

### Sarah Ann Whitney

At Nauvoo in 1842 the Joseph Smith store was the headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.<sup>1</sup> Working at the store were Newel K. Whitney, church bishop, and his brother-in-law, Joseph C. Kingsbury. Also helping Joseph Smith was Willard Richards, apostle and clerk, assisting in keeping records, such as the Book of the Law of the Lord. For the date of March 22, 1842, Richards wrote that Smith was "At the General Business office (Sarah Ann Whitney's Birth day, celebration, at the Lodge Room, co[mpany]. waited upon by the Recr [Recorder]) home in the eve[ning]."<sup>2</sup> Helen Mar Kimball Whitney recalled being at Sarah Ann's seventeenth birthday celebration:

My first introduction into her circle was at a party given in honor of her seventeenth birthday, in March, 1842, in the Masonic room above Joseph Smith's store. The latter her father had charge of, and his family occupied a small house adjoining it. . . . The Prophet spent a little time with them, but took no part. I believe that I was the youngest and I know that I was the most bashful, so much so that I declined nearly every invitation to take part in their various games.<sup>3</sup>

There was a close relationship between Joseph Smith, prophet and president of the Church, and Bishop Newel K. Whitney.

This bond of affection was strengthened and intensified by the giving in marriage to the former of the Bishop's eldest daughter, Sarah, in obedience to a revelation from God. This girl was but seventeen years of age, but she had implicit faith . . . [that] the doctrine of plural marriage, as revealed to and practiced by the Prophet, was of celestial origin. She was the first woman, in this dispensation, who was given in plural marriage by and with the consent of both parents. Her father himself officiated in the ceremony. The revelation commanding and consecrating this union, is in existence, though it has never been published. It bears the date of July 27, 1842, and was given through the Prophet to the writer's grandfather, Newel K. Whitney, whose daughter Sarah, on that day, became the wedded wife of Joseph Smith for time and all eternity.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Richard P. Howard, "The Joseph Smith Store: Church Headquarters at Nauvoo?" *Saints Herald* 118 (October 1971):34.

<sup>2</sup> Jessee, *Papers of Joseph Smith* 2:372, original reading of entry.

<sup>3</sup> Helen Mar [Kimball] Whitney, "Scenes in Nauvoo after the Martyrdom of the Prophet and Patriarch," *Woman's Exponent* 11 (March 1, 1883):146.

<sup>4</sup> O[rson]. F. Whitney, "The Aaronic Priesthood," *The Contributor* 6 (January 1885):131, Salt Lake City; also found in the Andrew Jenson, *Latter-Day Saints Biographical Encyclopaedia* (Salt Lake City: A. Jenson History Company, and Printed by the Deseret News, 1901), 1:226.

Sarah Ann Whitney was the eldest daughter of Newel Kimball Whitney and Elizabeth Ann Smith Whitney and was born on March 22, 1825. As Orson Whitney has written, at age seventeen, she was married to the Prophet Joseph Smith in a priesthood sealing ceremony on July 27, 1842, by her father. She died in Salt Lake City on September 4, 1873, thirty-one years after her marriage with Joseph Smith.

Joseph Smith had first seen Sarah Ann Whitney when he arrived in Kirtland, Ohio, about the first of February 1831; she was then almost six years old. Eleven years later they were sealed by her father as husband and wife for time and for all eternity. It appears took a special revelation from Joseph Smith to help win the parents' consent. Years later Sarah Ann and Elizabeth Whitney made affidavits concerning this matter. Sarah Ann Whitney Kimball swore that "on the twenty Seventh day of July A.D. 1842 at the City of Nauvoo, County of Hancock, State of Illinois, She was married or Sealed to Joseph Smith, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints, by Newel K. Whitney, Presiding Bishop of Said Church"<sup>5</sup> Elizabeth Ann Whitney said that "she was present and witnessed the marrying or Sealing of her daughter Sarah Ann Whitney to the Prophet Joseph Smith, for time and all eternity, by her husband Newel K. Whitney."<sup>6</sup>

Elizabeth Ann Whitney further stated that Joseph Smith "had been strictly charged, by the angel who committed these precious things in his keeping, that he should only reveal them to such ones as were pure, and full of integrity to the truth, and worthy and capable of being entrusted with divine messages." Elizabeth and Newel prayed that "the Lord would grant us some special manifestation concerning this new and strange doctrine. The Lord was very merciful to us, revealing unto us his power and glory. We were seemingly wrapt in a heavenly vision; a halo of light encircled us, and we were convinced in our own bosoms that God heard and approved our prayers and intercedings before him." Continuing her account Elizabeth Whitney remarked:

Our hearts were comforted, and our faith made so perfect that we were willing to give our eldest daughter, then only seventeen years of age, to Joseph, in the holy order of plural marriage. . . . Laying aside all our traditions and former notions in regard to marriage, we gave her with our mutual consent. She was the first woman ever given in plural marriage by or with the consent of both parents. Of course these things had to be kept an inviolate secret.<sup>7</sup>

William Clayton knew that Sarah Ann was one plural wife among others who were sealed to Joseph Smith. Clayton recalled:

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<sup>5</sup> Affidavit of Sarah A. [Whitney] Kimball, June 19, 1869, Joseph F. Smith Affidavit Book 1:36, CHL.

<sup>6</sup> Affidavit of E[lizabeth]. A. Whitney, August 30, 1869, Joseph F. Smith Affidavit Book 4:74, CHL.

<sup>7</sup> Edward W. Tullidge, *The Women of Mormondom* (New York: Tullidge and Crandall, 1877), 368-69; [Elizabeth Ann Whitney] "A Leaf from an Autobiography," *Woman's Exponent* 7 (December 15, 1878):105. See also Helen Mar [Kimball] Whitney, "Scenes in Nauvoo after the Martyrdom of the Prophet and Patriarch," *Ibid.*, 11 (March 1, 1883):146.

During this period [1842-43] the Prophet Joseph took several other wives. Amongst the number I well remember Eliza Partridge, Emily Partridge, Sarah Ann Whitney, Helen Kimball and Flora Woodworth. These all, he acknowledged to me, were his lawful, wedded wives, according to the celestial order.<sup>8</sup>

Joseph Smith received a revelation at Nauvoo on July 27, 1842, that gave instructions for Bishop Newel K. Whitney to perform the agreed-upon ceremony to join him in marriage to his daughter Sarah Ann. The revelation contained the wording of the marriage ceremony to be used by Bishop Whitney.

Verily thus saith the Lord unto my sevant N. K. Whitney the thing that my sevant Joseph Smith has made known unto you and your Famely and which you have agreed upon is right in mine eyes and shall be rewarded upon your heads with honor and immortality and eternal life to all your house both old & young because of the lineage of my Preast Hood saith the Lord it shall be upon you and upon your children after you from generation to generation By virtue of the Holy promise which I now make unto you saith the Lord.

these are the words which you shall pronounce upon my sevant Joseph and your Daughter S. A. Whitney they shall take each other by the hand and you shall say

you both mutu[al]ly agree calling them by name to be each others companion so long as you both shall live preser[v]ing yourselv[es] for each other and from all others<sup>9</sup> and also through [o]ut eternity reserving only those rights which have been given to my servant Joseph by revelation and commandment and by legal Authority in times passed

If you both agree to covenant and do this then I give you S. A. Whitney my Daughter to Joseph Smith to be his wife to observe all the rights betwe[e]n you both that belong to that condition I do it in my own name and in the name of my wife your mother and in the name of my Holy Progenitors by the right of birth which is of Priest Hood vested in me by revelation and commandment and promise of the liveing God obtained by the Holy Melchesdick<sup>10</sup> Gethrow<sup>11</sup> and other of the Holy Fathers commanding in the name of the Lord all those Powers to concentrate in you and through [you] to your po[s]terity for ever

all these things I do in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ that through this order he may be gloryfied and through the power of anointing Davied may reign King over Iseral which shall hereafter be revealed let immortality and eternal life henc[e]forth be sealed upon your heads forever and ever.

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<sup>8</sup> Affidavit of William Clayton, February 16, 1874, CHL; in Andrew Jenson, *Historical Record* 6 (May 1887):225.

<sup>9</sup> The 1835 D&C contains the following question as part of the marriage ceremony: "You both mutually agree to be each other's companion, husband and wife, observing the legal rights belonging to this condition; that is, keeping yourselves wholly for each other, and from all others, during your lives?" 1835 D&C 101.

<sup>10</sup> Melchizedek.

<sup>11</sup> Jethro.

Following the text of the revelation were recorded events that occurred to Newel and Elizabeth Whitney in August:

Part in the first reserection together with other blessings now added sunday 27st [21st]<sup>12</sup> day of augt [18]42 myself<sup>13</sup> and wife I now also bless[ed] with part in the first reserrection also with many other blessings together with the promise to all of my house the same day & of the same time

27 augt [18]42 saturday evening myself and wife to[o] were Baptised for remission of sins<sup>14</sup>

Sunday in fore part of the day we were all confirmed & b[[l]essed again<sup>15</sup> with all good things & eternal life in first reserrection I was blessed above others with long life the Keys of the Priest Hood a double portion of t[he] spirit heretofore confered upon my fellows with all gifts possessed by my prog[e]nitors who held the Priest Hood before me anciently.<sup>16</sup>

For August 1842, Church records give the activities of Joseph Smith as follows:

Mon. 8. - Joseph Smith was arrested by a deputy sheriff at Nauvoo, by requisition from Gov. Thos. Reynolds, of Missouri, falsely accused of being accessory to the shooting of ex-Governor Boggs. O. Porter Rockwell was also arrested as principal. A writ of *habeas corpus* was issued by the municipal court of Nauvoo, by which the prisoners were released for the time being.

Wed. 10. - The deputy sheriff returned to Nauvoo to re-arrest Joseph Smith and O. Porter Rockwell, but they could not be found. To escape imprisonment the Prophet had to keep concealed for some time.<sup>17</sup>

While Joseph Smith concealed himself in the house of Edward Sayer, he wrote a letter to Emma, to whom he had been married for more than fifteen years. He was considering leaving Nauvoo with her, accompanied by twenty or thirty men, and traveling up the Mississippi River. At the close of this letter, dated August 16, 1842, he wrote: "Yours in haste, your affectionate husband until death, through all eternity forevermore."<sup>18</sup> On the same day Joseph dictated his

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<sup>12</sup> Another manuscript has the date as August "21st" which was the third Sunday of the month. August 21 was when Newel and Elizabeth Whitney were sealed and received the blessings of the resurrection as they pertain to the new and everlasting covenant of marriage.

<sup>13</sup> Newel K. Whitney.

<sup>14</sup> Newel and Elizabeth Whitney were rebaptized on August 27, 1842.

<sup>15</sup> On Sunday morning, August 28, 1842, Newel and Elizabeth Whitney received their confirmation blessings.

<sup>16</sup> Marquardt, *Joseph Smith Revelations*, 315-16; revelation not in LDS D&C. There are two copies of the revelation and notations in CHL.

<sup>17</sup> Andrew Jenson, comp., *Church Chronology* (Salt Lake City: Printed at the Deseret News, 1886), 21, emphasis retained. See also *The Wasp* 1 (August 13, 1842):3 and the *Times and Seasons* 3 (August 15, 1842):887-88.

<sup>18</sup> Joseph Smith to Emma Smith, August 16, 1842, in Jessee, *Papers of Joseph Smith* 2:431-32.

sentiments to William Clayton, who was keeping the Book of the Law of the Lord, concerning Sarah Ann's father Newel K. Whitney:

Here is brother Newel K. Whitney also, how many scenes of sorrow, have strewed our paths together; and yet we meet once more to share again. Thou art a faithful friend in whom the afflicted sons of men can confide, with the most perfect safety. Let the blessings of the eternal be crowned also upon his head; how warm that heart! how anxious that soul! for the welfare of one who has been cast out, and hated of almost all men. Brother Whitney, thou knowest not how strong those ties are, that bind my soul and heart to thee.<sup>19</sup>

It was reported that Joseph Smith then "went to Carlos Granger's,"<sup>20</sup> who, though not a Mormon, was friendly to them.<sup>21</sup> While Joseph was hiding there he wrote a very revealing letter to Bishop Newel K. Whitney, his wife Elizabeth Ann, and a third person whom he refers to as "and &c" — Sarah Ann to whom he had been married for twenty-two days. The letter refers to this event in his life in the words "Since what has pas[s]ed lately between us."<sup>22</sup>

From reading this letter one can gain an insight into the thought pattern of Joseph Smith, especially what he thought of Emma. In Smith's own hand on August 18, 1842, Joseph wrote: "The only thing to be careful of, is to find out when Emma comes then you cannot be Safe, but when She is not here, there is the most perfect *Safty*," also, "I think Emma wont come tonight if she dont dont fail to come to night."

The full letter from Joseph Smith to Newel, Elizabeth, and Sarah Ann is as follows. They were to "burn this letter as soon as you read it," an instruction they did not obey.

Nauvoo August 18th 1842

Dear, and Beloved, Brother and Sister, Whitney, and & c.—

I take this oppertunity to communi[c]ate, Some of my feelings, privetely at this time, which I want you three Eternaly to keep in your own bosams; for my feelings are so Strong for you Since what has pas[s]ed lately between us, that the time of my absence from you Seems so long, and dreary, that it Seems, as if I could not live long in this way: and <if you> three would come and See me in this my lonely retreat, it would afford me great relief, of mind, if those with whom I am al[l]ied, do love me, now is the time to afford me succour, in the days of exile, for you know I foretold you of these things.

I am now at Carlos Graingers, Just back of Brother Hyram[']s farm, it is only one mile from town, the nights are very pleasant, indeed, all three of you <can> come and See me in the fore part of the night, let Brother Whitney come a

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., 2:416.

<sup>20</sup> Manuscript History Book D-1:1,378, CHL, written in the summer of 1845 in the handwriting of Thomas Bullock. See *History of the Church* 5:118.

<sup>21</sup> *Times and Seasons* 3 (August 1, 1842):878.

<sup>22</sup> Photographs of both sides of the original letter in the handwriting of Joseph Smith are in the George Albert Smith Family Papers, Manuscript 36, Box 1, Early Smith Documents, 1731-1849, Manuscripts Division, Western Americana, J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah, Salt Lake City; MS 23155, CHL. See Jessee, *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, 566-69.

little a head, and [k]nock at the south East corner of the house at <the> window; it is next to the cornfield; I have a room intirely by myself, the whole matter can be attended to with most perfect Safty,<sup>23</sup> I <know> it is the will of God that you should comfort <me> now in this time of affliction, or not at all now is the time or never, but I hav[e] no kneed of saying any such thing, to you, for I know the goodness of your hearts, and that you will do the will of the Lord, when it is made known to you; the only thing to be careful of, is to find out when Emma comes then you cannot be Safe, but when She is not here, there is the most perfect *Safty*.<sup>24</sup>

only be careful to escape observation, as much as possible, I know it is a heroick undertaking; but so much the greater friendship, and the more Joy, when I see you I <will> tell you all my plans, I cannot write them on paper, burn this letter as soon as you read it, keep all locked up in your breasts, my life depends upon it, one thing I want to see you for is <to> git [get] the fulness of my blessing Sealed upon our heads, &c. you will pardon me for my earnestness on <this subject> when you consider how lonesome I must be, your good feelings know how to <make> every allowance for me, I close my letter. I think Emma wont come tonight if she dont dont fail to come to night. I subscribe myself your most obedient, <and> affectionate, companion, and friend. Joseph Smith

What is included in this letter was to make sure that Emma knew nothing about the meeting. The letter indicated the relationship with the Whitney family on what occurred the previous month. It also emphasized the importance of keeping the secret from Emma. Joseph Smith wrote about his most secret desire to give a priesthood blessing to the Whitneys as "the whole matter can be attended to with most perfect Saf[e]ty." It appears that the Whitneys did not visit Joseph Smith that evening for three days later on August 21, Newel and Elizabeth were sealed as husband and wife for time and all eternity—apparently the “fulness of my blessing” that Joseph alludes to. It is not known if Sarah Ann accompanied them.

On September 6 for consideration of "one thousand dollars" Joseph Smith as Trustee-in-Trust conveyed lot 2 in block 139 of the City of Nauvoo to Sarah Ann Whitney. The deed was signed by Smith before Sarah Ann's father, Justice of the Peace Newel K. Whitney, in the presence of William Clayton.<sup>25</sup>

In October two statements were signed mostly by church members who did not know about the new order that had been introduced by Joseph Smith. These statements said that there was one marriage ceremony in the church and that they "know of no other rule or system of marriage than the one published from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants." The following certificates were published in the *Times and Seasons*:<sup>26</sup>

We the undersigned members of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and residents of the city of Nauvoo, persons of families do hereby certify and declare that we know of no other rule or system of marriage than the one

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<sup>23</sup> Another sealing ceremony.

<sup>24</sup> Not to let Emma Smith know that they are going to visit Joseph.

<sup>25</sup> Deed dated September 6, 1842, Joseph Smith Collection, CHL.

<sup>26</sup> "On Marriage," *Times and Seasons* 3 (October 1, 1842):939-40.

published from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and we give this certificate to show that Dr. J. C. Bennett's "secret wife system" is a creature of his own make as we know of no such society in this place nor never did.

S[amuel]. Bennett,	N. K. Whitney,
George Miller,	Albert Pettey,
Alpheus Cutler,	Elias Higbee,
Reynolds Cahoon,	John Taylor,
Wilson Law,	E. Robinson,
W. Woodruff,	Aaron Johnson.

We the undersigned members of the ladies' relief society, and married females do certify and declare that we know of no system of marriage being practiced in the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints save the one contained in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and we give this certificate to the public to show that J. C. Bennett's "secret wife system" is a disclosure of his own make.

Emma Smith, President,  
 Elizabeth Ann Whitney, Counsellor,  
 Sarah M. Cleveland, Counsellor,  
 Eliza R. Snow Secretary, [Sealed to Joseph Smith for three months.]

Mary C. Miller,	Catherine Pettey,
Lois Cutler,	Sarah Higbee,
Thirza Cahoon,	Phebe Woodruff,
Ann Hunter,	Leonora Taylor,
Jane Law,	Sarah Hillman,
Sophia R. Marks,	Rosannah Marks
Polly Z. Johnson,	Angeline Robinson,
Abigail Works.	

Ebenezer Robinson, one of the men whose name appears on the first certificate, in 1891 reminisced concerning the statement he signed:

In October, 1842, a statement was written out, and signed by a large number of the brethren and sisters, including myself and wife, setting forth the fact that we *knew of* no other form of marriage ceremony in the church except the one published in the book of Doctrine and Covenants, which statement was true at *that time*, as we had no *knowledge* of such a ceremony, or that "spiritual wifery," or "polygamy," was taught by the *heads* of the church, as *they* had not up to that time taught it to us.<sup>27</sup>

Among the other names of persons which appeared upon the certificates were Bishop Newel K. Whitney, the father of Sarah Ann Whitney and the one who performed the marriage ceremony between Sarah Ann and Joseph Smith. Elizabeth Ann, who was a counselor in the Relief Society, was a witness to the marriage of her daughter. Elizabeth's name was on the

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<sup>27</sup> Ebenezer Robinson, ed., "Items of Personal History of the Editor," *The Return* 3 (February 1891):28, emphasis retained.

certificate of the ladies who belonged to the Nauvoo Relief Society. Eliza R. Snow, who signed as secretary, had been sealed to Smith in June 1842.

Nine months after Joseph's marriage to Sarah Ann, she was married to Joseph C. Kingsbury. Kingsbury said he knew that Sarah was married to President Smith:

I will add that I also knew that the Prophet Joseph Smith had married other women besides his first wife—Emma; I was well aware of the fact of his having married Sarah Ann Whitney, the eldest daughter of Bishop Newel K. Whitney and Elizabeth Ann Whitney, his wife.<sup>28</sup>

A pretended marriage was performed for the “glory” of Joseph Smith and Sarah Ann and to shield the fact that they were husband and wife. When Joseph C. Kingsbury wrote his history<sup>29</sup> he commenced it by writing, “A Record of Joseph Corrodon Kingsbury giving a Sketch of his life, or in the first place his descent & Cronology as far back . . . [as] he has any Knowledg[e] or information And I Joseph C Kingsbury write this Record with my own hands.”<sup>30</sup>

Then Kingsbury told of the death of his wife: “on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of Oct. Caroline My Wife Died after Severe Sickniss of three Months & being deliverd of A Son the Same day of her death Which Lived Thirteen Hours (his Name is Newel).”<sup>31</sup> Joseph Kingsbury described how he acted as a proxy husband for Sarah Ann Whitney and that Joseph Smith performed the civil marriage ceremony:

On 29<sup>th</sup> of April 1843 I according to President Joseph Smith Council & others agreed to Stand by Sarah <Ann> Whitney as Supposed to be her husband & had a pretended marriage for the purpose of Bringing about the purposes of God in these last days as Spoken by the mouth of the prophits Isiah Jeremiah Ezekiel and also Joseph Smith, & Sarah Ann Should Recd. a Great Glory Honner [Honor] & Eternal Lives and I Also Should Recd. a Great Glory Honner & Eternal lives to the full desire of my heart in having my Companion Carolin[e] in the first Reserection to kain [claim] her & no one to have power to take her from me & We Both Shall be Crowned & Enthroned together in the Celestial Kingdom of

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<sup>28</sup> Affidavit of Joseph C. Kingsbury, May 22, 1886, CHL; in Jenson, *Historical Record* 6 (May 1887):226.

<sup>29</sup> “The History of Joseph C. Kingsbury,” Manuscript Division, Marriott Library, University of Utah. This portion of the journal was written between 1846 and 1848. The following sentence shows that the material quoted concerning Joseph Smith was written by 1848: “We are now in a fort, comfortable & are doing all we can to Raise our living in tilling the Earth June 25th 1848,).” Minor word additions not included.

<sup>30</sup> For a biographical sketch of Joseph C. Kingsbury see Orson F. Whitney, *History of Utah* (Salt Lake City: George Q. Cannon & Sons, 1904), 4:114-15. See also Lyndon W. Cook, *Joseph C. Kingsbury: A Biography* (Provo, Utah: Grandin Book, 1985).

<sup>31</sup> Joseph C. Kingsbury's wife Caroline was the sister of Bishop Newel K. Whitney. They were married on February 3, 1836, at Kirtland, Ohio. See “Oliver Cowdery's Sketch Book,” *Brigham Young University Studies* 12 (Summer 1972):421. Documentation for her death can be found in *The Wasp* 1 (October 22, 1842):3 and 1 (October 29, 1842):3. She died at the age of 26 years and 7 months.



God Enjoying Each others Society in all of th[e] fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ & our little ones with us as is Recorded in the blessing that President Joseph Smith Sealed upon my head on the Twenty third day of March 1843 as follows—<sup>32</sup>

Here Kingsbury copied a patriarchal blessing received from Joseph Smith on March 23, 1843. This is significant since those who witnessed the blessing were Newel, Elizabeth, and Sarah Ann Whitney.

Brother Joseph I Lay My hands upon thy head in the name of Jesus Christ to bestow upon the[e] a Patriarkle Blessing according to the Power and authority of the Holy Priesthood vested in me. I Say unto thee thou Shalt Be Blessed with Good things of this wourd abundently in thy Life time and I Seal the[e] up to Come forth in the first reserection unto Eternal Life—And thy Companion Caroline who is now dead thou Shalt have in the first Reserection for I Seal thee up for and in her behalf to Come forth in the first Reserection unto Eternal lives (and it Shall be as though She was present her Self) and thou Shalt hail her and She Shall be thine and no one Shall have power to take her from thee,

And you both Shall be crowned and enthroned to dwell together in a Kingdom in the Celestial Glory in the presents [presence] of God, And you Shall Enjoy each other Society & Embraces in all the fulness of the Gospell of Jesus Christ Wourls [Worlds] with out End And I Seal these blessings upon thee and for thy Companion in the Name of Jesus Christ for thou Shalt receive the holy anointing & Endowment in this Life to prepare you for all these blessings even So Amen [Witnesses to above Blessing Newel K Whitney Elizabeth Ann Whitney and Sarah Ann Whitney]<sup>33</sup>

On the same day Joseph Smith gave a written blessing for Sarah Ann that invoked promises for her and the Whitney household:

Nauvoo City March 23<sup>d</sup> 1843

Oh Lord my God thou that dwellest on high bless I beseach of thee the one into whose hands this may fall and crown her with a diadem of glory in the Eternal worlds Oh let <it> be Sealed this day on high that She Shall come forth in the first reserrection to recieve the Same and verily it Shall be so Saith the Lord if She remain in the Everlasting covenant to the end as also all her Father[']s house Shall be Saved in the Same Eternal glory and if any of them Shall wander from the fo<a>ld of the Lord they Shall not perish but Shall return Saith the Lord and be Saived in and by repentance be crowned with all the fullness of the glory of the Everlasting gospel these promises I Seal upon all of their heads in the name of Jesus Christ by the Law of the holy priesthood Even so Amen<sup>34</sup>

<sup>32</sup> Chronologically the paragraph which follows precedes the one above.

<sup>33</sup> Last brackets in original. The blessing was also recorded in Patriarchal Blessing Book 1:145 in 1860, CHL.

<sup>34</sup> Blessing given to Sarah Ann Whitney by Joseph Smith, Whitney Family Documents, CHL.

To give a summary, on April 29, 1843, Joseph Smith performed a civil marriage between his plural wife Sarah Ann Whitney and Joseph C. Kingsbury, whom he had blessed the previous month. Kingsbury's wife had died the previous October six months earlier. This marriage occurred while Emma Smith was on a trip to St. Louis. Emma and Lorin Walker returned to Nauvoo on May 2. That Joseph Smith performed the ceremony that joined Joseph Kingsbury and Sarah Ann Whitney together in mock marriage is known from a record of marriages performed in Nauvoo. The following is from a slip of paper signed by Joseph Smith as an elder wherein he stated that he performed this marriage ceremony:

I hereby certify, that I have upon this the 29th day of April 1843, joined together in Marriage Joseph C. Kingsbury and Sarah Ann Whitney, in the City of Nauvoo, Illinois.<sup>35</sup>

The marriage was then recorded in "A Record of Marriages, in the City of Nauvoo, Illinois" from which the following is taken: "Joseph C. Kingsbury and Sarah Ann Whitney were joined together in marriage, in the City of Nauvoo, Ills, upon the 29th day of April 1843, by Joseph Smith, Elder."<sup>36</sup>

Helen Mar Kimball Whitney recollected that, after she heard about the plural order of marriage, her father, Heber C. Kimball, "took the first opportunity to introduce Sarah Ann to me as Joseph's wife." Helen wrote about not being able to tell her brother Horace about Sarah's sealing to Joseph Smith:

Sarah Ann took this step of her own free will, but had to do it unbeknown to her brother, which grieved her most, and also her mother, that they could not open their hearts to him. But Joseph feared to disclose it, believing that the Higbee boys would embitter Horace against him, as they had already caused serious trouble, and for this reason he favored his going East, which Horace was not slow to accept. He had had some slight suspicions that the stories about Joseph were not all without foundation, but had never told them, nor did he know the facts till after his return to Nauvoo, when Sarah hastened to tell him all.<sup>37</sup>

Helen Kimball, continuing her account, mentioned that it was not until the summer of 1843, after Horace left to go east that she learned of the plural order of marriage. Her father Heber "was the first to introduce it to me; which had a similar effect to a sudden shock of a small earthquake. When he found (after the first outburst of displeasure for supposed injury) that I received it meekly, he took the first opportunity to introduce Sarah Ann to me as Joseph's wife."

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<sup>35</sup> "Civil Marriages Performed, Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois, 1842-1843," Family History Library, Salt Lake City.

<sup>36</sup> "A Record of Marriages, in the City of Nauvoo, Illinois" (1842-1845), 12, Family History Library.

<sup>37</sup> Helen Mar [Kimball] Whitney, "Scenes in Nauvoo after the Martyrdom of the Prophet and Patriarch," *Woman's Exponent* 11 (March 1, 1883):146. Helen Mar was sealed to Joseph Smith (proxy sealing) and married Horace Whitney for time on February 4, 1846 in the Nauvoo Temple.

After Joseph Smith's death in June 1844 Sarah Ann continued to live with Kingsbury. She was sealed on March 17, 1845, to Apostle Heber C. Kimball.<sup>38</sup> Though Sarah Ann became pregnant with Heber Kimball's child, she remained known as Joseph C. Kingsbury's wife and used the name Sarah Ann Kingsbury while residing in Nauvoo. In the Nauvoo Temple, Sarah Ann had her marriage to Joseph Smith sealed by proxy and she was sealed again for time (this life) to Kimball. Later in 1846 she started living with members of the Kimball family.

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<sup>38</sup> In the Whitney account book is recorded: "monday evening March 17 1845 Sarah was LAV to HCK." Newel K. Whitney 1841-45 Account Book & Diary, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University.