

The following published letter from the *Missouri Intelligencer and Boon's Lick Advertiser* 17 (April 20, 1833):1, Columbia, Missouri, was brought to my attention in 2010 by L. W. (Roy) Ledgerwood III.

THE MORMONS.—We have been requested by a correspondent to publish the annexed letter. It is from a seceding Mormon to his friends in Fulton County, in this State.

Independence, Jackson Co. Mo.

February 25, 1833.

Since I arrived here, I have visited the Mormon meetings, one of which was called the solemn assembly, where the Bishop declared by vision from Joshua [*sic*; Joseph] Smith, that they were all under condemnation for not reading the book of Mormon, and that they must repent or they would be cut off and Zion would be removed somewhere else. He also declared that the seer, Joseph Smith had the keys of the kingdom of heaven and could see the multitudes of the angels, and knew what they were doing there. He also declared that he had the power that Jesus Christ had when he was here in the flesh; that he had the discerning of spirits, so as to discover who were worthy, even to the lowest as well as to the highest; also that no member can bring an accusation against an officer of the church, neither can they bear testimony against an officer of the church; that no member could sell his possessions to any individual whatever, not even to a mormon—that if he left them or should be turned out for any improper conduct, he must leave all and go out empty; that the elders had power if they lived faithful to the Lord to discern the spirits of the private members, whether they were worthy to remain in the church or not; that they must consecrate all their property in the name of Partridge (a bishop) to the Lord, or they would all be lost, and must enter into a covenant to that amount, which all that were present did, which property is valued by Partridge and two under officers, that he may give in the list and pay taxes for the same.

I have visited many members since I came here, to see their manner of living. Their diet was principally water porridge salted and bread. Provisions are indeed plenty, but they cannot be purchased by those who have no money.

I want you to take a copy of this and send it to be read in every place of public meeting in your vicinity.

All my family here, except one, are shaken from the Mormon faith. I wish you would take some little pains to have this letter or the foregoing facts published.

Yours respectfully,
SALMON SHERWOOD.

[*Illinois Jour*

William E. McLellin referred to this letter twice in April 1833:

A man “read a letter written by Samuel [*sic*] Sherwood.” (Jan Shipps and John W. Welch, eds, *The Journals of William E. McLellin 1831-1836* [Provo, Utah: BYU Studies and Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1994], 117, entry of April 21, 1833) Another man “called the attention of the people while he read a copy of a letter written Saml [*sic*] Sherwood, dated 25, Feb. in Independence, which was filled with falseties [falsities] and exaggerations [exaggerations],

this created some anxiety among the hardoned [hardened] wretches and they called on us to know whether it was true or false. I examined the letter and gave a detail of what we believed on the various subjects which it touched. But the most funny of all was, the letter stated that, ‘the poor in Zion lived on water porage [porridge] Salted.’” (Ibid., 118, entry of April 28, 1833)