

## Manuscripts and Sources on April 6, 1830

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### Draft History of Joseph Smith, 1839

The following is from the 1839 Draft Manuscript of what became the History of Joseph Smith written by James Mulholland:

[Unnumbered page 9:]

...

Revelation page 174

Whilst the Book of Mormon was in the hands of the printer, we still continued to bear testimony ~~and preach~~ to such as would hear as far as we had opportunity. ~~And~~ <We> made known also to those [-] who had already been baptized, that we had received commandment to organize the Church <Revelation Page 177[>] - : and accordingly <we> met to gether, <(being ~~about 30~~ <six> in number) besides a number who were beleiving - met with us> on Tuesday the Sixth day of Aprile ~~in the year of our~~ A.D. ~~A thousand~~ ~~E~~ One thousand, Eight hundred and thirty, and proceeded, as follows, at the house of the above mentioned Mr. Whitmer - Having opened the meeting by solemn prayer to our Heavenly Father <and the ~~meeting~~ ~~Ch~~ brethren & Sisters having by unanimous vote, accepted us as &c> I proceeded to lay my hands upon Oliver Cowdery - and ordained him an Elder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, after which he ordained me also to the office of an Elder of said Church. We then took bread, blessed it, & brake it with them, also wine, blessed it, and drank it with them. We then laid our hands on each individual member of the Church present, to confirm them members of the Church of Jesus Christ, and that they might receive the Holy Ghost, when immediately the Holy Ghost was poured out upon ~~the whole community~~ us all ~~in a miraculous manner~~ <to a greater or less degree> Some

[across the bottom of two pages:] Father Smith Martin Harris baptized this evening 6th April.

[unnumbered page 10:]

~~prophecied, many spoke with new tongues, and some <several> of our number were <so> completely overpowered for a time, that we were obliged to lay them upon beds &c &c, and when bodily sensibility was restored to them they shouted Hosannas to God and the Lamb - & declared that the Heavens had been opened unto them, <especialy N Knights> that they had seen Jesus Christ sitting at the right hand of the Majesty on high, and many other great and glorious things. Either at this time or very shortly after was the following were (with others) called to the priesthood & ordained to the respective offices, according as the Spirit made it manifest, viz Joseph Smith Senior, Hyrum Smith, John Whitmer, Peter Whitmer, Christian Whitmer Samuel Smith, Martin Harris.~~

[The above cross out was probably made before the next paragraph was written as the crossed out words are repeated "to the respective offices" and "according as the Spirit made it manifest."]

We afterwards called out and ordained ~~Several~~ <some others> of the brethren to the respective offices of the Priesthood, according as the Spirit made manifest unto us. <Revelation> As may be reasonable <be> expected, such scenes as these were calculated, to inspire our hearts with Joy unspeakable, at the same time that we felt ourselves almost over whelmed, with awe and reverence for that Almighty Being, by whose grace we had been called to be instrumental in bringing about for the Children of men, the enjoyment of such glorious blessings, as were now at this time poured out upon us. To find ourselves engaged in the very order of things which were observed by the Holy Apostles of old, To realize the importance and solemnity of the above proceedings, and to witness <& feel> with our own natural senses, the like glorious manifestations of the powers of the Priesthood; the gifts and blessings of the Holy Ghost, ~~which we had often read of as a things~~ and the goodness and grace of a merciful God, unto such as obey the everlasting gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, combined to create within us sensations of rapturous gratitude, which may be felt, but ~~whi~~ cannot be described

After a considerable time spent in such <a> happy manner, we dismissed; with the pleasing knowledge, that we now individually were members of - and had been acknowledged of God, The ~~organized~~ Church of Jesus Christ, organized in

[bottom of page:] Mother Smith & Sister Rockwell 2 or 3 days afterward.

[unnumbered page 11:]

accordance with commandments and revelations given by him to ourselves, in these last days; as well as according to the order of the Church of Christ, as found recorded in the New Testament.

Several persons who attended this meeting, but who had <not> as yet been baptized, came forward shortly after, and were received into the Church having on that occasion got entirely convinced of the truth of the work. Among the rest Father Smith, Martin Harris Mother Smith.

Revelation page 176 - & Revelation 178

...

(Dean C. Jessee, ed., *The Papers of Joseph Smith* [Salt Lake City, Utah: Deseret Book, 1989], 1:241-44)

### **Bound volume Book A-1, Manuscript History, 1839**

Soon after the draft for Joseph Smith's history was written Mulholland copied the text in the draft into a bound book labeled A-1. This was done in the same year that the draft was composed. The volume is known as the Manuscript History.

[page 37:]

[note: **bold** words are additional words not contained in draft text]

Whilst the Book of Mormon was in the hands of the printer, we still continued to bear testimony, **and give information** as far as we had opportunity; **and** also **made known** to **our brethren**, that 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) on Tuesday the sixth day of April, AD One thousand, eight hundred and thirty.

Having opened the meeting by solemn prayer to our Heavenly Father **we proceeded, (according to previous commandment) to call on our brethren to know whether they accepted us as accepted us as their teachers in the things of the Kingdom of God, and whether they were satisfied that we should proceed and be organized as a Church according to said commandment which we had received. To these they consented by an unanimous vote. I then** laid my hands upon Oliver Cowdery and ordained him an Elder of the "Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints." after which he ordained me also to the office of an Elder of said Church. We then took bread, blessed it, and brake it with them, also wine, blessed it, and drank it with them. We then laid our hands on each individual member of the Church present that they might receive the **gift of the\_ Holy Ghost, and be confirmed members of the Church of Christ. The Holy Ghost was poured out upon us to a very great degree. Some prop<h>esied, whilst we all praised the Lord and rejoiced exceedingly. Whilst yet together I received the following commandment.**

**Revelation to Joseph Smith Jr, Given at Fayette, Seneca Co N Y. April 6th 1830.**

[Text of LDS D&C 21 copied into history]

[page 38:]

We **now proceeded to** call out and ordain some others of the brethren to the **different** offices of the Priesthood, according as the Spirit manifested unto us; **and after a happy time spent in witnessing and feeling for ourselves the p̄œeess <powers &> the** blessings of the Holy Ghost, **through the grace of God bestowed upon us,** we dismissed with the pleasing knowledge that we were now individually, members of, and acknowledged of God, "The Church of Jesus Christ," organized in accordance with commandments and revelations, given by him to ourselves, in these last days; as well as according to the order of the Church as recorded in the New Testament.

Several persons who had attended **the above** meeting, and got convinced of the truth, came forward shortly after, and were received into the Church, among the rest **My own Father and Mother were baptized to my great joy and consolation, and about the same time,** Martin Harris and a [blank] Rockwell.

(Jessee, *Papers of Joseph Smith* 1: 302-304, original in LDS Church History Library, Salt Lake City)

The name "Orrin Porter" was added in the blank space on the manuscript page at a later time to make the name Orrin Porter Rockwell.

The *Times and Seasons* published the History of Joseph Smith. When the type was set for printing book A-1 was used. The following excerpt relates to the baptisms performed: "among the rest, my own father and mother were baptized to my great joy and consolation, and about the same time Martin Harris and A. [sic] Rockwell." (*Times and Seasons* 4 [15 Nov. 1842]:12)

The following can be determined from the above the manuscripts:

1. The draft has "several persons who attended this meeting ... came forward shortly after."
2. The draft also had "Among the rest" - not as precise.

3. Not included from the draft to the final version: "those who had already been baptized"
4. The draft first read something like: "we had received commandment to organize the Church and accordingly met to gether on Tuesday the Sixth day of Aprile." Words were then added above the line as follows: "Revelation Page 177" from the 1835 Doctrine and Covenants; the word "we"; "(being about 30 in number) besides a number who were beleiving - met with us." The number "30" which was evidently written along with another section of the draft referred to the first conference of the church held in June 1830 and not April, the date the draft wrote about. The number "30" was crossed out and "six" was inserted above the line and the draft now read: "(being <six> in number)..."
5. While the draft included the two notes on the bottom of two pages, the final draft version as completed included "Mother Smith" with her husband and Martin Harris but omitted "Sister Rockwell" and "2 or 3 days afterward." There is nothing in the draft about the evening or any indication that Mother Smith's baptism was performed after the 6 April date.
6. The texts of the draft and the Manuscript History has the context to the 6 April meeting and the baptisms after the meeting. The draft proper superseded the note on the bottom of the two previous pages as does the Manuscript History.
7. It is possible that James Mulholland asked someone about the baptisms and recorded it at the bottom of the pages. When writing the Manuscript History Mulholland deleted parts of what he had previously written in the draft without crossing the words out when rewriting the history. He also added to the narrative words that were not in the draft. If the note was correct as to "2 or 3 days afterward" then Mulholland did not include some of it in the final version. It is clear that in the final version in the Manuscript History James Mulholland does include the two women (1) Joseph Smith's "Mother" and (2) "[blank] Rockwell" evidently not knowing the first name of Sister Rockwell.

### **Location changed in May 1834**

The location of Fayette follows the printing in *The Evening and the Morning Star* (Kirtland, Ohio), when the United Firm was in debt.

*Kirtland, Ohio, May 3, 1834.*

MINUTES of a Conference of the Elders of the church of Christ, which church was organized in the township of Fayette, Seneca county, New-York, on the 6th of April, A. D. 1830.

The Conference came to order, and JOSEPH SMITH JR. was chosen Moderator, and FREDERICK G. WILLIAMS and OLIVER COWDERY, were appointed clerks.

After prayer the Conference proceeded to discuss the subject of names and appellations, when a motion was made by SIDNEY RIGDON, and seconded by NEWEL K. WHITNEY, that this church be known hereafter by the name of THE CHURCH OF THE LATTER DAY SAINTS.

Appropriate remarks were delivered by some of the members, after which the motion was put by the Moderator, and passed by unanimous voice.

*(The Evening and the Morning Star 2 [May 1834]: 160)*

The following chart shows the development of the draft and the manuscript history written by James Mulholland both written in 1839.

<p>draft of history:</p> <p>Among the rest Father Smith, Martin Harris</p> <p>[2]</p>	<p>Note 1:</p> <p><b>Father Smith</b> <b>Martin Harris</b> baptized this evening</p> <p>[2]</p>	<p>Manuscript History:</p> <p>among the rest My own <b>Father</b> and <b>Mother</b> were baptized to my great joy and consolation, and about the same time, <b>Martin Harris</b></p> <p>[3]</p>
<p>Mother Smith</p> <p>[1]</p> <p>[total: 3]</p>	<p>Note 2:</p> <p><b>Mother Smith &amp; Sister Rockwell</b> 2 or 3 days afterward</p> <p>[2]</p> <p>[total: 4]</p>	<p>and a [blank] <b>Rockwell</b></p> <p>[1]</p> <p>[total: 4]</p>

While the words "about the same time" are vague the names and numbers of those baptized are the same. The final version included Joseph Smith's father and mother together, then Martin Harris and [Sarah] Rockwell. The draft version was an outline for the history, it did not include all events. The manuscript history rearranged the published revelations and expanded certain events from the draft. There was a question probably by James Mulholland on baptisms. The fuller account in the Manuscript History indicates that Joseph Smith was over joyed at the baptism of his father and mother. Then he names Martin Harris and [Sister] Rockwell.

### **Preliminary Manuscript of Lucy Mack Smith, 1844-45**

Lucy Smith dictated the following concerning 6 April 1830. The Joseph mentioned by Lucy is her son.

but in the spring Joseph came up <and preached to us> after ~~the books were~~ <Oliver got throu[g]h> with the Book <[my] Husband and> and Martin H[a]rris was ba[p]tized Joseph stood on the shore when his father came out of the water and as he took him by the hand he cried out Oh! my God I have lived to see my father baptized into the true church of Jesus christ and <he> covered his face ~~with and wept like and infant sobbed upon his father's bosom like an infant~~ <in his fathers bosom and wept aloud like for joy as did> Joseph of old when he beheld his father coming up into the land of Egypt this took pla<ace> on the sixth of April 1830 the d[a]y on which the church was organized

(Lucy Smith, Preliminary Manuscript, LDS Church History Library, 122.)

Note: The following words were written: "with and wept like and infant"; this was crossed out and replaced with "sobbed upon his father's bosom like an infant"; this was also crossed and added: <"in his fathers bosom and wept aloud like> Joseph of old ..." The word "like" was crossed out and continuing above the line after the crossed out word "like" are the added words <"for joy as did">.

Important items crossed out:

wept like and infant (Joseph Knight Sr.)

sobbed upon his father's bosom like an infant (Lucy Mack Smith)

Joseph Knight, Sr. recalled that Joseph would sob and cry but does not mention that this was in connection with crying upon his father's bosom. (Dean C. Jessee, ed., "Joseph Knight's Recollection of Early Mormon History," *Brigham Young University Studies* 17 [Autumn 1976]:37)

Items kept:

in his fathers bosom and wept aloud

Item added:

for joy as

The History of Joseph Smith mentions his father and mother being received into the church "to my great joy and consolation" (Jesse, *Papers of Joseph Smith* 1:303). Joseph Knight, Sr. recalled that Joseph was much excited with "greaif and Joy", "his joy seemed to Be full" (*Brigham Young University Studies* 17 [Autumn 1976]:37).

Edited entry of Lucy Smith's history reads:

But in the spring Joseph came up <and preached to us> after <Oliver got throu[g]h> with the Book. <[My] Husband and> and Martin H[a]rris was ba[p]tized. Joseph stood on the shore when his father came out of the water and as he took him by the hand, he cried out Oh! my God I have lived to see my father baptized into the true church of Jesus Christ and <he> covered his face <in his father's bosom and wept aloud for joy as did> Joseph of old when he beheld his father coming up into the land of Egypt, this took pla<ace> on the sixth of April 1830, the d[a]y on which the church was organized.

(Lucy Smith, Preliminary Manuscript, LDS Church History Library, 122, punctuation and capitalization added.)

Lucy Smith's recollection of the day on which the church was organized only mentions the baptism of her husband, Joseph Smith, Sr., and Martin Harris. She does not mention her own baptism or that of her neighbor Sarah Rockwell.

Joseph Smith's history mentions his father and mother were baptized. The earlier draft lists "Father Smith, Martin Harris[,] Mother Smith." A note reads: "Father Smith[,] Martin Harris baptized this evening 6th April. Mother Smith & Sister Rockwell 2 or 3 days afterwards." This is the only reference to Lucy Smith not being baptized the same day with her husband and appears to be in error on this point.

### **Joseph Knight's Recollection, before his death in 1847**

I had Be[e]n there several Days. Old Mr. Smith and Martin Harris Come forrod [forward] to Be Baptise[d] for the first. They found a place in a lot a small Stream ran thro and they were Baptized in the Evening Because of persecution. They went forward and was Babtized [sic] Being the first I saw Babtized in the new and everlasting Covenant. ... There was one thing I will mention that evening that old Brother Smith and Martin Harris was Babtised, Joseph was fil[le]d with the Spirrit to a grate Degree to see his Father and Mr. Harris that he had Bin [been] with so much he Bast [burst] out with greaf and Joy and seamed as tho the world Could not hold him.

(Jessee, "Joseph Knight Recollection," 37)

Joseph Knight, Sr. mentions that Joseph Smith, Sr. and Martin Harris were baptized. Knight does not mention the baptisms of Lucy Smith or Sarah Rockwell.

In September 1870 Martin Harris stated that he was baptized by Oliver Cowdery. He does not mention anyone else being baptized.

### **Benjamin Saunders Interview, Circa September 1884**

Benjamin Saunders when interviewed said that the "<Smiths> held meetings at their house. I was there when they first baptized. Oliver Cowdery did the baptizing. Old brother <Smith> was baptized at that time and I think old Mrs. Rockwell."

(Interview of Benjamin Saunders, 1884, in the W. H. Kelley Collection, "Miscellany 1795-1948," 27, RLDS archives)

Saunders does not mention the baptism of Lucy Smith or Martin Harris.

### **Cornelius R. Stafford Statement, March 1885**

Cornelius R. Stafford stated that he saw "old Jo Smith, his wife [Lucy Smith] and Mrs. [Sarah W.] Rockwell baptized by prophet Jo Smith."

(Statement by C. R. Stafford in *Naked Truths About Mormonism* 1 [Jan. 1888]:3, original publication in the Yale University Library, New Haven, Connecticut)

Stafford says that Joseph Smith did the baptizing and does not mention the baptism of Martin Harris.

### **March 1904 newspaper article quoting John Stafford (1805-1904)**

Another person who was present at the baptisms conducted at Manchester was John Stafford. According to a newspaper article John Stafford "knew the Smith family well, and was present at the first baptism, when old Granny Smith and Sally Rockwell" were baptized. (*Shortsville Enterprise*, March 18, 1904)

The article does not name Joseph Smith, Sr. and Martin Harris.

It appears that each person present on the occasion of the organization and baptisms performed on April 6, 1830 recalled only a few of the events as they remembered them years later. It is clear that baptisms were performed and it is probable that both Joseph Smith, Sr., and Lucy Smith were baptized at the same time. It is also evident that Martin Harris was also baptized the same day.

The chart below is based on the recollections of three neighbors of the Smith family who were present when the baptisms were performed in Manchester, New York. An “X” is placed in the column of those who were baptized.

Persons Baptized at Manchester, New York	Benjamin Saunders, Interview, 1884	Cornelius Stafford, Statement, 1885	Newspaper report about John Stafford, 1904
Joseph Smith, Sr.	X	X	
Lucy Smith		X	X
Sarah Rockwell	?	X	X
Martin Harris			

Of the above four persons I conclude that they were baptized on the day of the meeting. Martin Harris in his testimony of September 4, 1870 states: “so I Remained untill the church Was organised By Joseph Smith the Prophet then I Was Babtised By the Hands of oliver Cowdrey [Cowdery].”

(Edward Stevenson Collection, LDS Church History Library, Salt Lake City)