UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :

State of California : ss

County of San Bernardino.:

Joseph A. Kelting, being first duly sworn, says, I was born October 13th, 1811, at <u>Philadelphia</u> 9.9, and my present residence is Colton, San Bernardino County, California.

I first knew Joseph Smith, the Prophet, in Ohio. I once called upon him afterwards at his residence in Nauvoo, Illinois, and told him I wanted a private interview. We walked up stairs together. His wife, Emma, was down stairs, and he did not wish her to hear what we were going to talk about.

We went into the front room, and he locked the door. I told him it was mooted about that he was teaching plural marriage, and asked him the question, "Are you mooting plural marriage?"

His answer was, " cannot answer you, as you are both a lawyer and sheriff of Hancock County, and it might militate against you as an officer as well as against us."

I said, "Joseph, whatever you tell me as your friend is safe; I came here to find this out, and I assure you upon the square (and we were both Masons) it shall never injure you in any shape."

"I did moot plural marriage," said the Prophet.

"Did you have a revelation to teach this?" I asked.

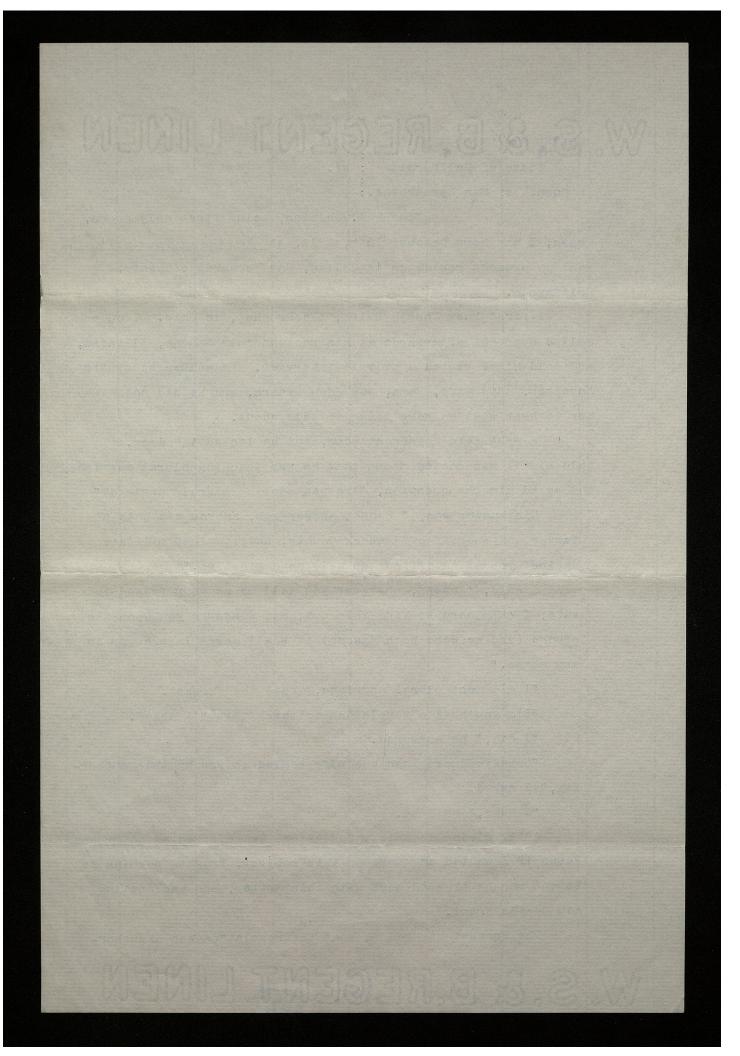
"I did, " he answered.

"Have you more than one wife sealed to you by this authority," I asked.

"I have," said he.

After giving me this information, he referred me to Brigham Young if I wanted any more on this subject, Brigham seeming to be the man he trusted most with this matter, and was putting him to the front.

The Prophet assured me that the revelation was asauthor-



itative and binding as any revelation given through him up to that time; and, in fact, that it was paramount to all the rest.

William Law was once his right hand man, but he aspotatized because of this principle. He told me on one occasion that he left the Church because, said he, "I had only one wife and could obtain no more, but yet to gain eternal life one must have half a score?" Joseph on the other hand, said he, "could cast his snares around and gather in Snow-birds, Partridges and Nightingales," meaning by this, girls whom he had married whose names were indicated by the names of these birds.

Joseph stuck to plural marriage to his death. Emma Smith, to my own personal knowledge, promised to stand by Joseph on this question of polygamy, but she failed to keep faith with her promise.

Joseph Smith was a mighty man and borrowed from no one; he was original and inspiring in his talk.

I was his attorney at Carthage, and while I went to Nauvoo to get a little evidence he was killed in cold blood.

The mob was afraid of Joseph and they killed him, as they did Hyrum, because they were afraid of their influence.

Subscribed and sworn to before the this_

day of

ptember, 1903.

Notary public.

METTAGY PUBLIC State of California

