where mathematics, common arithmetic, geography, English Grammar, writing, and reading are taught; and the juvenile department, the last two having each an assistant instructor. The school commenced in November, and on the first Wednesday in January the several classes passed a public examination in presence of the trustees of the school, parents and guardians, and their progress in study was found of the highest order." Joseph Smith, *History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, ed. B. H. Roberts, 7 vols. (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1948), 2:474-75. (Hereafter designated *H.C.*)

One student at the Kirtland High School reported studying "Whelpey's Compend of History, Kirkham's Grammar, Olney's Geography and Jacob's Latin Grammar. The school was in three departments, the first or juveniles were taught by Elias Smith, the more advanced by Marcellus F. Cowdery, and Professor Haws taught the classics." "Memoirs of Geo. A. Smith," pp. 87-88. MS, HDC.

²⁷Probably Ira Bond (1798-1887), who was born in Caldwell, New Jersey. After moving to Mendon, New York, Bond was converted to Mormonism by his townsman, Joseph Young. He bought thirty-nine acres of land in Kirtland in May 1834 and was chosen to preside over the deacons in January 1836. He assisted in building the Kirtland Temple and was a member of the Kirtland Safety Society.

²⁸Jesse Turpin (1816-1854) was born in Stewart County, Tennessee. He was converted shortly after the organization of the Church.

²⁹William Smith (1811-1893), a younger brother of Joseph Smith, was among the early members of the Church. William accompanied Zion's Camp in 1834 and was appointed to the Council of the Twelve in February 1835.

³⁰Joseph Young (1797-1881) was the elder brother of Brigham Young. He was born in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, and later became a Methodist preacher. He was introduced to Mormonism by Brigham in 1832. After serving with Zion's Camp, he was selected as one of the presidents of the first quorum of seventy in 1835.

istered the Sacrament President Joseph Smith jr solumnized the rights of matrimony At candle light I Preached at Mr Daytons & was followed by Elder Smoot & Nobles³¹

19-20 Was spent in School I commenced studying the GREEK GRAMMER on Monday the 19th Dec 1836

20 At Candle light I repaired to the house of the Lord³² for a meeting with the quorum of the Seventies the third Seventies had been chosen & the business of this meeting was to organize them & ordain them but as they were not all present they were not all ordained or organized their was 27 twenty seven of the third Seventy ordained to the High Priesthood & as members of the third Seventy Elder Abram O. Smoot. was among the number ordained to the third Seventy which fulfilled what I Pronounced upon his head by the testimony of JESUS on the 30th of June while in Tenn - See June 30th 1836 The above mentioned were ordained under the hands of Presidents Aldrich.³³ Young. & Coltrin.³⁴ We had an interesting meeting much of the spirit of Prophecy was poured out upon those Presidents while ordaining the third seventy they Proclaimed great & marvelous things upon their heads President Young had visions while performing this ordinance

22 I attended Prayer meeting in the house of the Lord at night

24 Spent the Past week in school

25 Sunday went up to the house of God to worship & herd a discours from Brother Samuel Smith³⁵ Brother Hiram Smith³⁶ broak

³¹Joseph Bates Noble (1810-1900), a member of the first quorum of seventy in Kirtland, was born in Egremont, Massachusetts. He was converted to Mormonism in 1832 and was a member of Zion's Camp.

³²In addition to the Kirtland High School that met in the Kirtland Temple, other activities also transpired there: "In the evenings the singers met under the direction of Elders Luman Carter and Jonathan Crosby, Jun., who gave instruction in the principles of vocal music. On Monday evenings the quorum of High Priests meet in the west room of the attic story, where they transact the business of their particular quorum. On Tuesday evenings the Seventies occupy the same room. On Wednesday evenings the rooms are occupied by the Quorum of Elders. And on Thursday evening a prayer meeting is held in the lower part of the house, free to all, though generally conducted by the Patriarch Joseph Smith, Sen. The Twelve, the High Council and other quorums, generally meet each week to transact business." HC, 2:474-75.

³³Hazen Aldrich was an early convert to the Church, a member of Zion's Camp, and in 1836 was serving as a president of the first quorum of seventy.

³⁴Zebedee Coltrin (1804-1887) was one of the presidents of the first quorum of seventy in Kirtland. He was born in Ovid, New York, and joined the Church shortly after its organization. He had accompanied Zion's Camp and was a member of the Kirtland Safety Society.

³⁵Samuel Harrison Smith (1808-1844), a younger brother of Joseph Smith, was present at the organization of the Church in 1830. He was a member of the high council at Kirtland and active in missionary work in 1835-1836.

³⁶Hyrum Smith (1800-1844) was an older brother of Joseph Smith.

bread which closed the meeting Elder Smoot was quite sick & healed by the laying on of hands

Dec 27th Met at the house of the Lord at Candle light with the quorum of the Seventies their was about one hundred Elders of Israel Presant of 1.2.&3rd Seventy it is expected the seventies will meet every tuesday evening through the winter for the Purpose of worshiping God & sanctifying themselves before him. Elder Smoot was again taken sick

28.29.30 & 31st was Principly spent in taking care of Elder Smoot who was confined to his bed with the scarlot fever at the house of Brother Bonds in Kirtland On the 31st of DEC being the last Day of 1836 I aranged the account of my Journals & recorded the same in the following manner. Thus ends the year 1836 which hath quickly passed with its report into ETERNITY

1st	I Travled six thousand five hundred & fifty seven miles	6,557
2nd	I Held one hundred & fifty three Meetings	153
	I Attended four Conferences	4
	& Held four debates	4
	I Planted one Branch of the Church	
3rd	I Baptized twenty seven Persons	27
	I confirmed	27
4th	I ordained two Elders. three Priests. one Teacher. & two Deacons.	8
	I esstablished 2 preaching places	
5th	I attended to the ordinance of blessing nineteen children	19
6th	Their was four Persons healed of deseases under my hands	4
7th	I Procured twenty two subscribers for the M & Ad.	22
	I also Procured Seventy Dollars for the M & Ad	\$70.
8th	I gave six dollars & Procured eighty five more for the building of the house of the Lord in Kirtland	\$91
9th	I wrote thirty four Letters	34
	& Receieved seven Letters	7
10th	I had three mobs come together against me But always as yet deliverd from their hands.	3

The before mentioned is an account of the most Conspicuous part of my Procedings during the year of 1836 which has gone into eternity with its report as the year before it hath done & as the one following & all others must do. O time how swift & how precious thou art. How great the events that are bourn upon thy wings, ess-pecially in the dispensation of the fullness of times. 1836 is gone it cannot be recalled. Europe hath began to tremble at thy departure. The endowment of the Latter Day Saints hath bspake a God in Israel, & is sufficient to show that though the heavens & earth pass away the word of God spake through the Prophets must all be ful-filled. It is true that the thoughts of man may now retrace his foot-steps through 1836 that is Past. But who can tell whare the end of 1837 will leave him. Yea that important year that is mounting the

The third Book of Wifford for 1837

O Lord pass thee in the name of Jesus Christ
thy Son to look upon thy Servant Wifford,
Who now occupies a place in Britain this same
Stake of Zion, which thou hast appointed in this
last dispensation so fullness of times for the gather-
ing of thy Saints. O God of Israel, inspire the
heart of thy Servant at this time, to hear
& answer the petition which he will put before
thee at this time & remember the covenant which
thy Servant Wifford will make with thee at this time
O mighty God of Jacob. O Lord thou hast spared
my life, & beheld the commencement of 1837. May
my life health & strength be previous in thy sight, through
the year. Will thou save me by thy merciful hands
against the powers of temptation, which try the souls
of men. Will thou give me favor during this year
with God & the Saints. Will thou bless me while in
School & in meeting with the quorum of the Seventy
& while attending all other meetings in Britain & for
Divine worship. O Lord if it be thy will give me
the privilege of recording in this years Journal
great blessings pronounced upon my head from
mine anointing & from under the hands of the
Patriarch JOSEPH. & an account of the
visions of the opening of the heavens to the repre-
sentation of JESUS CHRIST unto me that may
be a special witness of Thee. O Lord. If I may
also have the administration of Holy angels,
that I may be caught of the eternal things of the
Priest hood. If I am called to preach thy word this year,
may I be blessed with souls for my labor is a mighty labor,
King may visit thou make me an instrument of bringing
them into the Celestial Kingdom. O I Government
ask the above blessing through the priesthood in the name of
YESUS CHRIST AMEN.

wheels of time to stand upon the stage of existance, to do its Perfect work. Will not its gigantic operations. & its magnus works stand upon the Archieves of heaven as great events. Will this gentile generation still sleep in this late hour, if so sleep on & take thy rest which is short for thy end is come, & the day hath broke that Israel must be awoke from his slumber for the last time & Prepare himself for the Bridegroom. Then let 1837 finish its work with speed & let its departure say who hath gone to the tomb & what Kingdom overturned. & what Kingdom esstablished & may God grant that 1837 may report as she departs that Zion & her Stakes indicates that God rules in her midst with POWER STRENGTH & GLORY Thus ends the year of 1836

THE THIRD BOOK OF WILLFORD FOR 1837

O Lord I ask thee in the name of Jesus Christ thy Son, to look upon thy servant Willford, who now occupies a place in Kirtland, this first Stake of Zion, which thou hast appointed in this last Dispensation, & fulness of times for the gathering of thy Saints. O God of Israel, inspire the heart & pen of thy Servant at this time, & hear & answer the Petition which he will put up unto thee at this time, & remember the Covenant which thy servant Willford will make with thee at this time, O mighty God of Jacob. O Lord thou hast spared my life, to behold the commencem of 1837. May my life, health, & strength be precious in thy Sight, through the year. Wilt thou save me by thy grace from all sin, & the Powers of temptation, which try the souls of men. Wilt thou give me favor during this year, with God & the Saints. Wilt thou bless me while in school, & in meeting with the quorum of the Seventies, & while attending all other meetings in Kirtland for Divine worship. O Lord if it be thy will, give me the privilege of recording in this years Journal great blessing, Pronounced upon my head from mine anointing & from under the hands of the Patriarch JOSEPH. & an account of Great visions, & the opening of the heavens, & the revelation of JESUS CHRIST Unto me that I may be a special witness of Thee. O Lord. & may I also have the administering of Holy angels, that I may be tought of the Eternal things of the Priesthood. If I am called to Preach thy word this year, may I be bless with souls for my hire. if I visit my kinsman, wilt thou make me an instrument, of bringing them into thy Celestial Kingdom. & I Covenant with Thee, Heavenly FATHER, to go & come at thy bidding. I ask the above blessings, through the Priesthood in the name of JESUS CHRIST AMEN.

Jan 3rd At early Candle light I repaired to the house of the Lord in company with Elder Milton Holmes for the purpose of meeting with the quorum of the Seventies President Aldrich opened the meeting by prayer & after a few appropriate remarks from President Coltrin about twenty of the third Seventy was ordained to the high Priesthood & as members of the third Seventy under the hands of the above named Presidents After these were ordained Elder M. Holms

Jan 1st 1832. In the Sabbath of this Day I
 repair'd to the house of the Board for worship where
 two discourses delivered from the Aeronic Standard
 by Bishop Whiting & Conessor Gideon they also
 broke bread the latter part of the day was spent in
 attending to the funeral services of a child.
 2nd Spent the Day in school Also the 3rd. Directing
 a letter from Brother Asahel Woodruff enthe
 [redacted]

Jan 3rd At early Candle light I repaired to the house
 of the Lord in company with Elder Milton Holmes for the
 purpose of meeting with the members of the Seventies
 President Aldrich opened the meeting by prayer. After
 a few appropriate remarks from President
 Coltrin about twenty of the third Seventy were
 ordained to the high Priesthood & a number of
 the third Seventy under the hands of the above
 named Presidents after these were ordained
 Elder M. Holmes & myself was called upon by the
 Presidents to come forward to be ordained as mem-
 bers of the first Seventy Elders of Israel to bear the
 name of Jesus to the nations of the Earth. The first
 Seventy was chosen out of the Church that
 went up to Zion for the redemption of it & the
 saints in the Spring of 1834 But as we were not
 present when the first Seventy was chosen we
 was afterwards chosen in the second year of the
 (See May 3d 1836 in this Journal) But there
 being two vacancies in the first year we were
 chosen to fill them. President Aldrich ordained
 Elder Holmes to his appointment & pronounced
 great blessings upon his head.

President Aldrich ordained me as a member of the first Seventy to
 pronounced great blessings upon my head by the
 spirit of prophecy & revelation some of them
 will mention which are as follows. THAT my
 enemies may confine me in prisons & claims &
 that I would rend the prisons & thine own

the name of JESUS CHRIST & that the world should
 give me great power, Knowledge, & wisdom & that
 I should heal the sick & the blind & see the lame & open
 as my heart the way to hear & see the works of God
 & raise the dead to life. If I use myself (as did Paul)
 from River Jordan from Sea to sea & from one
 end to the other for the purpose of preaching
 the gospel of Jesus Christ so that I stand before
 kings & Princes so that they will send for me to
 receive wisdom knowledges & instruction at my
 mouth because they consider me wiser than
 themselves & in like manner as the Emperor's daughter
 wisdom at the hand of JOSEPH. And that God
 would give me a multiplicity of Blessings that
 I should Preach to the nations of the earth & to
 the inhabitants upon the Islands of the sea & that
 I should then return to Islands upon Missouri &
 in the flesh even in Jackson County that I should be caught
 the coming of Christ & that I should be caught
 to meet him in the clouds of heaven for he
 said this was the word of God unto me. He also
 said that I should visit COLEWB. Preach to the
 spirits in prison & that I should bring all of
 my friends or relatives forth from the terrestrial
 kingdom (who had died) by the power of the
 gospel These of many other Blessings were
 pronounced upon my head. Furthermore said that
 I should be anointed & my life sealed unto me
 & that their would be still greater blessing
 pronounced upon my head. I felt much of the
 power of God rest upon me in this ordinance &
 Bear witness of the truth of the above

PROCLAMATION

& myself was called upon by the Presidents to Come for ward to be ordained as members of the first Seventy Elders of Israel to bear the name of Jesus to the nations of the Earth. The first Seventy was chosen out of the CAMP that Went up to Zion for the redemp-
tion of it & the Saints in the Spring of 1834 But as we were not present when the first Seventy was chosen we was afterwards chosen in the second quorum (See May 31th 1836 in this Journal) But there being two vacancies in the firs quorum we were chosen to fill them. President Aldrich ordained Elder Holmes to this appointment & Pronounced great blessings upon his head. President Z. Coltrin ordained me as a member of the first Seventy & pronounced great blessings upon my head by the spirit of Prophecy & Revelation Some of them I will mention which are as follows. THAT my enemies may confine me in Prisions & chains & that I would rend the prisions & chains in twain in the name of JESUS CHRIST & that the Lord would give me great Power, Knowledg, & wisdom & faith so that I should heal the sick caus the Blind to see the lame to leap as an heart the Deaf to hear stop the mouths of Lions & rase the dead to life & waft myself (as did Philip)³⁷ from River to river from Sea to sea & from Contianant to Contianant for the Purpose of Preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ & that I should stand before Kings & Princes & that they would send for me to receieve wisdom knowledge & instruction at my mouth because they considered me wiser than themselves in like manner as the Egyptians sought wisdom at the hand of JOSEPH. And that God would give me a multiplicity of Blessings that I should Preach to the nations of the earth & to the inhabitants upon the Islands of the sea & that I should then return & stand upon Mount Zion in the flesh even in Jackson County Missouri at the cumming of Christ & that I should be caught up to meet him in the Clouds of heaven for he said this was the word of God unto me & Also that I should visit COLUB [Kolob] & Preach to the spirits in Prision & that I should bring all of my friends or relatives forth from the Terrestrial Kingdom (who had died) by the Power of the gospel These & many other Blessings were Pronounced upon my head. & further said that I should be annointed & my life sealed unto me & that their would be still greater blessing Pro-
nounced upon my head. I felt much of the Power of God rest upon me in this ordinance & Bear witness of the truth of the above

PROCLAMTION

Jan 4th I met in company with the high School of Kirtland³⁸ in the house of the Lord for the purpose of a public examination it being the last day of the first quarter the examination lasted about three hours then after an intermission of one hour we again repaired to the house & herd an interesting lecture deliverd on Education by Professer Haws We have now a vacation of four weeks & the next term will then commence

³⁷See Acts 8:39.

³⁸See note 26 above.

5th I repaired to the house of the Lord for a Prayer meeting at 2 o clock PM We had a good time one man gave us an account of the general gathering of Israel in the gift of tongues I interpreted the substance of the same

6th I visited the office of the Kirtland Safety Society³⁹ & saw the first money that was issued by the Treasurer or Society it was given to Brother Bump (in exchange for other notes) who was the first to Circulate it I also herd President Joseph Smith jr declare in the presence of F Williams.⁴⁰ D Whitmer.⁴¹ S. Smith. W. Parrish. & others in the Deposit Office that he had receieved that morning the Word of the Lord upon the subject of the Kirtland Safety Society he was alone in a room by himself & he had not ownly the voice of the spirit upon the subject but even an audible voice He did not tell us at that time what the LORD said upon the subject but remarked that if we would give heed to the commandments the Lord had given this morning all would be well. May the Lord bless Brother Joseph with all the Saints & support the above named institution & Protect it so that every weaken formed against it may be broaken & come to nought while the Kirtland Safety Society shall become the greatest of all institutions on EARTH

Jan 6. Wrote a Letter to Brother Asahel H Woodruff⁴²

8. Sunday Went up to the house of the Lord to worship we had an interesting meeting. their was about fifteen hundred people assembled their was two discourses deliverd from the Aaronic Priesthood one from Councillor Knight⁴³ & the other from Priest Willey⁴⁴ Priest Willey had much of the Spirit of God in Preaching to the

³⁹The Kirtland Safety Society was organized on 2 November 1836, in order to strengthen the economic structure of the Saints at Kirtland by forming a banking institution titled the Kirtland Safety Society Anti-Banking Company. The Society was managed by thirty-two directors. The failure of the bank during the economic collapse of 1837 was one of the contributing factors to the demise of the Kirtland Stake.

⁴⁰Frederick Granger Williams (1787-1842), born in Suffield, Connecticut, was baptized in October 1830 and immediately left on a mission to Missouri. He served as a scribe to Joseph Smith and in March 1833 was named second counselor in the First Presidency. He was a member of the committee to arrange the interior of the Kirtland Temple and assisted in establishing the printing business there. He accompanied Zion's Camp as paymaster.

⁴¹David Whitmer (1805-1888) met Joseph Smith in New York in 1828 during the writing of the Book of Mormon. He moved to Missouri in 1831 and was with the Mormons driven from Jackson County in 1833. He was one of the presidents of the Church in Missouri.

⁴²Following the death of Wilford Woodruff's mother on 11 June 1808, his father married Azubah Hart on 9 November 1810. Asahel H. Woodruff was the second child of this marriage, born 11 April 1814.

⁴³Vinson Knight (1804-1842), a druggist, was a counselor to Bishop Newel K. Whitney at Kirtland. He came to Kirtland from Perrysburg, New York, and was a member of the Kirtland Safety Society.

⁴⁴Possibly Jeremiah Willey (1804-?), born in Northfield, New Jersey, who was a member of the Kirtland Safety Society.

Church after breaking bread Elder Sherman⁴⁵ sung in the gift of tongues & proclaimed great & marvelous things while clothed upon by the power & spirit of God Elder Smoot for the first time after his sickness also attended meeting I spent the evening with Priest Turpin at Bishop Whitneys⁴⁶ had a vary happy time in speaking singing hearing & interpeting tongues & in prayer with the family

10 Tuesday evening I met in the house of the Lord with the quorum of the Seventies their was about 12 ordained of the third Seventy under the hands of Elder Shermon we had a spiritual meeting Elder Brigham Young one of the twelve gave us an interesting exhortation & warned us not to murmer against Moses (or) Joseph or the heads of the Church

11 Wrote two letters one to A B Willson & [smudged] other to Brother Levi Tailor⁴⁷

12 Wrote two Letters one to Brother Daniel Thomas⁴⁸ the other to Simeon Hendricks

14 Wrote two Letters one to Wright Akeman in the Arkansas & the other to David Cranshaw

15 Sunday attended meeting in the house of the Lord President Rigdon preached in the Spirit & exhorted the Church to union that they might be prepared to meet every trial & difficulty that awates them

Jan 16th Elder Abram O Smoot was again attacked by the destroyer which brought him upon a bed of great disstress We immediately called upon the Elders of the Church. viz. Elders O Hide & H C Kimble of the twelve & B. Nobles. M. Holmes. & myself of the first Seventy We prayed with & for him & lade hands upon him according to the scriptures & he was immediately healed of his pain & fever [short-hand]

17th Met at candle light with the quorums of the seventies & was favored with a lecture from President David Whitmer he warned us to humble ourselves before God lest his hand rest upon us in anger for our pride & many sins that we were runing into in our days of prosperity as the ancient Nephites did & it does now appear evident that a scourge awates this stake of Zion even Kirtland if their is not great repentance immedately & almost every countenance indicates the above expectation esspecially the heads of the Church See Dec 11th 1836 May the Lord in mercy enable us to meet every event with resignation

⁴⁵Lyman Royal Sherman (1804-1839), born in Monkton, Vermont, was a president of the first quorum of seventy and a member of the Kirtland Safety Society.

⁴⁶Newel Knight Whitney (1795-1850) joined the Church in November 1830 and was appointed bishop of the Church at Kirtland. Newel was engaged in the mercantile business in Kirtland.

⁴⁷Levi Taylor was a member of the Church in Henry County, Kentucky.

⁴⁸Daniel Thomas (1803-1876) was a member of the Church in Sumner County, Tennessee.

20th Wrote a Letter with Brother Kimble to Brother Thomas B Marsh⁴⁹ in Zion

22nd Sunday went up to the house of the Lord to worship. Elder John E. Page⁵⁰ occupied the former part of the day with an interesting relation of his travels for the last eight months in the profince of uper Canida he stated that he in company With Elders James Blakesley & Harris had Baptized 267 persons he also gave an account of his persecutions &c which he had to endure The latter part of the day was occupied by Elders Kimble & green⁵¹ & of Communion. Also at candle light I herd an interesting discourse from Elders P.P. Pratt & J.E. Page. at Brother Bosleys⁵² Elder Pratt also warned us to humble ourselves before God & feed the poor & clothe the needy & put away all our sins lest Judgment overtake us spedily

Jan 23rd As Elder Abram O Smoot hath been much out of health since he hath been in Kirtland he desired to return home into the South Country to spend the winter in a warm climate with his friends. I accompanied him to father Smiths to officeate in the office of a scribe while he receieved his Patriarchal blessing Accordingly the Patriarch JOSEPH SMITH sen Pronounced his blessing upon his head in the name of the LORD & I wrote it down for him It was truly a great blessing we had it recorded & I gave Elder Smoot a copy of it in print that he might take it home with him as he was expecting to leave the day following

24th Took the pains to assist Elder Smoot to settle his business in Kirtland which took up the major part of the day I met at candle light in the house of the Lord with the quorum of the seventies we had an interesting interview their was several ordained under the hands of President Silvester Smith⁵³ to the third Seventy then we herd two lengthy discourses one from Elder J.E. Page and the other from Elder P.P. Pratt which was interesting in the first degree the meeting closed but little before midnight We had been threatened by a mob from Panesville to visit us that night & demolish our Bank

⁴⁹A native of Acton, Massachusetts, Thomas Baldwin Marsh (1799-1866) was baptized in 1830 and became physician to the Church. He journeyed to Kirtland in the spring of 1831 and during the next five years was engaged in missionary work in Missouri and the East.

⁵⁰John E. Page (1799-1867) was born in Trenton, New York. He was baptized in 1833 and arrived in Kirtland in 1835. He became a member of the Council of the Twelve in 1838, but later left the Church.

⁵¹John P. Greene (1793-1844) was a member of the Kirtland high council. He had joined the Church in April 1832 and moved to Ohio in October. He had spent part of 1836 engaged in missionary work and soliciting funds for the Kirtland Temple. He returned to Kirtland on 15 September.

⁵²Probably William Bosley, a member of the second quorum of seventy, who had worked on the Kirtland Temple. Bosley left Kirtland on 9 May 1837 with Erastus Snow on a mission to the New England states.

⁵³Sylvester Smith joined the Church at an early date and was actively engaged in missionary work. He was a member of Zion's Camp and the first high council organized at Kirtland in 1834. In 1835 he was appointed one of the presidents of the first quorum of seventy.

& take our property but they did not appeare but the wrath of our enemies appears to be kindled against us this in part is the scourge that hath awated us But may the Lord show us mercy & deliver us from the hand of our enemies for Christ sake

25th Took the Parting hand with Elder A O Smoot & he started on his journey may the Lord bless him & enable him to reach his friends in peace At early Candlelight the heavens began to show forth the signs in fulfillment of the Prophecy of JOEL recorded in the 2nd chap 30th vers of the Book of Joel. the clouds of fire & blood began to arise in the N.E & reached unto the N.W which principally covered the horizon the reflection of the clouds upon the earth which was covered with snow presented a vary red appearance It commenced at 6 o'clock & continued untill 10 or past [shorthand]

Jan 27th Wrote a Letter for Elder M. Holmes

28th I attended a court with the quorum of the Seventies to settle a difficulty between Elder Hiram Stratton⁵⁴ & I.H. Bishop⁵⁵ Elder Holmes and myself was chosen among the counsellors Elder Stratten acknowledgd his faults & was restored

29th Sunday I met at Elder J.P. Greens at 9 AM in company with 7 others to act as bearers to convey the corps of Sister Mary Boyington to the house of the Lord whare a funeral sermon was deliverd by Elder P.P. Pratt the latter part of the day was spent in communion & addresses from Presidents O. Cowdery & J Smith Jr JOSEPH blessed us in the name of the Lord & said if we would be faithful we should rise above our imbarresments & be delivered from the hands of our enemies

30 spent the day in writing wrote a peace for the Messenger & Advocate⁵⁶

31st Met in the house of the Lord at 10 o'clock AM & herd an address from Presidents J. Smith jr & S Rigdon on the temporal business of the Church & Petitioned for a charter to the Assembly of the State for the Kirtland Safety Society & the presidency of the Church bought the Monroe charter⁵⁷ & we all lent a hand in esstablishing it

⁵⁴Hiram Stratton (1812- ?), a native of Windham County, Vermont, had been a member of Zion's Camp and was named to the first quorum of seventy in February 1835.

⁵⁵Isaac H. Bishop was a member of the Kirtland Safety Society.

⁵⁶Woodruff's article entitled "For we walk by faith, not by sight," appeared in the February 1837 issue of the *Messenger and Advocate*.

⁵⁷The bank at Monroe, Michigan, had been organized under a legislative act approved on 29 March 1827, with John Anderson, Josiah Wendell, Robert Clarke, Oliver Johnson, Charles J. Lanman, Dan B. Miller, and Harry Conant as its directors. Stock was fixed at \$100,000, with an option to increase to \$500,000, provided 12½ percent should be paid at time of subscription. The bank issued currency to the amount of \$50,000. In common with many other financial institutions, the Bank of Monroe failed in 1837. Evidence of Mormon connection with the Bank of Monroe is seen on notes in the Historical Department of the Church that contain the signature of "O. Cowdery."

that it might be benificial to us in forwarding the building of the temporal Kingdom

Feb 1st I again commenced School confining myself to the Latin language mostly

5th Sunday spent the day in the house of the Lord in worship

12th Sunday spent the day in the Lords house Communed with the Saints

Feb. 19th I repaired to the house of the Lord & stood in the midst of the congregation of the Saints whare I beheld President JOSEPH SMITH Jr arise in the stand & for several hours addressed the Saints in the power of God. Joseph had been absent from Kirtland on business for the Church, though not half as long as Moses was in the mount, & many were stird up in their hearts & some were against him as the Israelites were against Moses but when he arose in the power of God in their midst, as Moses did anciently, they were put to silence for the complainers saw that he stood in the power of a Prophet, O how weak is man.

26 Sunday President Joseph Smith Jr again addressed the Congregation of the Saints in the power and spirit of God

March 1st I spent in school. This is my birthday brining me to 30 thirty years of age. How fleet is time.

4 Saturday I spent in School during the day I was called to lay hands upon Elder Sherwoods son that was sick with the plurisy, He was deaf and dumb, he was healed of his sickness

VERA
AMICITIA

4 Thou scenes of life how variant, how trancient,

5 Sunday wrote a Letter to my friends in the east

22 The last seventeen Days have been principally spent in school I have attended some interesting meetings during the time

March 24th I left school under view of spending some time in studying History & preparing for the endowment

March 23rd. I repaired to the house of the Lord at an early hour in the morning to spend the day in prayer and fasting with the saints in Kirtland, as this was a day set apart for that purpose. Immediately after entering the house in company with several other Elders, I went within the veil and we bowed down before the Lord in the Aronic stand & offerd a morning sacrifice, & the Spirit of God rested upon us with joy to our Souls. I was Called upon, by the Patriarch JOSEPH to read a chapter in the book of Mormon; I then read the third chapter of the Book of Jacob, which contains the parable of the tame olive tree likend unto the house

of Israel as was spake by the Prophet Zenos. The same God that touched Isaiahs lips with hallowed fire, gave Zenos great wisdom in setting forth this parable. After I had made some brief remarks upon the subject the congregation took their seats, for the services of the day, in the following order The house being divided into four parts by veils, the females occupied two parts & the males the others. Some of the presidency presided in each appartment The time was taken up during the day in each appartment in singing, exortation, & prayer, some had a tongue, others an interpretation, & all was in order. The power of GOD rested upon the people the gifts were poured out upon us some had the administering of angels & the image of GOD sat upon the countenances of the Sants. at 4 o'clock PM. the Veils were all rolled up together which brough the whole congregation in full view of each other and while the presence of the LORD filled the house the congregation of the Saints fell upon their knees & all as one man, vocally poured forth rejoicing. supplication & Prayer, before the God of Israel which closed the services of the day, after contributing for the support of the poor [3 lines in shorthand].

March 26th Sunday communed with the saints in the fore part of the day In the latter part, Elder W. Parrish Preached the funeral sermon of Sister Pratt⁵⁸ the wife of Elder P.P.Pratt one of the twelve who died March 25th 1837

March 27th I signed \$50. fifty Dollars for the building of the house of the Lord in Zion the subscription list was in the hands of Elder Elisha H. Groves⁵⁹

April 2nd Attended worship in the Lords house upon this Sabbath day. I have spent the time for several days past In perusing the Outlines of ancient and modern HISTORY on a new plan, By Rev Royal Robbins It strikes the reflecting mind with deep sensibility to contemplate the scenery of the rise, progress, decline & fall of the Nations and kingdoms of the earth from the days of ADAM untill 1837 years after Christ And it is equally interesting to contemplate the day that is now at hand & hath already began in fulfillment of ancient prophecy in bringing the Church of Christ out of the wilderness in esstablishing Israel upon those lands by a Theocratical government in fulfillment of the covenants God made with Abram Isaac & Jacob. As this hath began in my day & I am called to act a part in the work by being planted with the first Seventy Elders of Israel to become a special witness of Jesus Crist to all nations I need much faith fortitude, holiness, & wisdom. May the Lord enable me not to seek honour from man but God & be faithful in clearing my garments of the blood of Gentile & Jew and do honour to the HOLY Priesthood & the Anointing that now awaiteth me

⁵⁸Thankful Halsey Pratt died while giving birth to a child. She was born 18 March 1797 and married Parley P. Pratt on 9 September 1827.

⁵⁹Elisha Hurd Groves (1797-1867) was born in Madison County, Kentucky.

April 3rd The day had now arived for the preperations for the solumn assembly the Anointing & the endowment of the Elders of Israel or at least for those that were not endowed in Kirtland the strong hold of the daughter of Zion in the Spring of 1836 & as I was absent at that time my day is now come & my time at hand for those blessings & I shall record the events of each day of the endowment for the benefit of the generation to come. I upon this third day of April met in the house of the Lord with a number of the seventies to receiev counsel respecting our washing & anointing. I was appointed with Elder G. Meeks⁶⁰ to visit President F.G. Williams & have the perfumes & oil prepared against the day following I considered it a privilege to wait upon the Elders of Israel in this thing that we might become the anointed of the Lord according to the words of the Poet & the Revelations of JESUS CHRIST

We'll wash and be washed and with oil be anointed
Withal not omit the washing of feet
For he that receiveth his PENNY appointed
Must surely be clean at the hearvest of wheat⁶¹

After attending to the duties above spoken I repaired to a room in company with Elder Meeks & Priest J Turpin to attend to our first washing after washing our bodies from head to foot in soap & watter we then washed ourselves in clear watter next in perfumed spirits the spirit of God was with us & we had a spiritual time. we spent the evening with several Elders in Prayer before God & the Power of God rested upon us.

April. 4th I met at the house of Elder Hales⁶² at one oclock. PM. in company with twenty three Elders President Joseph Young making one of the number for the purpose of attending to the ordinance of washing the body with clean watter & perfumes that our bodies might be prepared for the anointing President Young opened the meeting by prayer we then proceeded to the ordinance myself & Elder G.W. Meeks were the first washed under the hands of President Joseph Young we then assisted President Young in washing our Brethren the Elders much of the spirit of God rested upon us I washed & perfumed the bodies of a number of my Brethren & the interview closed after expressing our feelings to each other. We again met together in the quorum of the seventies at the upper part of the Lords house at early candle light to receieve our anointing. The quorums

⁶⁰Garland W. Meeks was ordained a seventy 20 December 1836 by Joseph Young in Kirtland.

⁶¹This is the fourth stanza of the song, "The Spirit of God Like a Fire Is Burning," written by William W. Phelps that was sung at the dedication of the Kirtland Temple in March 1836.

⁶²Jonathan H. Hale (1800-1846) was born in Bradford, Massachusetts. He was converted to the Church in Dover, New Hampshire, in 1834 and journeyed to Kirtland, Ohio. He labored as a missionary with members of the Council of the Twelve in the eastern states and returned to Kirtland with his family in July 1836. He assisted in building the Kirtland Temple and was a member of the third quorum of seventy.

of the Deacons, Teachers, & Priest occupied one apartment the Elders another & the Seventies the third. each quorums met for the anointing. Three of the presidents met with the seventies viz H Aldrich J. Young and Z. Coultrin President Coultrin opened the meeting by prayer & after conversing plainly to those who were to be anointed they proceeded to business the presidency consecrated the oil before God that it might be holy The person to be anointed then took a seat & the presidency then laid hands upon his head & consecrated him unto God & then anointed him in the name of the Lord & pronounced such blessings upon his his head as the testimony of Jesus shall direct which is the spirit of prophecy. We had a glorious season indeed in this solumn ordinance of the house of the Lord there were fifteen annoointed in our quorum mostly by President Coultrin. the Power of God rested upon us. President Coultrin anointed me & the following are some of the blessing that he pronounced upon my head while clothed upon by the Spirit & Power of God. viz. that God would bless me with all the powers of the Priesthood & give me a multiplicity of blessings that kings would tremble upon their thrones at my word. that I should become a Counsellor & multitudes should seek counsel at my mouth & I should have great wisdom & power to fly through the midst under heaven as Philip travled by the spirit that I should have power over my enemies & have long life & bring many into the kingdom of God Also that I should have the riches of the earth & that I should have sons & consecrate them priests unto God in Zion & that I should tread upon the ashes of my enemies in Jackson County those that had sought to take my life & the life of my brethren that went to redeem Zion & he also sealed upon my head all the blessing that had previously been pronounced upon me & thes blessing were sealed upon my head with a loud amen from all of the annoointed present in the name of Jesus Christ Much of the power & spirit of God & a sens of the virtue of the ordinance rested upon me May God enable me to possess those blessing & obtain those vishions that have been promised me in this & other solumn ordinances & keep me from dishonouring my anointing & the Holy Priesthood for Christ sake Amen.

The interview closed about 10. oclock P.M. I then repaired into the lower Court of the Lords house in Company with Elders Joseph B. Nobles & G.W.Meeks to spend the night (after being anointed) in prayer & fasting before God the vales being closed we entered the Elders pulpit & there upon our knees we plead with God & we covenanted with each other in the holy stand that we would not give sleep to our eyes neither take food untill we receieved a blessing from God by the outpourings of his spirit upon us if it was untill the end of three days and according to our covenant we commenced praying & a part of the night we had a severe trial of our faith by great temptation from Satan but before day we gained a good degree of victory over the Devil & the Lord poured out his spirit upon us & we felt it good to be in the house of God while nature was hushed in silenced by the sable shades of night. After spending the night in

prayer we returned to our homes in the morning intending to spend the day in prayer & fasting for still greater blessings this being upon

April 5th I spent a part of the day in attending the high Council the remainder in writing, Prayer, & fasting I again repaired to the upper lower part of the house of the Lord at 5 o'clock PM. with the quorum of the Seventies for a solumn assembly anointing &c. Three out of the seven presidents were present & anointed twelve the spirit of God sat upon us & we were satisfied with our blessing consequently I returned home with those brethren with whom I had covenanted for a blessing & took some food & retired to rest being 24 hours since we had taken food or sleep. There was much of the spirit of Prophesy & revelation poured upon the heads of the anointed in the diferent quorums

April 6th 1837. This being more particular the day of the Solumn assembly, or a day that is looked upon annually with feeling of greater interest in Celebration of the 6th of April 1830 as upon that day the Church of Latter day Saints was first organized in this last dispensation & fulness of times Henceforth the solumn assembly of the Elders of Israel & all official members that can, will meet in the LORDS house annually to attend to the most Solumn ordinances of the house of GOD & of receieving the visions & great things of heavens Therefore I shall be more particular in recording the trans- actions of this day than others for it is sumthing similar to the Pente- cost that St Paul speak of at Jerrusalem

I repaired to the house of the Lord at 8 oclock A.M. & after spending an hour in the lower part of the house the presidency of the Church called the quorums of the Seventies into the upper part of the house that they might be by themselves for a while as there was some business to be attended to in these quorums before they could procede to the business of the day below In the first place six of the Presidents of the Seventies were to leave the Seventies & take a station in the quorum of the travling high priesthood and six other Presidents chosen in their stead I shall not here give the particulars of this change of Councillers suffice it to say that all of the councillors first chosen excepting Joseph Young were high priest befor the organization of the seventies & they had a right to officiate in the lower offices of the Church & there was some difiference in the authority and office of the quorums of high priesthood & seventies. The six new Presidents chosen out of the seventies to take the place of thos that were to leave were John Gould.⁶³ Josiah Butter- field.⁶⁴ Salmon Gee.⁶⁵ Foster.⁶⁶ John Gaylard.⁶⁷

⁶³John Gould, a member of the second quorum of seventy, was chosen to replace Hazen Aldrich in the seventies presidency.

⁶⁴Josiah Butterfield, a native of Maine, had assisted in building the Kirtland Temple and was a member of the Kirtland Safety Society. He was a member of the second quorum of seventy, chosen on this date to replace Lyman Sherman in the presidency.

⁶⁵Salmon Gee (1792-1845) was born in Lyme, Connecticut, and joined the Church in July 1832. He moved to Kirtland in 1834 and was chosen a member of the second quorum of seventy in 1836.

After this matter was aranged their was a glorious ordinance performed upon the heads of those who had been anointed (by the first presidency of the Church Joseph Smith jr Sidney Rigdon &c was this ordinance performed. it was as follows. while all of the anointed present lifted there hands towards heaven this first presidency of the Church confirmed & sealed upon our heads all the blessings of our ordination, anointing & patriarchal with a seal in the presence of God & the Lamb & holy angels that they should all be fulfilled upon our heads that not one jot or tittle should fail & the seal was confirmed upon our heads with a shout of all the anointed with uplifted hand to heaven HOSANNA. HOSANNA. HOSANNA. to GOD & the LAMB. Amen. Amen. & Amen. Hosanna Hosanna. Hosanna. to God & the LAMB. Amen—Amen. & Amen. Hosanna, Hosanna. Hosanna. to GOD & the LAMB. Amen. Amen. & Amen. This was repeated as it is written & if ever a shout entered the cabinet of heaven that did & was repeated by angels on high & caused the power of God to rest upon us. (O ye Priest of Baal. O, ye gentile religionest O. ye inhabitants of Babylon possessing the mark of the beast What knowledge have ye of the ordinances or blessings or virtues of the house & Church of God) Great and marvelous are the blessings and power of the ordinances of the Lord & his gospel made manifest on these occasions After being in the upper room about two hours we again Joined the congregation of the Saints in the lower Court & the house came to order for the business of the day. the veils were closed & each apartment commenced the duties of the day the washing of the feet of the anointed was the first business that was performed. The twelve assisted our presidency in washing the feet Elder Heber Kimble one of the twelve apostles attended to the washing of my feet & prophesied upon my head & pronounced me clean from the Blood of this generation this as it was with JESUS when he washed his deciples feet. great were the blessings that rested upon us in this ordinance. After the washing of feet, the veils were rolled, which brought the congregation into one assembly, the stand of the Priesthood were still coverd with the veils the Presidency stood in the lower stand & President Joseph Smith jr arose and addressed the congregation for the term of three hours clothed with the power, spirit, & image of GOD he unbosomd his mind & feelings in the house of his friends He presented many things of vast importance to the minds of the Elders of Israel. O that they might be written upon our hearts as with an iron pen to remain forever that we might practice them in our lives That fountain of light, principle & virtue that came forth out of the heart & mouth of the Prophet JOSEPH whose soul like Enochs swelld wide as eternity I say such evidences presented in such a forcible manner ought to drive into oblivion every particle of unbelief & dubiety from the mind of the hearers, for such language sentiment principle & spirit cannot flow from darkness. Joseph

⁶⁶James Foster (1775-1841) was a member of the second quorum of seventy at Kirtland prior to his appointment to the presidency.

⁶⁷John Gaylord (1797- ?), a member of the Kirtland Safety Society, was chosen to replace Sylvester Smith in the seventy's presidency.

Smith jr is a prophet of God rised up for the deliverance of Israel as true as my heart now burns within me while I am penning thes lines which is as true as truth itself. President Hiram Smith followed Joseph with many useful remarks he also was clothed with much of the spirit of God. Joseph desired us to give heed to his words & teaching this once & be wise that Zion & her stakes might spedily be redeemed he instructed us to be sure & ask those that enter the Kingdom to send up their wise men to Kirtland with there money to counsel with the presidency & purchase an inheritance before they move their families or bring the poor to the places of gathering for to suffer. Also that we must keep in view the institution of the Kirtland Safety Society & if the Elders of Israel would be faithful & do what was in their power this once Kirtland should spedily be redeemed & become a strong hold not to be thrown down. Joseph presented us in some degree the plot of the City of Kirtland (which is the strong hold of the daughter of Zion) as it was given him by vision, it was great marvelous & glorious. the City extended to the east, west, north, & south, steam boats will come puffing into the city our goods will be conveyed upon railroads from Kirtland to many places & probably to Zion. houses of worship would be reared unto the most high beautiful streets was to be made for the Saints to walk in Kings of the earth would come to behold the glory thereof & many glorious things not now to be named would be bestowed upon the Saints, but all these thing are better imagined than spoken by the Children of Jacob

President Oliver Cowder followed Hiram Smith & made but few remarks but verry appropriate, he called upon the Elders to keep within the bounds of their knowledge & to let the great mysteries of the Kingdom alone for the gentiles had not a knowledge even of the first principles of the gospel. that it was far better to preach what the people would call the small things of the Bible than to enter into the vishions of Isaiah. Ezekiel, & John &c. President Sidney Rigdon next spoke & said many important things and impressd it upon the Elders of Israel with great force & eloquence to lay to with their mights this once for the redemption of Kirtland that Israel may be safe & free and have a place to set his foot [sentence in shorthand]

After the Presidency closed their remarks the twelve were called upon to break bread for the multitude (as Jesus did in the days of the Apostles) that they might all be filled they did so & we were all filled & was made glad while feasting with Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, Evangelist, Pastors, Teachers, & Deacons. After the feast was Closed thanks was returned to GOD with uplifted hands to heaven this being about the seting of the son all had the privilege of returning to thir homes that felt disposed & the rest might spend the night in the house of the Lord in prayer, & exhortation, praise & thanksgiving. At about candle light the meeting commenced with great interest Joseph requested the congregation to speak their feelings freely & pray according to the spirit the saints began to open their mouths & they were filled with language unto edification one a

prayer another an exhortation some a doctrin & a psalm others a toungue. some an interpretation Prophecy was also poured out upon us & all things was done decently & in order & the night was spent gloriously by the saints much of the gifts of the gospel rested upon us. One Brother clothed with the gift of tongues laid his hands upon my head and prophesied great blessing upon me another Brother possessing the interpretation uttered it unto me to my joy & consolation with the many blessing pronounced upon my head he rehersed the blessing that Jacob pronounced upon the heads of Joseph & said that I should possess the blessings of heaven & of earth & be much blessed in my ministry &c. much Prophecy was uttered upon the heads of many of the Saints in other languages & was interpreted which was glorious, thus was this day & night spent gloriously & those scenes will long be remembered Rejoice O, earth & shout O heavens for the natural fruit of the tame olive tree is again manifest in the earth. the fig tree is puting forth leaves. The Church of Christ is travling out of the wilderness with her gifts & graces which edify the body of Christ. The house of God is reared in beauty & splendor according to the pattern given by the vishions of heaven & the revelations of Jesus Christ O, ye gentiles come & receieve the gospel repent & be baptized for the remishion of your sins & recieve the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands & partake of the blessing of God with Israel that you may be hid under the shadow of the ALMIGHTY in the day of GODs wrath & indignation upon babylon which is at hand. The meeting continued until break of day when we all dispersed to our homes with great Joy & consolation May the Lord bless the Saints & have mercy upon the poor the sick & the afflicted & deliver Israel from the gentile yoke for Jesus sake amen

April 7th I spent the day in writing my Journal. & when the shades of evening began to appear I repaired to the house of the LORD in company with Elders Milton Holmes, & Joseph B Nobles for the purpose of worshiping God we entered one of the stands within the veils & fell upon our knees & satan appeared also but not to worship God but to deprive us of the privilege satan strove against us with great power by tempting & otherwis he at one time drove me from my stand while I was striving with my brethren to enter into the visions of heaven notwithstanding his apparent victory good grew out of it for by going into the outer Court. I there found Elder Freeman Nickerson⁶⁸ an aged father in Israel who was faithful & Prayed to God alway I solicited him to join us in prayer that we might gain a victory over satan & get a blessing at the hand of God He joyfully accepted the invitation & we again entered the stand being four of us in number of one accord in one place. we had great cause to be united in heart we all had travled together about 1.000 miles in the spring of 1834 for the redemption of Zion we at that time offered to lay down our lives & our offering was accepted as was Abrams. We felt considering those circumstances that we could kneel down & unitedly

⁶⁸Freeman Nickerson (1778-1847) was baptized in April 1833 and had labored in Ohio and Canada as a missionary.

get a blessing by faith through Jesus Christ we fell upon our Knees & began to cry unto God Satan departed, temptation found no place in our harts The power of God rested upon us & we were baptized with the Holy Ghost & the spirit of God was like fire fire shut up in our bones we were immersed in the liberty of the sons of God many great things were shown unto us the power of God & the spirit of prophesy & revelation rested upon us I arose & proclaimed many glorious thing upon the heads of my beloved brethreth that were present which were dictated in my heart by the Holy Spirit And I Willford testify in the name of Jesus Christ that many preciou things were shown me concerning my brethren by the Holy Spirit in prophecy & revelation. Our hearts were made glad & we went our way rejoicing

April 8th Spent the day in writing my Journal spent the evening at Elder Milicans⁶⁹ in good company

9th Sunday morning I repaired to the house of the Lord to worship with the Saints Father John Smith⁷⁰ opened the meeting by prayer then read the twelvth chapter of the second Book of Nephi & preached from it unto the people. In the latter part of the Day Elder Kimble addressed the saints in the power of God Elder O. Pratt followed with few remarks after communion. President S Rigdon addressed the congregation & laid before them their situation as to temporal things. as the gentiles are striving to besiege the saints in Kirtland & would be glad to starve the saints to death.⁷¹ He also stated that the Presidency had used every means for the deliverance of the Church but

⁶⁹Possibly Nathaniel Milliken who was doorkeeper of the Kirtland Temple.

⁷⁰John Smith (1781-1854) was an uncle to Joseph Smith. He was baptized in 1832 and moved to Kirtland in 1833, where he was a member of the Kirtland Safety Society.

⁷¹Reference to efforts of gentiles to starve the Mormons at Kirtland is elaborated by George A. Smith: "In the Spring of 1835, a majority of the inhabitants of Kirtland combined together and warned all the Saints to leave the town, this was done to prevent any of our people becoming a Town charge in case of poverty. They then bought up all the grain that was for sale in the country around, and refused to sell a particle of it to our people. Mr. Lyman a Presbyterian owning the Kirtland Mills was at the head of the movement, he accumulated several thousand bushels of grain in his mill and refused to sell the least portion of it to any of the Saints. This arrangement was brought about by a combination of all the religious sects in the vicinity. Mr. Chase a Presbyterian neighbor of ours who had a quantity of grain on hand and had refused to sell a particle at any price, came to my father one morning and asked him if he could board the Schoolmistress his portion, assigning as a reason that he had not got provisions to feed her on, my father, although he had eaten the last morsel of bread stuff we had, for breakfast, told him he could board her as well as not. This was done to ascertain our straitened condition, but Joseph on learning the plan of our enemies, got the brethren to put their mites together and sent to Portage County and purchased a supply of wheat at a reasonable price and carried it to a mill owned by one of the brethren several miles from Town, so that our christian friends not only had the mortification of not starving out the Saints but had when harvest came around a large quantity of grain on hand and no market for it, as our people had raised a supply for themselves." "Memoirs of Geo. A. Smith," pp. 59-60. MS, HDC.

as many of the Church had refused Kirtlan currency which was their temporal salvation in consequence of this they put strength in the hands of their enemies & those that had done this thing must suffer by it Sidney closed and Joseph arose & like the lion of the tribe of JUDAH he poured out his soul in the midst of the congregation of the Saints but who can find languague to write his words & teachings as with an iron pen in a rock that they may stand for future generation to look upon A fountain of knowledge rolled from his mouth to the people which was the word of God Yea in the name of God he proclaimed that severe Judgment awaited those characters that professed to be his friends & friends to humanity & the Kirtland Safety Society But had turned tritors & opposed the currency & its friends which has given power into the hands of the enemy & oppressed the poor saints such have become covenant Breakers for which they will feel the wrath of God as true as Joseph is a prophet Joseph uttered the feelings of his soul in pain while viewing the poverty & afflictions of Ephraim or the Saints in Kirtland at least that fals brethren should be whitened walls & bring perils upon the saints. Joseph is as a father to Ephraim & to all Israel in these last days, he mourns because of unbelief & the negligence manifest with many who have received the gospel in obeying the commands of God he fears lest but few be left to receive an inheritance. There is not a greater man than Joseph standing in this generation. The gentiles look upon him & he is to them like bed of gold concealed from human view. they know not his principle, his spirit, his wisdom, virtue, phylanthrope, nor his calling. His mind like Enochs swells wide as eternity Nothing short of a God can comprehend his soul

April 10th I wrote two letters to the land of Zion one to Elder A.O. Smoot & the other to Elder Alexander

A Conference of Elders to be held at Mane Aug 12th & 13th AD 1837. on Saturday & Sunday

Direct a letter to Freeman Nickerson south Dennis Post Office Barnstable County Massachusetts

My first acquaintance with Miss Phebe W. Carter was on the eve of the 28th of Jan. 1837 at which time I was introduced to her at Elder Millikens by the politeness of Elder M. Holmes after two & half months acquaintance we were joined in Matrimony the account of which will be found on the following pages

MATRIMONY

WILLFORD WOODRUFF. Born March 1st 1807
PHEBE W. CARTER. Born March 8th 1807

April. 13th 1837. Marriage being an institution of heaven & honourable in all. I accordingly accepted the honour, upon this memorial day, by joining hands with Miss. PHEBE. W. CARTER in the bonds

of matrimony and took upon ourselves the marriage covenant. Elder Johnathan Holmes Also took the same responsibility upon himself at the same time by giving his hand to Miss Mary Carter in the marriage covenant. We were married at the house of President JOSEPH SMITH, Jr The ceremony was solemnized my President Frederick. G. Williams President J. Smith sen the Patriarch then blessed us in the name of the Lord and pronounced great Blessings upon us & our posterity. President. J. Smith Jr was expecting to solemnize the ceremony. but his life was so beset & sought for by wicked and ungodly men for the testimony of JESUS, that he was under the necessity of fleeing from his house & home for a few days. O when will the prophets of God rest upon the earth.

We were married at 2 oclock P M and at 4. PM. the whole company consisting of about. 16 couple walked from President J. Smiths. to President. S Rigdons whare we were gratifyed with the privilege of seeing Elder George Robinson⁷² & Miss Thalia Rigdon⁷³ also joined in matrimony by President FG Williams The company dispersed at the sitting of the sun I spent the night at President Joseph Smiths May the Lord bless us all with salvation

The sun in the east arose to gladden earth & shed oer nature his pleaseing beams to wellcome the return of delightful spring that drearry winter might be forgotten. No day more pleasing than April thirteenth 1837 while all nature smiled without friendships purest joys were felt beneath a prophets roof whare the brides and bridegroom found a welcome reception. While by law with the nuptial cord their hands were bound their congenial hearts in one, lay cemented bearing the seal of Eternal life. Their friendship formed from principle pure, virtue unsuled, bid refinement oer those hearts to rule, possessing the love of GOD the ownly foundation of true friendship. True the prophet Joseph from his wife, children, & house for a moment had fled had torn himself from their embrace in some lonely place to seek a shelter to escape the blood thirsty gentiles hands against him raised for bearing the testimony of Jesus Christ. A Patriarch yet was left. He Possessing a Holy Priesthood more ancient than his gray hairs arose upon his feet to bless in the name of GOD the married four. Being clothed in the spirit through the power of the priesthood he pronounced upon the wedded heads and their posterity blessing that ne,r decay

While heaven smiles upon the Elders of Israel friendship presents each with a bride as a help meet whose prayers will be wafted by a more holy breeze than wind up to the throne of GOD for their companions while bound in chains & vaults in prisons cast for the word of God & the testimony of Jesus. These feeble words inspire their harts to call on God that he may here & send deliverance to the bridegroom in distance lands while under Zions banner the bride finds protections.

⁷²George W. Robinson (1814- ?) was a member of the Kirtland Safety Society and clerk of the Kirtland high council. He later became general Church recorder.

⁷³Athalia Rigdon was the eldest daughter of Sidney Rigdon.

O heaven protect the four that they their covenants may fulfill that friendship may grow old But pure and strong as death that peace and harmony may crown their lives. Let God direct their steps their hearts possess his love while personal friendship joins their hearts and hands in one may light and truth their way direct untill they meet the great bridegroom

Vera amicitia est sempiterna⁷⁴

[At this point in his diary Elder Woodruff records his patriarchal blessing which was given April 15, 1836, and that of his wife, Phebe, which was given in November 10, 1836. Both blessings were given at Kirtland, Ohio, by Joseph Smith, Sr.]

THE LAST DISPENSATION OF THE GOSPEL

Solemn and interesting are the scenes and living realities of the present generation of the human family. The reflecting mind may flit back with the rapidity of lightning to the day when GOD spake and chaos herd and this world came into order, then from the days of ADAM trace the history of man down to 1830 years after Christ both sacred and profane and place their history in a point of light to comprehend in one combined mass all the rise, progress, decline, and fall of all the nations, Kingdoms, and empires of the earth and they do not form a more compounded scenery of grand awful sublime and important events than is to transpire in this last dispensation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The prophets and Apostles & all inspired men of God in every age of a theocratical government have looked, spake, & written respecting this generation with feelings of the deepest interest. In 1830 the stone began to roll. The Church & body of Christ became visible It will continue to be propeled by the arm of JEHOVAH untill the Kingdom fills the whole earth & Israel gatherd. Babylon falls & Christ reigns. Then marvel not O ye reader that the Patriarch Joseph pronounces blessings upon the children of EPHRAIM

April 20th Spent this day in the house of the Lord in prayer and fasting with the congregation of the Saints. Much of the power, gifts, and graces of the gospel was poured out upon us. speaking and interpeting of tongues was manifest in the congregation one brother sung a lengthy song in tongues & sister Hide interpeted the same it was great & glorious much of it was respecting the fame of Joseph and his magnus works

April 21. I paid \$37. dollars to Elder Harvy Redfield for Jacob Bump which balanced all of my account with them both. I paid \$5. dollars to Elder Heber Kimble [sentence in shorthand]

April 22nd Receieved a Letter from my father in Law Ezra Carter under date of April 9th
30th spent the last week labouring with my hands for Elder H. Kimble

⁷⁴"Evidence of Woodruff's Latin study in the Kirtland High School: "True friendship is eternal."

May 1st Mrs Woodruff with myself removed our boarding place to Elder W Parrishes whare we tarry for the present

5th While labouring for Elder J. Young in the latter part of the day we experienced a verry sudden, hard, & rapid storm of wind and rain a vane of it passed south of the temple in the form of a whirl wind or tornado it destroyed and injured several buildings it crushed one of Elder Young buildings instantly and removed the one we were in yet no lives were lost nor persons injured soon all was calm again

10th Brother Henry Harmon⁷⁵ arived in Kirtland from the State of Main and Mrs Woodruff receieved nine Letters from our friends in the state of Maine

May 14th we wrote two Letters to our friends in the State of Maine
23rd Spent several of the Last weeks in labouring with my hands for Elder Joseph Young. Spent the fore part of this day in attending a Patriarchal meeting I wrote a Patriarchal Blessing for Brother Henry Harmon

25th I comenced boarding with Elder Jonathan. H. Hale

27th I wrote a Patriarchal Blessing, as it was delivered from the mouth of the Patriarch JOSEPH, for Elder Rufus M Lord⁷⁶

28th Sunday I repaired to the house of the Lord to worship the GOD of Israel with the congregation of the Saints in Kirtland. Behold, it was a day of experience, of interest, & of Knowledge. The same spirits of murmering, complaining, & of mutiny, that I speake of in Feb. 19th in this journal, hath not slept from that day to the present they have been brewing in the family circle in the secret chamber & in the streets untill many & some in high places had risen up against Joseph the servent whom God had raised up to lead Israel and they were striving to overthrow his influence & cast him down untill Joseph was grieved in spirit to stand in such perils among fals brethren.⁷⁷ But notwithstanding this thick cloud of darkness

⁷⁵Henry Harmon (1816- ?) was a native of Scarborough, Maine.

⁷⁶Rufus M. Lord was a member of the third quorum of seventy at Kirtland.

⁷⁷The conditions that prevailed to eventually terminate Kirtland as a Mormon gathering place are summarized by Heber C. Kimball:

"On our arrival in Kirtland we were much grieved to see the spirit of speculation that was prevailing in the church; trade and traffic seemed to engross the time and attention of the Saints: when we left Kirtland a City lot was worth about 150 dollars, but on our return to our astonishment the same lot was said to be worth from 500 to 1000 dollars according to location; and some men who when I left could hardly get food to eat, I found on my return to be men of supposed great wealth; in fact every thing in the place seemed to be moving in great prosperity, and all seemed determined to become rich; in my feelings they were artificial or imaginary riches. A Bank was also established called the Kirtland safety society in which myself and most of the Twelve were appointed directors. This bank issued paper to a considerable extent. This appearance of prosperity led many of the

standing over Kirtland Joseph being unmoved in the cause entered the congregation of the Saints arose in the stand & spake to the people in the name of the Lord in his own defence the Lord was with him by his power & spirit to the convinceing of the honest that he would stand & his enemies fall. Sidney followed him with an able discourse & several others spake in the spirit in the spirit of God maintaining Joseph in his integrity. But: Alas, one arose, once a friend, (not now) in the blackness of his face & corruption of his heart stretched out his puny arm and proclaimed against Joseph. Joseph acted wisely while all saw the spirit of his foe O. [words in shorthand] when thou art converted strengthen thy brethren O my God deliver me from such a crime I pray thee

May 29th I met in the house of the Lord to attend an important conference or meeting of the high Council to attend to some important business of the Church let memory speak upon this subject two [words in shorthand] two [words in shorthand] one [words in shorthand] it was considered not [words in shorthand] try [words in shorthand] before the high council but before the Bishop the Presidents withdrew the council closed without transacting business I met with the quorum of seventies 20 times from Jan to May 30th

30th Rode to Panesville in company with the Presidency & many other official members of the Church of latter day Saints for the purpose of attending a Court, President Joseph Smith jr was ac-

Saints to believe that the time had arrived for the Lord to enrich them with the treasures of the earth and believing so, it stimulated them to great exertions, so much so, that two of the Twelve Lyman E. Johnson and John F. Boynton went to New York and purchased to the amount of twenty thousand dollars worth of goods and entered into the Mercantile business, borrowing considerable money from Polly Voce and other Saints in Boston and the regions round about, and which they have never repaid.

"This state of things did not continue long, for our enemies being filled with jealousy and hatred, drew upon the Bank till money began to fail, and in proportion as adversity came upon us, the faith of many began to fail, and being filled with the spirit of speculation, they ran greedily into the world, erred from the faith, and joined our enemies; some who were entrusted with the Bank, robbed it of a considerable amount, which was palmed upon us, as a means to overthrow us, also a counterfeit which was said to have been issued from the Bank; those of integrity in the church replaced the robbed money at the expence of all they had. I may safely add that a greater specimen of integrity was never known among men.

"Warren Parrish, who was a clerk in the Bank, afterwards acknowledged he took 20,000 dollars, and there was strong evidence he took more . . .

"This order of things increased to such an extent during the Winter, that a man's life was in danger the moment he spoke in defence of the Prophet of God. During this time I had many hours and days of sorrow and mourning, for my heart sickened to see the awful extent that things were getting to. The only source of consolation I had, was in bending my knees, continually before my Father in heaven and asking him to sustain me and preserve me from falling into snares; and from betraying my brethren as others had done; for those who apostatized sought every means and opportunity to draw others after them; they also entered into combinations to obtain wealth by fraud and every means that was hellish. . . ." "History of Heber Chase Kimball by his own Dictation," pp. 47-48. MS, HDC.

cused of endangering the life of Newel⁷⁸ this was done out of spite not becaus he was guilty of the charge the court adjourned untill saturday following we then returned home distance of the day 18 miles I spent the evening in prepareing myself to go fourth from Kirtland into the eastern country on a mision to again proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in company with some of my brethren may the Lord prosper our way

May 31st The day had now arived for me to take the parting hand with the saints in Kirtland and again go into the vineyard to proclaim the word of God. I accordingly took my departure from Mrs Woodruff my Companion & Sister Hale who were expecting to tarry together for a season. I then left Kirtland in good spirits in company with Elder Hale. . . .

⁷⁸Reference is made to the case in which Grandison Newell, a prominent resident of Mentor, Ohio, brought charges against Joseph Smith for threatening Newell's life.