

Polygamy Denials

by Joseph Smith and early LDS Church Leaders (through 1850)

Date	Citation	Nickname	Most Relevant Verbiage	Responsible	# wives
1838-05-05	HC 3:3	Answers to Sundry Questions	"Do the Mormons believe in having more wives than one? No, not at the same time."	JS	JS (2)
1842-04-15	T&S 3:12 p763	General Conference Brotherton denunciation	Hyrum Smith refers to the story circulating about Brotherton that she had been "shut in a room for several days, and that they had endeavored to induce her to believe in having two wives" and Joseph followed up "there is no person that is acquainted with our principles would believe such lies"	JS	JS (≥ 8)
1842-08-01	MS 3:4 p73-4	Millenial Star – Apostacy	"wrote ... that these men had been trying to seduce her, by making her believe that God had given a revelation that men might have two wives...But, for the information of those who may be assailed by those foolish tales about the two wives, ... no such principle ever existed among the Latter-day Saints, and never will; this is well known to all who are acquainted with our books and actions..."	Editor of the Mllienial Star (Parley P. Pratt? Reuben J. Hedlock?)	JS (≥ 13) BY (2)
1842-08-31	Affidavits and Certificates, Disproving the Statements and Affidavits Contained in John C. Bennett's Letters (link)	Affidavits against Bennett	Heber C. Kimball swore "the affidavit of Miss Martha Brotherton is false and without foundation in truth" and Brigham Young swore that her affidavit "is a base falsehood, with regard to any private intercourse or unlawful conduct or conversation with me".	HC Kimball B Young JS (directed distribution)	JS (≥ 13) BY (2) HCK (2)
1842-09-01	T&S 3:21 p909	September 1842 notice	"reproached with the crime of fornication, and polygamy: we declare that we believe, that one man should have one wife; and one woman, but one husband"	John Taylor JS ed.	JS (≥ 13)
1842-10-01	T&S 3:23 p939	On Marriage	"do hereby certify and declare that we know of no other rule or system of marriage than the one published from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants"	John Taylor JS ed.	JS (≥ 13)
1843-03-15	T&S 4:9 p143	Letter from HR	"We are charged with advocating a plurality of wives, and common property. Now this is as false as the many other ridiculous charges which are brought against us."	"H.R." John Taylor ed.	JS (≥ 17) JTaylor (2 by end of year)
1843-10-05	Journal Entry	Joseph forbids it	"Gave inst[r]uction to try those who were preaching teaching or practicing the doctrine of plurality of wives. on this Law. Joseph forbids it. and the practice ther[e]of— No man shall have but one wife."	JS	JS (≥ 27)
1844-02-01	T&S 5:3 p423	Notice on Hiram Brown	"...an Elder of the Church of Jesus Christ, of Latter-day Saints, by the name of Hiram Brown, has been preaching Polygamy...he has been cut off from the church, for his iniquity"	JS Hyrum Smith	JS (≥ 30) HS (4)
1844-03-15	T&S 5:6 p474	Hyrum Smith to China Creek	"...some of your elders say, that a man <i>having a certain priesthood</i> , may have as many wives as he pleases, and that doctrine is taught here: I say unto you that that man teaches <i>false doctrine</i> , for there is no such doctrine taught here; neither is there any such thing practised here."	Hyrum Smith	JS (≥ 30) HS (4)
1844-05-26	HC 6:19	Address against Dissenters	"What a thing it is for a man to be accused of committing adultery, and having seven wives, when I can only find one."	JS	JS (≥ 30)
1844-11-15	T&S 5:21 p715	An Old Man of Israel	"The law of the land and the rules of the church do not allow one man to have more than one wife alive at once"	"An Old Man of Israel" John Taylor ed.	JTaylor (3)
1845-05-01	T&S 6:8 p893-5	Mormonism Unveiled	"As to the charge of polygamy, I will quote from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, which is the subscribed faith of the church and is strictly enforced. ... Inasmuch as this church of Christ has been reproached with the crime of fornication and polygamy, we declare that we believe that one man should have BUT ONE WIFE and one woman but one husband."	"E. M. Webb" John Taylor ed.	JTaylor (3)
1850-01-15	MS 12:2 p29-31	Who is the Liar?	"We believe that one man should have one wife...Mr. Bowes knows that Martha Brotherton's sister sent a letter, stating that Martha was a liar."	Elder Thomas Smith Orson Pratt ed. (?)	Many leaders had multiple wives.
1850	Three Nights' Public Discussion (pamphlet)	Three Nights' Public Discussion	We are accused here of polygamy, and actions the most indelicate, obscene, and disgusting, These things are too outrageous to admit of belief	John Taylor Orson Pratt ed.	JTaylor (12) Opratt (4)