

Revelation headings changed from Manchester to Fayette, New York

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The Manuscript History of Joseph Smith for the date of April 6, 1830 reads:

we had received commandment to organize the Church And accordingly we met together for that purpose, at the house of the above mentioned Mr Whitmer (being six in number) . . . Revelation to Joseph Smith Jr, Given at Fayette, Seneca Co N Y. April 6th 1830. ¹

The Peter Whitmer Sr. family lived in the township of Fayette, New York. The text of the revelation comes from the 1835 Doctrine and Covenants (D&C) with no location listed in the heading. Only one revelation is dated April 6, 1830 in the 1835 D&C, now LDS D&C 21. The earlier compilation, the Book of Commandments (BC), prints the location of LDS D&C 21 and 23 (five revelations combined in 1835 to form one single revelation) as given in Manchester, New York (BC 17-22). Oliver Cowdery was present when LDS D&C 21 was given, he also edited the BC.

For LDS D&C 23 the Manuscript History has “Given at Manchester, New York, April 1830” with no day of the month. (A-1:39). The BC has the date as April 6, 1830 when those present received instructions from Joseph Smith. Joseph Knight Sr. recalled:

Now in the Spring of 1830 I went with my Team and took Joseph [Smith] out to Manchester to his Father. . . . On the sixth Day of April 1830 he Begun the Church with six members and received the following Revelation [1835] Book of Covenants Page 177. [LDS D&C 21] ²

The correct location for LDS D&C 21 and the five revelations for D&C 23 is Manchester, with the date of April 6, 1830. The mix up in locations places questions on how serious the Manuscript History should be taken in its reconstruction of the events of April.³

¹ Manuscript History Book A-1:37, Church History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah. The Manuscript History adds “at Fayette” while the source document from the 1835 Doctrine and Covenants contains no location. See *History of the Church* 1:76-77.

² Dean C. Jessee, ed., “Joseph Knight’s Recollection of Early Mormon History,” *BYU Studies* 17 (Autumn 1976):36-37, holograph in Church History Library. The account was written between 1835 and Knight’s death in 1847. Knight was present when LDS D&C 21 was given in Manchester. For the early text see H. Michael Marquardt, *The Joseph Smith Revelations: Text and Commentary* (Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1999), 57-62.

³ In another twist a clearly given location of LDS D&C 22, as being given in Fayette (BC 23), is changed to Manchester in the history: “Revelation to the Church of Christ, . . . Given <at> Manchester New York, April 1830.” Manuscript History A-1:38.