

Salt Lake City, Utah.

August 4th, 1893.

Copy

Mrs. Malissa Willes, of Lehi City, Utah County, Utah Territory, being duly sworn, deposes and says she is a citizen of the United States and over the age of twenty-one years. That Mr. Joseph Smith Jr., of Lamoni, Iowa, called upon me at my home at Lehi, Utah County, Utah Territory, and we conversed upon the subject of his late father, the Prophet Joseph Smith, having had more wives than his mother in his lifetime. I told him that I was married to his father the Prophet, on September 20th, 1843, by Hyrum Smith, at Nauvoo, in the presence of my parents and Joseph and Hyrum Smith. My age at that time was 19 years and nine months, and I lived with him as his wife until his death. Mr. Joseph Smith Jr. asked if I would answer him a few ^{very} plain questions for his own special benefit. I told him I would do so with pleasure.

Question 1. Were you married to my father?

Answer. Yes.

Question. When?

Ans. I handed him the Family Bible, in which was recorded by my father, at the time, the record of my said marriage, and told him he would find it there.

Ques. Was you a wife in very deed?

Ans. Yes.

Ques. Why was there no increase, say in your case?

Ans. Through no fault of either of us, lack of proper conditions on my part probably, or it might be in the wisdom of the Almighty that we should have none. The Prophet was martyred nine months after our marriage.

Ques. Did you know of any Brother or Sister of mine by my father's plural wives?

Ans. I did not know of any.

Ques. Did my father give his consent for you to marry Ira J. Willes?

Ans. Certainly not. Your father was dead a number of years

Ans. Certainly not. Your father was dead a number of years before I married Mr. Willes. I married Mr. Willes May 13th, 1849 with the full understanding it was for time only.

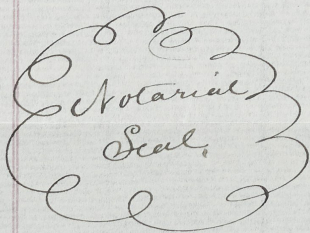
Mr. Smith then told me of his mother having denied to him of his father having had more wives than her, in the presence of witnesses.

Yes, I said to him, you took your mother before Mr. Bideman, a bitter enemy of our people, and then asked such questions of her as you wished in his (Bideman's) presence, and she may have answered you as you have now told me. I further said to him, I have no doubt your mother told you the truth so far as she could under the circumstances; but if you had taken her by herself, as you have done me, and asked your questions, she would probably have answered you as I have done.

Mrs. Malissa Willes further deposes and says that, I do not know of any person by the name of Stephen Malony, and never met him nor his wife or her sister, but I do know that I never told him or any other person in 1857 or at any other time that I was not the wife of the late Prophet Joseph Smith.

Malissa Willes

Subscribed and sworn to before me the 4th day of August,
A. D., 1893.



James Jack
Notary Public
for Salt Lake County, U. S.

My Commission Expires
August 8th 1893.

Ans. Certainly not. Your father was dead a number of years before I married Mr. Willis. I married Mr. Willis May 1852. 1849 with the full understanding it was for time only. Mr. Smith then told me of his mother having denied to him of his father having had more wives than her, in the presence of witnesses. Yes, I said to him, you took your mother before Mr. Alderman, a bitter enemy of our people, and then asked such questions, and she would probably have answered you as I have done. Mrs. Malinda Willis further deposes and says that I do not know of any person by the name of Stephen Malony, and never met him nor his wife or her sister, but I do know that I never told him or any other person in court or at any other time that I was not the wife of the late Joseph Smith.

Malinda Willis

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day of August, A. D. 1853.

John H. Hunt

James J. Smith
Notary Public
for Salt Lake County, U.S.

Wm. C. Smith
August 24 1853