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Taylor

First Council of Seventy in the Temple next to the room of the Twelve; the later, President Francis M. Lyman had a private Circle in the Temple to which he invited me, then we have had for long time our Prayer Circle in the stake house, and now on permission of the Authorities we were permitted to organize a Prayer Circle in our ward at which President Francis M. Lyman and President were present at its organization. President Lyman and I stood up and went through the signs and educated the brethren we had selected in the ward to also join in the circle and in the afternoon Fast meeting President Francis M. Lyman and President F. Y. Taylor assisted us in confirming members of the church and blessing little children and it was a day of great rejoicing. President Lyman occupied the balance of the time in timely and wise Counsel.

1909.

On the 9th November I purchased another piece of property near and adjoining the 20 Acres heretofore purchased, from Marion Morris Cannon, 4.12 acres for the sum of \$1,700.00 and borrowed the amount from the Utah State Bank, - this for future investment also. Also as Brig and Henry and E. C. Taylor wanted to part with their interests in the Taylor estate owned by them in 37 and 47 South, 1st West, and Ida desired it, I also made arrangements to purchase from each their individual interests paying therefor \$2,546.00 and also got this amount from the Utah State Bank, so Ida and I will when paid for, own the entire interest in #37 and #47 South 1st West Street Property.

Spent considerable time in keeping up the organizations of the ward, visiting various families, making arrangements for the coming Christmas gathering and filling appointments.

On the 1st December with Brig went to East Mill Creek and preached the funeral service over remains of Ida Roache Oysthorpe. And on the 5th visited mother and spoke before the conjoint sessions of the M. I. A. at Centerville on the 10th had a long conversation with Brother Nelson Holder Ritchie, father of 12 children and living in the Pleasant view ward. As soon as he crossed the threshold of the front door, I felt that he had negro blood in him. He came for a recommend to go through the temple and I asked many questions concerning his birth. He told me his father was a pure blooded Cherokee Indian and that he never knew his mother, but was told by some friends she was very dark, Creole or mulatto, and a woman by the name of Nancy McNeal raised him. He told me he explained to his present wife before he married her all he knew of his genealogy and they want to go through the temple. He has been faithful and a good provider and saw no reason why he could not. But that feeling still persisted and I had many conversations with him on the matter and finally sent for his wife and learned all the facts she knew, still I felt the same and told them how I felt. They were really disturbed over the matter and I told them I would take their genealogy and all the facts and submit the case to the First Presidency of the Church. I did and they held several meetings with the Twelve and finally President Smith sent for me and said: Johnny (He always called me by that name for years) We have fully considered the case of Brother Ritchie, and have concluded that as you are common Judge in Israel, we return the case to you to decide." That was a terrible responsibility, but I again had several meetings with the Ritchies and finally told them I still felt the same, that I appreciated they were good saints, and that feeling as I did, I dare not issue a recommend to the temple unless my feeling changed; that if they remained faithful and true, if they did not go to the Temple and died without getting in the Temple, the Lord would give them all that they were entitled to, but according to my understanding of the gospel anyone with Negro Blood was not entitled to the temple rights. They said their children, at least some of them had already been to the Temple for their marriage. So I told them to be faithful and no one could eventually hinder them from receiving all blessings by them, but not to think I had any personal feelings in the least, but must not go against my continued impressions. I made them feel that I was responsible for anything I did to hinder good people from going to the temple thus far, No one has been given a recommend to go to the temple by me unless my blessing went also.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
133 MOULTON AVENUE  
ANNUE 1910  
Free Service

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