Church History Essays

by H. Michael Marquardt

Web Version © 2013 by H. Michael Marquardt. All rights reserved.

Dedicated to students of Mormonism

Included in Church History Essays are nine essays in published in scholarly journals from 2001 to 2013. The text follows the editorial policy at the time of printing. Paragraphs have been made uniformed by indentation, with bold subheadings. Only a few minor adjustments have been made, such as corrections in brackets. In the articles on John Whitmer and Judge Austin A. King, the footnotes numbers are one less than in the printed text.

What had previously been considered the Book of Commandments manuscript is now known as John Whitmer’s retained copies of revelations. This manuscript record is known as the Book of Commandments and Revelations (BCR). The retained volume was preserved and recently published in 2009 by the Church Historian’s Press in Salt Lake City. By November 12, 1831 the manuscript book contained 127 pages.

The last item has not been printed in any periodical and includes interviews of Joseph Smith from 1830-1844.

CONTENTS

1. Changing Revelatory Messages: A Mormon Example 1
2. Manchester as the Site of the Organization of the Church on April 6, 1830 19
3. Ezra Booth on Early Mormonism: A Look at His 1831 Letters 31
4. Martin Harris: The Kirtland Years, 1831-1870 53
5. Lyman E. Johnson: Forgotten Apostle (coauthored with William Shepard) 89
6. David Whitmer: His Evolving Beliefs and Recollections 127
7. John Whitmer and the Revelations of Joseph Smith 157
8. Judge Austin A. King’s Preliminary Hearing: Joseph Smith and the Mormons on Trial 167
9. Emily Dow Partridge Smith Young on the Witness Stand: Recollections of a Plural Wife 181

Interviews of Joseph Smith, 1830-1844 203