

Mormon marriage: “Between a man and a woman” for the living — polygamy for the dead

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Mormon marriage hypocrisy

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints publicly condemned the U.S. Supreme Court’s decisions that bolster same-sex marriages in California. In a statement issued within hours of the Supreme Court’s affirmative rulings on June 26, 2013, a Church spokesperson criticized the judicial system, and reaffirmed the LDS Church’s commitment “to strengthening traditional marriage between a man and a woman.”

As Hawaii is poised to consider a marriage equality bill, the LDS Church, which has a large presence in Hawaii, has again entered the fight on the same-sex marriage issue. In a letter dated September 15, 2013, LDS leaders across the state are encouraging Hawaiian Mormons to study the proposed legislation, and then as private citizens contact their elected representatives in the Hawaii legislature to express their views. The letter tells Church members to review Church publications on the topic, including “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” a document that endorses one man/one woman as the ideal for marriage: <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/proclamation-on-the-family> .

While the public face of the LDS Church opposes same-sex unions and proclaims marriage between one man and one woman, inside costly Mormon temples—and well away from public scrutiny—the private face of the LDS Church backs polygamy to the hilt with ceremonial gusto. Along with the heavy volume of monogamous, male-female marriage rites for the living and the dead, polygamous rites by proxy—for both deceased men and women, but mainly for men—are routinely executed in Mormon temples. The LDS Church has renounced polygamy politically, but it has never done so theologically.

Most polygamous ceremonies are for the dead, and it could be argued why be concerned?

When LDS authorities assert their support for “traditional” marriage between one man and one woman, it appears these Church leaders are disassociating themselves from the significant number of polygamous unions that are currently occurring in Mormon temples. Church spokespeople seem to be more concerned about protecting the public relations image of the LDS Church, rather than telling the truth about the liberal flow of polygamous marriages for the dead that are performed in Mormon temples worldwide.

At odds with itself, the LDS Church is furthering a two-faced picture of Mormon marriage standards. It is hypocritical of Mormon leaders to define marriage as “between a man and a woman” and condemn marriage equality in California, or anywhere else, as long as the Church ritualistically fuels the fires of polygamy in Church-operated temples.

Mormon polygamy past and present

Polygamy is a bedrock principle of the Mormon religion. The concept as a teaching was secretly introduced into Mormonism by its founder, Joseph Smith (1805-1844), possibly as early as 1831 in Nauvoo, Illinois. In 1841, polygamy became an LDS doctrinal principle when Smith privately implemented it as a practice amongst his close followers. Early Mormon polygamy was referred to as “plural marriage” or “plurality of wives.”

Joseph Smith had a long-term reputation as a womanizer with a keen appetite for liaisons with different females. Smith attempted to redefine the nature of 19th century sexual morality when he created a theological system to support his new theories on marriage. According to Mormon history, God enforced polygamy as a divine edict. Smith claimed an angel with a drawn sword compelled him to act on the plural marriage revelation.

Historical records show Smith “married” at least thirty-seven plural wives when he was alive, in addition to Emma, his lawful spouse. Smith never publicly advocated polygamy. He frequently denied he was a polygamist, and presented the marriage ideal as between one man and one wife—identical to the LDS Church’s present-day stance on marriage.

During the time Joseph Smith preached monogamous unions as the norm, it was rumored he was living a sexual standard contrary to his public attitude. Smith recognized the need to keep his multiple marriages under wraps. Polygamy was against the law in Illinois, against the norms of 19th century American morality, and offensive to many Mormons in Nauvoo. Smith never acknowledged his plural wives. They also remain unacknowledged (as his wives) in the official *History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*.

The 21st century LDS Church appears to be copycatting the double marriage standard set by Joseph Smith. Through plural marriage ceremonies secretly performed in Mormon temples, the present-day Church quietly attempts to actively further the cause of Mormon polygamy. Simultaneously, Mormon leaders—contradictorily, and untruthfully—insist the *only* acceptable marriage standard is monogamous unions between men and women.

Joseph Smith feared repercussions because of his polygamous lifestyle. By the same token, it could adversely affect the reputation of the LDS Church today if it becomes broadly known that Mormons are actively promoting plural marriage in Mormon temples. Fear was the main driving force behind Smith’s concealment of his extra-curricular sexual activities. Similarly, Mormon officials, including the LDS public relations

department, do not openly acknowledge the copious volume of polygamous rites that are regularly performed in Mormon temples because of fear of public criticism and ridicule.

Polygamy led to Joseph Smith's downfall. In 1844, he was shot to death by an angry mob at Carthage Jail, Illinois, for ordering the destruction of a printing press—the *Nauvoo Expositor*—which exposed Smith as a politically-hungry polygamist. When he ordered the demolition of the *Expositor*, Smith incited the violence to which he succumbed.

Brigham Young (1801-1877) became Joseph Smith's successor as head of the LDS Church. Young led the Mormon migration west to the Rocky Mountains in 1846-47, and founded Salt Lake City. Brigham Young ranted against monogamous marriages and lauded the plurality of wives as the only popular religion in heaven. He insisted that those who denied the plurality of wives would be damned. After they settled in Utah, Young and other leaders of the Church openly encouraged polygamy from 1852 until 1890. Brigham Young was “married” to possibly as many as 57 women when he was alive.

The practice of plural marriage was considered essential for godhood. It was commonly understood that worthy Mormon males could become gods over their own planets, and—with their multiple goddess wives—they will be able to produce spirit children through sexual intercourse, in the same sexual manner they used when they were alive on Earth. Brigham Young preached that only men who practiced polygamy could become gods.

Mormon leadership formally suspended polygamy, when the *1890 Manifesto*, an official statement which disavowed the continuing practice of plural marriage in the LDS Church, was issued by Church president, Wilford Woodruff, in September 1890. The *1890 Manifesto* was a response to mounting anti-polygamy pressure from the United States Congress, which by 1890 had disincorporated the LDS Church, escheated its assets to the US federal government, and imprisoned many prominent Mormon polygamists.

The *1890 Manifesto*, also known as the *Manifesto*, prohibited Church members from entering into any marriage banned by the law of the land, and made it possible for Utah to become a U.S. state in 1896. But even after the *Manifesto*, some Mormon officials quietly continued to perform plural marriages in the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

The *Second Manifesto* was a 1904 declaration made by Joseph F. Smith, the then Church president, in which he stated the LDS Church was no longer sanctioning marriages that violated the laws of the land, and set down the principle that those entering into (or solemnizing) polygamous marriages would be excommunicated from the Church.

Polygamy for (living) Mormons continues to be outlawed by the LDS Church. Mormons today are permitted only one (living) spouse at a time. Church members who practice polygamy are excommunicated—the most serious penalty the Church can impose.

Marriage rites in Mormon temples are called “sealings”. Although LDS leaders no longer tolerate polygamy for (living) Mormon men, they permit a (living) man to be “sealed” for eternity to another (living) woman, after the death of his wife, or after divorce. Mormon apostles, Dallin H. Oaks, L. Tom Perry, and Russell M. Nelson, were widowed and remarried. All three men have been sealed in Mormon temples to their first and second wives. After death, they each expect to spend eternity as polygamists with two spouses.

Harold B. Lee (1899-1973) was the eleventh president of the LDS Church. Although polygamy was officially abandoned by the Church in 1890, Lee was committed to the principle and the idea of its continuation on the other side. On October 3, 1938, Lee was secretly sealed to a dead woman, Freda Elinor Johnson, who was only an acquaintance when she was alive. At the time of that sealing, Lee’s first wife, Fern, whom he had been sealed to fifteen years earlier, was still living. After Fern Lee died in 1962, Lee married Freda Joan Jensen the following year. Harold B. Lee has been sealed to three women in the Salt Lake Temple, with the expectation that he will be married to all of them forever.

It is a fundamental Mormon objective that the entire human race—both living and dead—should be subjected to LDS temple rites. Mormons believe this process offers the recipients the opportunity of eternal families, “godhood” and “exaltation” in the afterlife. Billions of dead people, who died without accepting the Mormon gospel, are targeted for proxy rites as a matter of course. Inside operating Mormon temples, living Mormons act as proxies for deceased men and women—many of whom are sealed to multiple spouses.

Mormons believe that marriage covenants made in LDS temples will continue in force in the afterlife for worthy Mormons, including deceased parties who accept Mormonism via proxy. As with living Mormon couples sealed in person, the dead are sealed with “...the blessings of kingdoms, thrones, principalities, powers, dominions and exaltations...”

Proxy marriage sealings, like proxy baptisms, are merely *offered* to involved parties in the afterlife, who may accept or reject these rites, according to Mormon teachings. When Mormons perform polygamous unions by proxy for the dead, they feed their beliefs that God is a polygamist and that polygamy for worthy Mormons is an eternal principle.

Plural marriage in Mormonism has always been connected to the doctrine of eternal marriage and exaltation. It remains a “built-in” part of present-day Mormon theology. Section 132 of *Doctrine and Covenants*, the revelation outlining “celestial marriage” and

the plurality of wives, as given through Joseph Smith, at Nauvoo, Illinois, on July 12, 1843, is still canonized scripture: <http://lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/132?lang=eng> .

The late Mormon Apostle, Bruce R. McConkie, summed it up by stating: “Obviously the holy practice [of polygamy] will commence again after the Second Coming of the Son of Man and the ushering in of the millennium.” (*Mormon Doctrine, 1966 edition*)

Modern-day Mormons tend to readily accept the early Mormon practice of polygamy and its subsequent suspension by the LDS Church because they believe Joseph Smith was directly commanded by God to obey the doctrine. The LDS Church claims plural marriage can only be practiced when authorized by God. In accordance with this point of view, the 1890 and 1904 Manifestos rescinded God’s prior authorization given to Smith.

After 1890, the LDS Church shifted gears, and the term “celestial marriage” was subtly redefined. Instead of primarily describing polygamous unions, the term is mainly used today to describe monogamous sealings performed in LDS temples—marriage “for time and all eternity.” Plural marriage was once the defining principle for Mormon exaltation. After the new adaptation, “celestial marriage” remains an exclusive requirement for exaltation—but now it is generally used to describe monogamy rather than polygamy.

Some present-day Mormons may deny the early Mormon belief that plural marriage is an indispensable part of exaltation—becoming a god—the ultimate Mormon goal. They may be ignorant of Joseph Smith’s colorful sexual history, including his intimate relationships with underage girls—and they may also not know that Smith was sealed to a dozen women who were civilly married to other (living) men at the time they “married” Smith.

In order to maintain control over Church members and retain Church membership, the LDS Church hides or sanitizes the more unsavory aspects of its history. The full extent of Smith’s polygamous meanderings is never mentioned in Church curricula. Mormons are encouraged to avoid “anti-Mormon” literature and read only Church-approved material. The censored approach is working against the LDS Church. Many Church members are stumbling upon information on the Internet that contradicts Church versions of Mormon history and teachings. Some Mormons leave the Church because of these discoveries.

To discourage Church members from randomly searching the Internet and finding information that could cause them to challenge Mormonism, the LDS Church recently revamped its search engines to include Google’s powerful search technology. The new “safe search” only returns links to Church-approved content that is currently available on LDS.org and other Church websites: <http://www.lds.org/help/search?lang=eng> .

From Church pulpits, nowadays, and on Church websites, the emphasis centers upon one man/one woman families—and not on polygamy. Monogamous couples are promised, if they are sealed in a Mormon temple and are faithful to their temple covenants, they will continue as spouses and receive a fullness of celestial glory with God after they die.

Modern-day Mormons are told the LDS Church hasn't advocated polygamy for over 100 years. They are told polygamy is no longer emphasized because it is not germane to current Church doctrines. Some Mormon women may feel more secure when “celestial polygamy” is downplayed at church. They can avoid dealing with the idea that they may be expected to perpetually share their husbands in the post-mortem polygamy shuffle.

In today's Mormon culture—with Church events and meetings as social backdrops—in compliance with the law of the land, Mormons express themselves in monogamous unions, ignoring the fact that polygamy is still Church doctrine. Polygamy is out of sight.

The LDS Church still believes in polygamy, claims it doesn't practice polygamy—but seems to be doing its best to ensure polygamous unions abound aplenty on the other side.

Hidden Mormon records

Mormons are a record-keeping people. Church members are instructed to submit information from reliable sources for proxy temple work for their ancestors. Submissions data has been largely unmonitored. Over the years, elements of carelessness have crept in. Against Church rules, Mormons have submitted millions of entries for non-relatives. Member-submitted data has been accepted “*as is*”. Subsequently, proxy databases for the dead have become over-loaded with duplicate, inaccurate, and incomplete records.

In addition to names submitted into the LDS temple system by Church members, family record extraction is a vital part of the massive effort by the LDS Church to “redeem the dead.” The Church has acquired billions of vital and historical records that contain the names of individuals who have lived on Earth. From these records, names are extracted:

Through family record extraction, workers create automated indexes to various historical documents that contain the names of individuals who have lived on the earth. The indexes are then made accessible worldwide through the Church's family history Internet resources and computer programs. Names from extracted indexes are also sent to the temples when needed to supplement the names that members provide for ordinance work. (*Family Record Extraction – Administrative Handbook*)

Mormon temple ceremonies, including proxy rites for the dead, are cloaked in secrecy and involve the use of secret names, oaths, signs, handshakes, and passwords. There is

intense Church security concerning LDS records that show details of posthumous rites. This data is kept in hidden files—accessible only by accredited Mormons. The current online genealogical database of the LDS Church that contains updated details of temple data for the dead is *New FamilySearch*, which requires a member log-in to access: <https://new.familysearch.org/en/action/unsec/welcome> .

To help maintain a steady flow of names through Mormon temples, an army of busybody Mormons, using *New FamilySearch*, submit new names, combine records, and fiddle with data on existing records, adding or altering information. Along with details of proxy baptisms and other rites for the dead, plural marriage data is commonplace on *New FamilySearch* entries. Details of polygamous lines are only as accurate as the hodgepodge of data on records. Plural marriage listings (especially for females) may contain duplicates and lack vital data, such as full birth and death information.

In February 2012, in a move mainly designed to prevent investigative access to their huge, uncontrolled file of baptized names, LDS officials installed a firewall in *New Family Search*. Even users with member log-ins may be locked out and have their log-ins suspended when they search controversial information. This security move places Mormon records—already off-limits to the public before the firewall—securely under lock and key. Researchers are now prevented from monitoring questionable temple data.

It is always easier to keep information confidential when it is not accessible. With *New Family Search* records out of public sight, the LDS Church has effectively eliminated *all* non-LDS monitoring of its temple data. The concealment of LDS temple records makes it easy for Mormon officials to downplay—and even deny—the more peculiar aspects of Mormon temple processing—such as the high volume of polygamous rites for the dead.

Prior to the latest technological barrier, an internal mechanism was already in force to prevent information “leaks” that could damage the reputation of the LDS Church. Details of “*LDS Ordinances*” on controversial *New FamilySearch* listings are generally tagged with a “*Not available*” designation. The status of LDS temple rites is not visible on these records. This measure provides the LDS Church with a safe way to conceal potentially embarrassing data from *New FamilySearch* users, irrespective of the firewall that could cause a Church member to be locked out because they searched the “wrong” name.

Listings for Jewish Holocaust victims, and many recently deceased celebrities and other well-known dead, are among “*Not available*” entries. Proxy data is also not disclosed on records for deceased relatives of famous living people, such as Barack and Michelle Obama, and Bill and Hillary Clinton, who likely did not consent to Mormon rites for their kinsfolk. Mormons are supposed to obtain permission from the closest next of kin before they can perform temple “ordinances” for dead people born within the last 110 years.

At the time of the installation of the firewall in *New FamilySearch* in 2012, the First Presidency of the LDS Church issued a letter reiterating policies concerning submissions of names for proxy temple ordinances. Church members were told to identify and submit only the names of their dead relatives. They were specifically directed not to submit names of celebrities or Jewish Holocaust victims. These directives have never worked in the past. Mormons can still submit names of non-relatives into *New FamilySearch*.

Before the firewall, a large collection of “available” polygamy records were downloaded from *New FamilySearch*, and also from other Church files once used as proxy data banks. In addition, thousands of other individual records detailing polygamous sealings for the dead have been sighted in Mormon proxy databases from 1993 until early 2012.

Polygamy for the dead

The LDS Church has issued specific instructions to Church members regarding proxy marriage sealings. These guidelines state that only dead couples, who had established relationships while they were living, are to be sealed as spouses in Mormon temples.

A deceased man may have sealed to him all deceased women to whom he was legally married during his life. A deceased woman may be sealed to all men to whom she was legally married during her life. However, if she was sealed to a husband during her life, all her husbands must be deceased before she may be sealed to a husband to whom she was not sealed to during life. Deceased couples who were divorced may be sealed. This may provide the only way for their children to be sealed...A deceased couple who lived together as husband and wife may be sealed, even if the marriage cannot be documented. (*Chapter 9, When Sealing Spouses, What are the Policies? – Policies for Preparing Names for Temple Work*)

Records from Church databases show Mormons are digressing from Church directives. Polygamous unions for many deceased are occurring on a more liberal scale, as Mormons indiscriminately seal them to parties they were not married to when they were alive.

Early Mormons: Polygamy was the standard for marriage in early Mormon culture. The roles and status of men and women in a polygamous environment were different. The LDS Church represents a male-dominated society. The Mormon priesthood—which only men can hold—was in complete control. In 19th century Mormonism, plural marriage exemplified an ill-perceived understanding of the status of men and women. Women were considered of lesser worth, to be saved through men holding the priesthood. Mormon polygamy is based upon the assumption that a man is superior to a woman.

In early Mormonism, prominent (living) Mormon men were often sealed to deceased women whom they had never married in the flesh. Sometimes Mormon men were posthumously sealed to large numbers of dead women. After Joseph Smith's death, he was sealed by proxy to at least 229 women who had applied for the privilege to be sealed to him. While an exact tally of Smith's proxy wives, to date, is not known, in accordance with Mormon doctrine, he is expected to have hundreds of wives in the hereafter.

Copies of various *New FamilySearch* entries for Joseph Smith, from 2009 and 2010, list many of his plural wives. The names of 231 women—sealed to him from 1843 to 2010—have been extracted from these records. The same listings indicate he is in the process of being sealed to numerous other women. Smith has been subjected to more than a dozen post-2000 sealings. As examples, he was sealed to Louisa Beeman and Jane Nealins on February 2, 2010 in the Las Vegas Nevada Temple. He was previously sealed to his sister-in-law, Agnes Moulton Coolbrith, on April 13, 2006 in the Seattle Washington Temple. On that same date, in the same temple, Smith was sealed to four other women: Elizabeth Davis, Elizabeth Durfee, Hannah M. Ellis, and Delcena Diadamia Johnson.

Agnes Coolbrith Smith was the wife of Don Carlos Smith (1816-1841), the youngest brother of Joseph Smith. Don Carlos Smith died of malarial fever at age twenty-five. Although Agnes Coolbrith was his only wife, Don Carlos Smith is listed with eight wives in *New FamilySearch*. To add more marital confusion within the Smith family—not only has Joseph Smith been sealed to Agnes Coolbrith, his brother's widow—Joseph Smith's first wife, Emma Hale, is listed as one of the eight spouses of Don Carlos Smith.

Emma Hale Smith Bidamon (1804-1879) never supported plural marriage. She suffered greatly during her marriage to Joseph Smith because of his dalliances with other women and teenage girls, and his insistence that God told him he must take plural wives. Emma Smith was pressured to conform to that hypothetical divine edict. She was told God would destroy her if she did not agree to plural marriage: (*Doctrine & Covenants 132:54*)

Despite her opposition to polygamy, and her refusal to follow Brigham Young to the West after the death of Joseph Smith, Emma Hale is listed with three husbands: Joseph Smith, Don Carlos Smith, and Lewis C. Bidamon, according to a *New FamilySearch* record, dated August 4, 2010. Details of her sealing to Don Carlos Smith are tagged “*Not available*”. The record shows Emma Hale—in a probable duplicate rite—was sealed to Joseph Smith on February 2, 2010 in the Las Vegas Nevada Temple. The same entry indicates, on September 11, 2009 in the St. George Utah Temple, she was also sealed to her second husband, Lewis Bidamon, whom she married after the death of Joseph Smith.

Hyrum Smith (1800-1844), older brother of Joseph Smith, assisted in the running of the LDS Church. Hyrum Smith was the number two man in Mormonism. Along with his

brother, Joseph Smith, Hyrum Smith was shot to death by a vigilante mob in 1844, while incarcerated in Carthage Jail, Illinois. After the death of his first wife, Jerusha Barden, Hyrum Smith became a polygamist. Before his death, he allegedly married five more women. *New FamilySearch* records from 2010 reveal he has been sealed to 69 women.

Dates of these sealings range from 1846 to 2008. In November 2008, Hyrum Smith was sealed to Mary Elizabeth Fullmer, whom he never married when he was alive. This proxy sealing occurred in the Manila Philippines Temple. Overall, it appears Hyrum Smith has been sealed to scores of plural spouses to correspond with his status in the early Church hierarchy, and his family ties to Joseph Smith—the undisputed king of Mormonism.

New FamilySearch entries show plural marriage sealings continue to be performed for other high-ranking early Mormon polygamists. Brigham Young was sealed to 22 wives in Mormon temples in 2011. Fifty percent of these sealings were to women Young married when he was alive. Brigham Young was sealed to at least 150 dead women when he was alive, and numerous women were sealed to him after his death. Irrespective of whether he was ever previously sealed to the 22 women he was sealed to in 2011, these recent rites for Young show that polygamy for polygamists is perpetuated in Mormon temples today.

Parley Parker Pratt (1807-1857) was another well-known Mormon leader and polygamist who was sealed to a harem of dead women after his death. Pratt was a contemporary of Joseph Smith and an original member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the LDS Church. He married 12 women while he was alive. From *New FamilySearch* records and other research, it appears Parley Pratt has been sealed to at least 175 women.

Pratt, who was murdered near Van Buren, Arkansas, in May 1857, by the estranged husband of Pratt's 12th wife—Eleanor McLean Pratt—is a direct ancestor of 2012 Republican presidential candidate, Jon Huntsman, and 2012 Republican presidential nominee, Mitt Romney. Mormons are still executing plural marriage sealings for Parley Pratt. In February 2010, he was sealed to Emily Marks—whom he never married—in the Vernal Utah Temple, according to *New FamilySearch* records, dated July 2010.

Mormons are responding to a belief in polygamy as they continue to seal prominent early Mormon polygamists to plural wives. It is not known how many recent sealings are duplicates—but a trend seems to be occurring to reaffirm the *status quo* of a polygamous past that perceived the post-mortem status of dead women is elevated to a higher state of exaltation when they are sealed to top guys—such as Joseph Smith and Brigham Young.

Orrin Porter Rockwell (1813-1878) was one of the first converts to the LDS Church. He was labeled “the Destroying Angel of Mormondom” because of the countless people he murdered. Rockwell once said, “I didn’t kill anyone who didn’t need killing.” He served

as a bodyguard for both Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, until Young's death in 1877. Rockwell had helped guide Brigham Young across the plains to the Great Salt Lake Valley in 1847. He became deputy marshal for the provisional State of Deseret in 1849.

Porter Rockwell was characterized in newspapers and journals of his day as a notorious gunman and religious zealot. After he died of natural causes, on June 9, 1878 in Salt Lake City, while awaiting trial on first-degree murder charges, the Salt Lake Tribune editorialized he had participated in at least 100 murders. In the public eye, Porter Rockwell has remained one of the most well-known of early Mormon settlers in Utah.

Although he was not a polygamist, Rockwell was married to three women at different points in his life. According to a *New FamilySearch* record for Orrin Porter Rockwell, dated August 2, 2010, he has been "polygamized" by proxy, with six wives. Rockwell has been sealed to his known wives: Luana Hart Beebe, Mary Ann Neff, and Christina Olsen. He is "Ready" to be sealed to Berthier Lane. The same *New FamilySearch* record shows Rockwell was sealed to Diana Davidson on January 2010 in the Provo Utah Temple, and to Sarah Jane Witt on April 10, 2010 in the San Diego California Temple.

Diana Davidson was a possible in-law to Rockwell; however Sarah Jane Witt was his biological mother. In a plural marriage travesty, Porter Rockwell has been sealed by proxy as a husband to his own mother. This matrimonial absurdity reflects the sloppiness of today's Mormon record-keeping, as some Mormons tamper with, and busily submit names of additional proxy wives for early Mormons into the Mormon temple system.

Mormon fundamentalists: After the 1890 and 1904 Church Manifestos that banned the practice of polygamy, die-hard Mormon polygamists were ousted from LDS ranks and excommunicated from the LDS Church because they refused to relinquish the practice of plural marriage. These men became known as Mormon fundamentalists. They formed fundamentalist sects, with polygamy heralded as the core principle of these groups.

Mormon fundamentalists excommunicated from the LDS Church include: Rulon Clark Allred; (1906-1977); Owen Arthur Allred (1914-2005); John Yeates (Yates) Barlow (1874-1949); Joseph Leslie Broadbent (1891-1935); Rulon Timpson Jeffs (1909-2002); Joseph Smith Jessop (1869-1953); Joseph Lyman Jessop (1892-1963); Leroy Sunderland Johnson (1888-1986); Charles William Kingston (1884-1975); Alma Dayer LeBaron (1886-1951), and other members of the LeBaron clan; Joseph White Musser (1872-1954); Gerald Wilbur Peterson, Sr. (1917-1981); John Wickersham Woolley (1831-1928); Lorin Calvin Woolley (1856-1934); and Charles Frederick Zitting (1894-1954).

Since their deaths, these Mormon fundamentalists have been posthumously reclaimed by the LDS Church. While the majority of *New FamilySearch* listings for them show LDS

ordinances as “*Not available*”, a sizeable collection of LDS ordinance records was downloaded in 2009 from the now obsolete *International Genealogical Index (IGI)*, which preceded *New FamilySearch* as the LDS Church’s database of proxy rites.

IGI records show the original LDS baptisms for most of the Mormon fundamentalists on the aforementioned list have been restored on Mormon records, as though their excommunications from the LDS Church were only in force when they were alive. Proxy baptisms have also been performed in Mormon temples for most of these men.

The *IGI* copies also show the multiple marriages of Mormon fundamentalists now appear to be recognized by the LDS Church. In recent years, many of these dead men have been posthumously sealed in Mormon temples to women they married after the LDS Church officially suspended polygamy. As Mormons continue to seal Mormon fundamentalists to plural wives, the LDS temple system is systematically validating these plural marriages.

New FamilySearch records, dated July 2010, list Rulon Allred with six wives. His brother, Owen Allred, is listed with five wives. Other examples of Mormon fundamentalists with multiple plural wives named on *New FamilySearch* entries are Joseph Musser—five wives; Charles Zitting—nine wives; and Rulon Jeffs—four wives. Rulon Jeffs was the father of Warren Jeffs, who is serving jail time for child molestation.

The majority of *New FamilySearch* entries for Mormon fundamentalists, copied in 2010, show LDS ordinance details, including marriage sealings, as “*Not available*”. Print screen copies of records for two Mormon fundamentalists were made before ordinance data on these records was blocked. Rulon Allred is one of the names—the other is Ervil LeBaron.

Rulon Allred was excommunicated from the LDS Church in 1940 for practicing polygamy. Allred was the leader of the Utah-based group of Mormon fundamentalists, known as the Apostolic United Brethren (AUB). A naturopathic physician by profession, Allred was murdered in his office in Murray, Utah, on May 10, 1977, on the orders of religious psychopath, Ervil LeBaron—the head of a rival polygamous group. At the time of his assassination, Rulon Allred was the husband of at least seven wives, the father of forty-eight children, and the spiritual leader of thousands of Mormon fundamentalists.

It appears Rulon Allred has been sealed by proxy to at least five of his wives in Mormon temples. He was sealed to two of them—Ethel Jessop and Ruth Rachel Barlow—on December 16, 2008 in the Ogden Utah Temple. The same *New FamilySearch* record shows Allred was sealed to Mabel Finlayson on September 17, 2009 in the Panamá City Panamá Temple, and he is “*Ready*” to be sealed to Melba Finlayson, Mabel’s twin sister.

Ethel Jessop became a plural wife of Rulon Allred in 1945—five years after his excommunication from the LDS Church. Allred’s posthumous sealing to Jessop in 2008 is an unambiguous Mormon endorsement of his post-excommunication polygamy.

Ervil Morrell LeBaron was born and raised in a polygamous community in Mexico. He was excommunicated from the LDS Church in 1944 because he openly defied Church authorities. He engaged in a murderous feud with his brothers and other polygamists in the 1970s for control of Mormon fundamentalist sects. In 1972, he established “The Church of the Lamb of God” in San Diego. LeBaron orchestrated the deaths of numerous people, as he tried to seize power among fundamentalists and unite fundamentalist sects under one umbrella. Anyone who resisted his plans met with violence. During his blood-soaked history, Ervil LeBaron ordered the murder of his brother, Joel LeBaron, and ordered as many as thirty others killed—including at least one of his own children.

On June 1, 1979, Ervil LeBaron was apprehended by police in Mexico. He was extradited to the United States, where he was convicted of having ordered Rulon Allred’s death. In 1980, LeBaron was sentenced to life imprisonment at the Utah State Penitentiary in Draper, Utah, where he died of natural causes on August 16, 1981.

Ervil LeBaron had 13 wives and at least 54 children.

The print screen of the *New FamilySearch* entry for Ervil LeBaron shows, as a senseless gesture, he was sealed to his first wife, Delfina Salido, in the Dallas Texas Temple on December 11, 2002. As described in *Prophet of Blood: The Untold Story of Ervil LeBaron and the Lambs of God*, by Ben Bradlee, Jr. & Dale Van Atta: “...Ervil divorced Delfina [Salido] and legally married Kris [Jensen] in 1966 in Arizona...” (p.95). After the murder of Rulon Allred—fearing for her own life and concerned about the welfare of her children—Delfina LeBaron fled from Ervil LeBaron and the Lambs of God. (p. 256-260).

Also, according to his 2010 *New FamilySearch* record, Ervil LeBaron is in the process of being sealed to several other wives. Sealings to Maria De La Luz (Mary Lou) Vega and Lorna Chynoweth are “*In progress*”, and a sealing to Yolanda (Lina) Rios is “*Ready*”.

Rulon Allred and Ervil LeBaron were both “dyed-in-the-wool” polygamists who became rival Mormon fundamentalist leaders. One, a psychotic murderer—the other, his victim. Both men are listed with multiple wives on Mormon records, as though a killer with many wives will share an eternal reward with his victim who also has many wives?

While the LDS Church claims it no longer sanctions polygamy, the Church is reinventing its polygamous history, by inviting deceased Mormon fundamentalists—and many of their plural wives—back into the LDS fold, via polygamous sealings in Mormon temples.

Monarchs: Famous dead people, who were known to have had a wide range of sexual partners, are prime targets for polygamy by proxy in Mormon temples. Among the famous, and sometimes infamous, who have received an abundance of plural marriage sealings, are monarchs who lived in later medieval and early modern times. Kings had preeminent social status, which opened the door for them to have extra-marital sex with many women. Royal marriages were acts of duty, rather than love, in early modern Europe. Many monarchs are known to have taken multiple mistresses during their loveless marriages. The right to promiscuity was seen as a king's prerogative.

Mormons are “rubber stamping” the sexual excesses of monarchs, and creating false marriage records, as they seal monarchs to bevvies of mistresses and concubines, as well as their wives. An “assembly line” mentality accompanies Mormon marriage sealings for royalty. Monarchs are often sealed to numerous women—on the same day, in the same Mormon temple—a seemingly artificial process to stimulate polygamous unions. Famous rulers who have been roped into polygamy by proxy include the following examples:

1. Ivan IV Vasilyevich, known as Ivan the Terrible (1530-1584), the first czar of Russia, controlled the largest nation on Earth. He tortured and executed thousands. A polygamist with seven wives and as many as 50 concubines, Ivan the Terrible was sealed to ten different women on October 13, 1989 in the Provo Utah Temple, from 2002 *IGI* records.

2. Henry IV of France (1553-1610), was the first of the Bourbon dynasty. Originally a Calvinist, he converted to Catholicism because France would not accept a Protestant king. He had two unsuccessful marriages, to Margaret of France (Valois), and Marie de' Medici. A renowned womanizer, Henry IV had at least 56 documented mistresses. He promulgated the Edict of Nantes in 1598, which guaranteed religious liberties to Protestants, thereby ending the French Wars of Religion (1562-1598) that were primarily fought between French Catholics and Calvinist Protestants (Huguenots). In 1610, Henry IV of France was assassinated in Paris by François Ravaillac, a fanatical Catholic.

Mormons have sealed Henry IV of France to both of his wives, according to *New FamilySearch* copies, dated May 2010. He has also been sealed by proxy in Mormon temples to at least eight of his many mistresses. On August 1, 2009 in the Jordan River Utah Temple, he was sealed to three of his mistresses, listed as: Catherine Henriette de Balzac d 'Entragues, Jacqueline De [sic] Bueil, and Charlotte Des [sic] Essarts.

3. Charles II (Stuart) of England, “The Merry Monarch”, (1630-1685) was renowned for his stockpile of mistresses. He was sealed to his wife, Catherine of Braganza, and four mistresses, on November 8, 1995 in the Los Angeles California Temple, according to *IGI* copies from 1998. He was sealed to another mistress on March 1996 in the same temple.

Polygamous rites have occurred in Mormon temples for members of the Tudor dynasty:

1. Henry VIII (Tudor) of England (1491-1547) was the main instigator of the English Reformation—the separation of the Church of England from the Roman Catholic Church. He married six times, divorced two wives, beheaded two, and had various mistresses during the course of his life. Henry VIII was cruel and tyrannical by nature. There was no democracy in England during his 37-year reign. In the process of transforming England from a Catholic country to a Protestant one, he was responsible, either directly or indirectly, for the deaths of thousands of Catholics, many of whom were cruelly tortured.

Fourteen women are named as spouses of Henry VIII, according to *New FamilySearch* copies, dated 2010. Among his many plural marriage sealings, on April 23, 2008 in the Redlands California Temple, Henry VIII was sealed to a mistress, Mary Boleyn, whom he later discarded in favor of her sister, Anne Boleyn, whom he married and executed. On September 20, 2008 in the Oklahoma City Oklahoma Temple, a spousal sealing was performed for Henry VIII and Ann [sic] of Cleves. The political and childless union between Henry VIII and Anne of Cleves, his fourth wife, had been dissolved in 1540.

Among the mistresses sealed to Henry VIII is Mary Berkeley (Berkley) Perrot, wife of Sir Thomas Perrot, who was a courtier and wealthy landowner. Henry VIII and Mary Berkeley were sealed by proxy in Mormon temples in 1995 and 1999. Mary Berkeley is described as “Mary (Concubine) Berkley” on the 1995 record. It is popularly believed that Henry VIII and Mary Berkeley produced an illegitimate son, Sir John Perrot.

2. Arthur (Tudor) Prince of Wales (1486-1502) was the older brother of Henry VIII. He married Spanish princess, Catherine (Katherine) of Aragon, at age fifteen, and died a short time later. Henry VIII married Catherine of Aragon after Arthur’s death. Arthur and Henry have both been sealed to Catherine of Aragon. Arthur is also shown with a marriage sealing to Catherine Howard, with “*Not available*” details. He was not married to Catherine (Katherine) Howard, who was born c.1521, nineteen years after his death. Kate Howard was the fifth wife of Henry VIII. She was beheaded for alleged adultery.

3. Elizabeth I (Tudor) of England, “The Virgin Queen”, (1533-1603) was a Protestant monarch who ruled England with an iron fist for 44 years. Elizabeth I wanted to do the best for her country and never married. According to *New FamilySearch* records, dated August 28, 2010, a spousal sealing is “*In progress*” between Elizabeth I and Robert Dudley—English nobleman, and close friend of Elizabeth, whom she had considered marrying. Robert Dudley’s record lists him with three additional wives, as Mormons attempt to draw the unmarried Elizabeth I into a polygamous web in the hereafter.

As a major genealogical travesty, famous English statesman and philosopher, Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1626), is erroneously listed as the son of Elizabeth I and Robert Dudley in the same batch of *New FamilySearch* records. Bacon's 2010 record indicates he was sealed to unnamed parents on October 7, 2008 in the Provo Utah Temple. Francis Bacon's biological parents were Sir Nicholas Bacon and Anne (Cooke) Bacon.

4. In the 1998 edition of the *Church Handbook of Instructions*, the LDS Church clarified that a woman may be sealed to more than one man after her death. Multiple spousal sealings for deceased women were occurring before 1998. Katherine (Catherine) Parr (c.1512-1548), the sixth wife of Henry VIII, was widowed three times. From 1982-1997, Kate Parr was repeatedly sealed to her four husbands, according to *IGI* data from 1998.

Celebrities: Plural marriage records for more than a dozen deceased celebrities were randomly selected and downloaded from *New FamilySearch* during July and August 2010. In alphabetical order, here are the names and birth and death dates of these deceased, as they appear on Mormon records. With the exception of American author and journalist, Ernest Hemingway; and Greek-Argentine shipping magnate, Aristotle Onassis; all of the celebrities on this list were well-known movie stars:

Norma Jean Baker (1926-1962); Margarita Cansino (1916 [sic] -1987); Errol Leslie Thomson Flynn (1909-1959); Henry Fonda (1905-1982); William Clark Gable (1901-1960); Frances Ethel "Judy Garland" Gumm (1922-1969); Reginald Carey Harrison (1908-1990); Vivian (Vivien) Mary Hartley (1913-1967); Ernest Hemingway (1898 [sic] -1961); Audrey Kathleen Ruston (Hepburn) (1929-1993); Alexander Archibald Leach (1904-1986); Laurance [sic] Kerr Oliver (1907-1989); Aristatol [sic] Socrates Onassis (1905-1975); and Suzanne Pleshette (1937-2008).

1. American-born screen legend and sex-symbol, Norma Jean Baker, (Marilyn Monroe), has been sealed in Mormon temples to her three ex-husbands: Giuseppe Paolo (Joe) Dimaggio [sic], Arthur Asher Miller, and James Dougherty. While details of her proxy marriage sealing to Joe DiMaggio are marked "*Not available*", Marilyn Monroe was sealed to Arthur Miller in August 2007, and to James Dougherty in April 2010.

2. Margarita Cansino (Rita Hayworth) was an American actress who achieved fame during the 1940s as one of the era's top stars. On January 20, 1998 in the Provo Utah Temple, Hayworth was sealed by proxy to her five ex-husbands: Edward Judson, George Orson Welles, Aga Khan (Prince Ali Salman Aga Khan), Dick Haymes, and James Hill.

3. Hollywood swashbuckler, Errol Leslie Thomson Flynn (Errol Flynn), was born in Hobart, Tasmania. Flynn's scandalous personal life brought him considerable fame. He was sealed to an ex-wife, Liliane Marie-Madeleine Carré (Lili Damita) on October 3,

1996 in the Manti Utah Temple. On November 3, 2000 in the Albuquerque New Mexico Temple, Flynn was sealed an unknown spouse named “Chancellor”. Flynn was sealed to another ex-wife, Nora Eddington, on September 18, 2009 in the Boise Idaho Temple.

4. Henry Fonda was an acclaimed American film and stage actor. On January 17, 1998 in the Provo Utah Temple, Fonda was sealed to three women: an ex-wife, Margaret Brooke (Sullivan); an estranged spouse, Frances Ford Seymour, who committed suicide in 1950 after Fonda told her he wanted a divorce so he could remarry; and his fifth wife, Shirlee Adams, who was still married to Fonda at the time of his death.

5. Popular American movie star, William Clark Gable (Clark Gable), is listed with five wives on a *New FamilySearch* record, dated July 15, 2010. In 1991, Gable was sealed to Carole Lombard, to whom he was married when she died on a plane crash in 1942. He is designated as “Ready” to be sealed to an ex-wife, Edith Louisa Hawkes (Sylvia Ashley). Sealings are “Reserved” for Clark Gable and an ex-wife, Josephine Dillon, as well as his fifth wife, Kathleen Williams Speckels [sic] (Kay Williams), who preceded him in death.

6. Frances Ethel “Judy Garland” Gumm was a famous American actress and singer. *New FamilySearch* records, dated July 17, 2010, show she was sealed to an ex-husband, David Rose, in 1995. Garland is listed as “Ready” to be sealed to an ex-husband, Mark Herron, and also to Michael DeVinko (Mickey Deans), to whom she was married when she died.

7. (Sir) Reginald Carey Harrison (Rex Harrison) was a suave British stage and screen actor. A *New FamilySearch* record, dated July 30, 2010, shows he was sealed to five women on October 17, 1997 in the Logan Utah Temple: ex-wife Lilli Marie Peiser (Lilli Palmer), Justine Kay Kendall (McCarthy), ex-wife Rachel Roberts, ex-wife Elizabeth Harris (Elizabeth Rees-Williams), and Carole Landis. Rachel Roberts was divorced by Harrison in 1971. She committed suicide in 1980 after a failed attempt to win him back. Rex Harrison was never married to Carole Landis, who died of a drug overdose in 1948. Landis reportedly committed suicide when Harrison refused to divorce his wife for her.

8. Vivian (Vivien) Mary Hartley (Vivien Leigh) was a famed British stage and film actress who was born in India. Leigh was sealed to an ex-husband, Laurence Kerr Olivier, on July 28, 1998 in the Jordan River Utah Temple. She was sealed to another ex-husband, Herbert Holman, on November 7, 1998 in the Bountiful Utah Temple. On the same date, in the same temple where she was sealed to Holman, Leigh was sealed to movie mogul, Alexander Korda. Vivian Leigh was never married to Korda. She had a brief affair with him when he signed her to a five-year contract with London Films.

9. Ernest Hemingway was a famous American author and journalist who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954. Hemingway committed suicide in Idaho in 1961. He was

sealed to four women on April 16, 1998 in the Provo Utah Temple: ex-wife Elizabeth Hadley Richardson (Hadley Richardson), ex-wife Pauline Cezanne Pilar Pfeiffer, ex-wife Martha (Marty) Gellhorn, and Mary Welsh, to whom he was married when he died. On his *New FamilySearch* record, dated August 5, 2010, Hemingway is “Ready” to be sealed to Italian baroness, Afdera Franchetti, whose brother was a friend of Hemingway. Franchetti was an ex-wife of Henry Fonda. She was never married to Ernest Hemingway.

10. Audrey Kathleen Ruston (Hepburn) (Audrey Hepburn) was a British actress who was born in Brussels. Hepburn was a film and fashion icon. She was sealed to her ex-husbands, Mel Ferrer and Andrea Dotti, on September 21, 2009 in the St. George Utah Temple. On a *New FamilySearch* record for Hepburn, dated July 30, 2010, a sealing for her to “Rafael Gari” is “*In progress*”. She was never married to anyone by that name.

11. Alexander Archibald Leach (Cary Grant) was a debonair film icon who was born in England. Grant was sealed to his four ex-wives: Virginia Cherrill, Barbara Hutton, Betsy Drake, and Dyan Cannon, on January 28, 1997 in the Jordan River Utah Temple.

12. (Sir) Laurance [sic] Kerr Oliver (Laurence Olivier) was a towering figure of British stage and screen. Olivier also made a significant number of Hollywood films. On July 28, 1998 in the Jordan River Utah Temple—on the same day and in the same Mormon temple where he was sealed to ex-wife Vivien Leigh—Olivier was sealed to another ex-wife, Jill Esmond. On October 11, 2001 in the Mexico City Mexico Temple, he was sealed to his third wife, Joan Plowright, who was married to him when he died.

13. A 2010 print screen from *New FamilySearch* shows Aristatol [sic] Socrates Onassis (Aristotle Onassis) was sealed to his first wife, heiress, Christina Livanos (Athina Tina Livanos) on December 16, 2004 in the Logan Utah Temple. Livanos divorced Onassis in 1960 after she discovered him having sex with opera singer, Maria Callas, Onassis’s long-time mistress. Onassis ended his relationship with Callas to marry Jacqueline Kennedy, widow of U.S. president John F. Kennedy. From the same print screen, a sealing for Aristotle Onassis and his former mistress, Maria Callas, is “*Reserved*”, and details of his sealing to “Jacqueline Bouvier” (Kennedy) are tagged “*Not available*”.

14. Deceased parties must have been dead at least one year before proxy rites, including marriage sealings, can be done on their behalf, according to LDS Church policy. From a print screen of her *New FamilySearch* entry in 2010, well-known American actress, Suzanne Pleshette, was baptized by proxy in 2004, the year following her death. Sealings to her ex-husband, Merle Johnson (Troy Donaghue), and her spouses, Thomas Joseph Gallagher and Tom Poston, who both preceded her in death, are listed as “*Reserved*”.

Henry Fonda, Cary Grant, Rex Harrison, Rita Hayworth, Ernest Hemingway, Audrey Hepburn, Vivian Leigh, and Lawrence Olivier, have each been sealed to multiple spouses on the same day in the same Mormon temple. Errol Flynn, Rex Harrison, Ernest Hemingway, Audrey Hepburn, Vivien Leigh, and Aristotle Onassis, are all listed with a wrong spouse. Vital data on the *New FamilySearch* records for numerous celebrities named in this report has been recorded incorrectly, including misspelling of names.

Conclusion

Temple marriage sealings are seen by Mormons as a sacred tradition that offers eternal unions between men and women. Polygamy remains a core element of Mormon theology. While marriage sealings, for both the living and the dead, are regularly performed in Mormon temples on a one man/one woman basis, polygamy by proxy for deceased parties is very much an active part of present-day Mormon temple marriage ceremonies.

Compared to the entire proxy ordinance bank of the LDS Church, the Mormon records referred to in this report are limited in number. Nevertheless, these records are significant because they illustrate an ongoing pattern of polygamous rites in Mormon temples today.

Whether the thinking behind the development of this commonplace Mormon practice is to connect family lines, or to provide multiple choices of partners in the hereafter, polygamy is being promoted—no matter the reasoning behind the rites. Mormons should not be condemned for their desire to bond couples and families for eternity. However, Mormon methodology should be questioned when vast numbers of dead people are "married" forever in Mormon temples—even provisionally—to more than one partner.

On the days Mormon temples are operational, every day is a likely “polygamy day.” The current LDS “one-on-one” marriage stance contradicts the polygamous underpinnings of Mormonism, and serves as misleading “window dressing” that avoids addressing the fact that polygamy is regularly endorsed in Mormon temples. Polygamy as a marital practice, even for deceased people, is a far cry from marriage between one man and one woman.

The concealment of plural marriage records gives LDS Church officials the opportunity to speciously insist that marriage is *only* “between a man and a woman.” The LDS Church claims the right to privacy concerning its records. However, Mormons are performing posthumous rites for a vast number of dead people, including deceased parties who are not related, either directly—or indirectly—to Church members. Non-Mormons are entitled to know if their deceased ancestors are listed in the proxy database.

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