

April 6, 1860¹

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Minutes of the Annual Conference of the Church of J. C. of L. D. S. held at Amboy, Lee Co. Ill. from April 6th to the 9th, 1860. The delegates from various Branches of the church, & other elders convened at the Hall in Amboy at 10 o'clock A.M.

On motion Bro. Zenas H. Gurley was chosen President of the Conference & Bro. Wm. Marks, Assistant. Andrew G. Jackson & Isaac Sheen were chosen Clerks. Bro. Gurley as the presiding officer, announced that the forenoon would be devoted to preaching, & he opened the services with appropriate remarks on the rise, progress, apostacy, reorgination(sic.) & restitution of the church, after which Bro. Powers (who was appointed for the occasion) addressed the assembled congregation on the mission of Christ & on the general / & specific characteristics of the gospel with all its gifts & blessings unto all nations, who believe & obey the same among all nations & during all periods of time.

Bro. E. C. Briggs addressed the audience on the angel which John saw was to come in the last days to preach the everlasting gospel.

Voted that we adjourn until 1 o'clock P.M., upon which the President addressed the meeting.

The Conference again assembled in the afternoon at the appointed time, & was opened in the usual manner. Remarks were made by the President on the admission of old members & new converts.

Voted that ⁱⁿ Horace Bartlett, Frederick Squire & Joseph Robertson be admitted to fellowship in this church.

Joseph Smith, son of Joseph Smith, the prophet, seer & revelator, & lineal heir to said office & station, according to the law & order of the holy priesthood was then introduced to the Conference, & he delivered an address explanatory of his views, prin-

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¹ April 6, 1860 written in in pencil

ciples, doctrine & faith. On motion of Isaac Sheen it was resolved that Brother Joseph Smith be chosen prophet, seer & revelator of the Church of Jesus Christ & the Succesor(sic) of his father.

Voted unanimously that Sister Emma Bidaman, the mother of the present prophet Joseph Smith, be received into fellowship.

By unanimous vote, Bro. Joseph Smith was ordained President of the high priesthood of the church by Bros. Z. H. Gurley & Wm. Marks.

It was voted separately & individually that John C. Gaylord, Wm. Aldrich, George Morey, Edwin Cadwell, Calvin Beebee, Jacob Doan, Oliver P Dunham, Zenas Whitcomb¹, Lyman Hewitt, Dwight Webster, Winthrop H. Blair, & A. G. Jackson be ordained a High Council in the Church. Bros. Wm. Marks & Zenas H. Gurley ordained the six first mentioned & Bros W. W. Blair & S. Powers ordained the six last mentioned. O.P. Dunham, W. H. Blair, Jacob Doan & A. G. Jackson were ordained high priests at the same time.

Isaac Sheen was ordained to the presidency of the high priest's quorum under the hands of Bros. Wm. Marks & W. W. Blair.

Bros. James Blakeslee, Edmund C. Briggs, Crowell G. Lanphear, Wm. D. Morton & Archibald M. Wilsee were ordained to the quorum of presidency of seven of the seventies quorum of elders under the hands of Elders, Marks & Gurley. Bros. John A. McIntosh & George Rarick were also chosen to be ordained to the same office & priesthood.

Bro. Stephen J. Stone was chosen & ordained to the presidency of the Elder's Quorum.

Bro. Israel L. Rogers was chosen to be ordained Bishop of the church.

¹born Dec 1810 Washington County; bap. 1839, Wilton, Will co. Ill. by Joel Johnston, Conf. by Johnston & James Adams" Interpolated in different handwriting above the name of Zenas Whitcomb.

Prayer meeting was appointed to be held in the evening. Conference adjourned until 9 o'clock A.M. tomorrow.

Saturday, April 7th, 9 o'clock A.M. Conference again assembled at the Hall. Opened by singing & prayer.

Bro. Israel L. Rogers was ordained Bishop of the church under the hands of Bros. Blair, Gurley, & Powers, who were empowered to perform this ordination by delegated authority from Bro. Joseph Smith, the first presidency not being yet fully organized.

Bro. George Harick was ordained into the presidency of seven, of the Quorum of Seventies, under the hands of Bros. Marks & Gurley.

A number of names were presented to the President for dismemberment by action of the Conference, but Bro. Joseph proposed to extend unto all delinquents the benefit of further forbearance, & further time for consideration stating that we ought to consider the influence & bearing of which disorganization & false doctrine has had upon them & all others of the saints, & that peradventure the love of many will return, when they come to reflect upon the work of this conference & the perfected organization, & of the charity & fervent zeal entertained by the Conference, to have them returned to fellowship & not wander away & be lost, hence the delinquents were not presented for dismemberment & the President was sustained by the Conference in the proposal to exercise further forbearance.

Discourses were then delivered by Bros. Blair & Sheen, on the evidences of the Book of Mormon.

On motion adjourned to 1 o'clock P.M.

1 o'clock P.M. Conference met at the appointed time. Bros. Powers & Gurley preached on the first principles of the gospel with incidental remarks on the restoration.

of ~~all-things~~- Israel & the restitution of all things.

Prayer meeting was appointed to be held in the evening. Conference adjourned until 9 o'clock A.M. next day.

Sunday morning April 8th. Conference met & many citizens assembled at he Hall. Bros. Archibald Wilsey & James Blakeslee preached on the need of having the law of God written in the heart by being baptized for the remission of sins & receiving the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands . Conference adjourned till 7 P.M.

In the afternoon baptism was administered to Wm. Livingston & John Robinson by Bro W. W. Elair. A large congregation assembled at the Rail Road bridge to witness the administration of the ordinance, who were preached to by Bro. Jas. Blakeslee on the first principles of the gospel.

7 o'clock P.M. Elders S. Powers & J. Landers preached on the subject of final & universal salvation of all men, but especial & celestial salvation to those who believe & obey now. The meeting was then conducted as a prayer meeting & much instruction was given through the gifts of the Spirit. Those who were baptized in the afternoon were confirmed. Bro. George Blakeslee was ordained an elder. Conference adjourned till 9 o'clock A.M. next day.

April 9th A.M. Conference met. Bro Beebee, delegate from the Farm Creek Branch in Mill's Co. Iowa presented the following report: "Organization of the Farm Creek Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of L.D.S. of Mill Co. Iowa. Were organized on the 16th of Oct. 1859 by giving in their names as follows: Calvin Beebee, Mrs. Submit Beebe, John Smith, Sariah Smith, John Richards, Harriett Richards, Richard Y. Kelley, Sariah E. F. Kelley, Levi Graybill, Patience Graybill, Elxander Liles, Frances M. Liles, Calvin A. Beebe, Angeline C. Beebe, ~~Wesley L. Day, Ruth~~ www.LatterDayTruth.org

Smith, Stephen Smith, William H. Kelley (this day was rebaptized) Henry
Winegar, Mrs. Frances L

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Richards, Mrs. Elizabeth Winegar, Mrs Ann Strong, Sariah A. Flesher, Mrs
Alice Osler, after which they chose Calvin Beebe, President; John Smith, Priest;
Richard Y. Kelley, Deacon.

The following brethren united with the church, Jan. 1, 1860, Isaac Beebe;
March 18th, 1860, Curtis F. Stiles, Mrs. Mary J. Stiles, Wm. R. Briggs, Mrs.
Polly Briggs, united by recommend from the Zarahemla Branch, Wisconsin.

Our beloved sister Submit R. Beebe wife of Calvin Beebe, died Feb. 24th
1860 of Farm Creek Branch - died rejoicing in the faith of the Latter Day work.

Our beloved sister Frances L. Richards of Farm Creek Branch died rejoic-
ing in the Lord, March 19th, 1860.

March 25th 1860. This day Miss Mary J. H. Kelley united with the
church by baptism!

Wilson Sellers' delegate from Union Grove Branch Iowa ~~rep~~ presented the
following report of that Branch:

"Names - the private members of said branch that are in good standing:
Aurilla Peckenpaw, Mercy Jones, Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, John Kirkpatrick,
Aaron M. Jones, Mary Wood, Hellen Wood, Sabrina McGahan, Harriet McGahan,
Mary Sellers,² Elizabeth Leland, Sarah P. Gallup, Caroline C. wood, Humphrey
McGahan, Wm. McGahan, Thomas J. Shearer. added by baptism, Jane Shearer,
added by baptism, Elizabeth Smith, Mary Warner added by letter, Jasper
Gallup, Geo. McCracken, John German, Benj¹ L. Leland. The 4 last mentioned
have been added since last represented, the first three by baptism, the
last by letter.

B. L. Leland, Clerk Union Grove Branch
Thos. Sellers, Presiding Elder 3

1 Wm H. Kelley bap March 1860 in Anderson, Mills www.LatterDayTruth.org. Briggs

2 Mary Sellers died years ago says Wm Chambers 1885

3 Died 10/Jan/83 (all three footnotes in different handwriting)

Resolved that a Special Conference be held at Council Bluff City, Iowa on June 1st. 1860, to continue 4 days. Bro. E. C. Briggs reported Belvidere Branch by letter.

Bro. Morey as delegate made a report of Little River Branch, Decatur Co. Iowa, also a report of Franklin Branch in the same county, containing about 18 members. There had been some difficulty there because of the influence of false teachers & claimants. The condition of these Branches remain as last represented, except that Geo. M. Hinkle & wife, A. W. Moffit & wife, & Elizabeth Hartman have withdrawn from the Little River Branch.

The following persons are acknowledged as members in Pottowatomie Co., Iowa: Ed R since deceased, Matilda C. Follet, Catharine A. Follet Amboy Branch, Illinois was reported by Edwin Cadwell as follows: Four added since last Conference viz: John Robbins, Wm. Livingston, Nancy Brown & Deborah Blair. Two were expelled viz: John Leonard & Angeline Leonard.

On motion the hand of fellowship was withdrawn from David Stockwell & James Vinson.

Bro. A. G. Jackson, delegate from the Shelby Branch, Iowa reported 21 members in that Branch including the following new members by first baptism. Elizabeth Thomas, Alexa Black, Milton Linch, Elizabeth Linch, Wm. McCord, Luther McCord, Emeline Miller, Keuben Strong & wife.

Fox River Branch, Kendall Co, Iowa was represented by Geo. Rarick, president. He reported 15 members in good standing.

Resolved that Bro. Wilson Sellers be ordained President of the Priest's Quorum. (died in Nov 1878 Born 1831. Rep. 1861 in Harrison Co. Iowa by Wm. W. Ellis) added later

Resolved that Charles Williams be ordained President of the Teachers' Quorum.

Resolved that L. D. Rogers be ordained President of the Deacons' Quorum.

The above mentioned persons were ordained to the offices to which they were appointed, under the hands of Elders Blair and Powers. Resolved that Bro. Archibald Patten take Bros. Z. H. Gurley & E. C. Briggs with himself & mule team to www.LatterDayTruth.org

the June Conference at Council Bluffs.

Resolved that Bro. W. W. Blair go east on a mission to Cincinnati, Kirtland & the surrounding country.

Resolved that Bro. A. M. Wilsey travel & preach in Northern Illinois, Wisconsin & Minnesota.

Resolved that Bro. Powers mission be in the vicinity of Fox river.

Resolved that Bro. Jas Blakeslee accompany Bro. Blair.

The following elders were recommended to preach as circumstances may permit:

C. G. Lanpheir(sic.) G. Rarick, J. A. McIntosh, C. Beebe, J. Landers, A. Cairns.

Resolved that all the elders who are scattered abroad labor in the ministry as their circumstances permit.

Resolved that we adjourn to hold the next Semi-Annual Conference at Bro. Israel L. Rogers' near Sandwich De Kalb Co. Illinois.

Isaac Sheen, Clerk