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Testimony of Sarah Miller before the High Council
of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the
City of Nauvoo, May 24, 1842. –Against Chauncy
Higby.

Some two or three weeks since in consequence of
Bro Joseph Smith's teachings to the singers, I began to be alarmed
concerning myself & certain teachings which I had received
from Chauncy Higby. & questiond him about his teaching, for
I was pretty well persuaded from Joseph public teachings that
Chauncy had been telling falsehood. But Chauncy said that
Joseph now taught as he did through necessity, on
account of the prejudices of the people & his own family
particularly as they had not become believers in the
doctrine. I then became satisfied that all of Chauncy's
teachings had been false [...] & that he had never been
authorized by any one in authority to make any such
communication to me. Chauncy Higby's teachings & conduct

were as follows. When he first came to my house, soon after the special conference this spring, Darwin Chase was with him. ^Chauncy^ He commenced joking me about my getting married & wanted to know how long it had been since my husband died. & [Chauncy] soon removed his seat near me & began his seducing insinuations by saying it was no harm to have sexual intercourse with women if they would keep it to themselves & continued to urge me to yield to his desires & urged me vehemently & said he & Joseph were good friends & he teaches me this doctrine & allows me such privileges & there is no harm in it & Joseph Smith says so. I told him I did not believe it & had heard no such teaching from Joseph. Ran from the [stain] but that it was wicked to commit adultery & Chauncy said that did not mean single women, but married women & continued to press his instructions & arguments until after dark & until I was inclined to believe for he called God to witness of the truth & was so solemn & confident. I yielded to his temptations, having received the strongest assurance from him that Joseph approved it, & would uphold me in it. He also told me that many others were following the same course of conduct. As I still had some doubts near the close of our interview I ^super^exaggerated my fear that I had done wrong & should lose the confidence of the hither? When he assured me that it was right & he would bring

A witness to confirm what he had taught.

When he came again William Smith came with him

& told me that the doctrine which Chauncy Higby had taught

me was true & that Joseph believes the doctrine. I still

had doubt & asked that I had understood that Higby had

had recently been baptized & that Joseph when he confirmed him

told him to quit all his iniquitous practices. Chauncy

said it was not for such things ~~things~~ that he was

baptized for. ^Chauncy [exited] from the room^ & William Smith said that he would take

all the sin to himself. For there was no sin in

it. Before left the house he said do you

think I would be baptized for such a thing & then go

into it so soon again. Chauncy Higby said that it

would never be known. I told him that it might be told in

bringing forth. Chauncy said there was no danger & that Dr. Bennet

understood it & would come & take it away if there was any

thing.

Sarah Miller

Hancock Co

State of Illinois

City of Nauvoo

So witness I Levi appeared Sarah Miller [...]

Sign of the [...] instrument & made

Out that the above declaration is true

Before me.

Geo. W. Harris Esq.

Nauvoo, May 24, 1842

Alderman of Nauvoo City

Sarah Miller

Chauncy Higby

Catherine Fuller states that Darwin Chase had been at her house sometime in the winter – made proposals to have unlawful intercourse – said it was no harm.

Melinda Lewis – states that she once saw Darwin Chase and another in Widow Fullers house at night.

Caroline Butler – has frequently seen Darwin Chase go to Widow Fullers

Maria Champlin – saw Chase with Littlefield ~~one week~~ ago last Sabbath – came to Kingsleys about 5 o'clock – about dusk rode out with one of the Miss Kingsley's to the prairie – returned about 10 o'clock – sometime after L. O. Littlefield had returned – tarried about one hour after said that Joseph tried to persuade men to act wickedly and then exposed them.

Polly Meecham – saw Darwin Chase with L. O. Littlefield, came to Kingsleys last Sabbath – on foot – spake concerning terrible things going on in Nauvoo – Darwin Chase was rebuked after he had partially confessed. Moved by the Prest that Bro Chase retain his standing etc.

Summary

Of

Testimony against

Darwin Chase

Polly Mecham

Littlefield Chase came about sunset to Bro Thom-

Plins. Sunday night stayed till [

Week last Sunday stayed till.

Bro. Thomplin knows nothing materiel more than states

Came 4 or 5 o'clock – about dusk to the about [hiving] side.

Nauvoo, May 21st, 1842

Testimony of Margaret Nyman before the High
Council of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
in the City of Nauvoo.

Some time during the month March last, Chauncy
Higby came to my mother's house, early one evening and
proposed a walk to a spelling school. My sister Matilda
and myself accompanied him, but changing our design
on the way we stopped at Mrs. Fullers, during the evening
interview he, (as I have since learned) with wicked lies
proposed that I should yield to his desires and
indulge in sexual intercourse with him, stating
that such intercourse might be freely indulged in
and was no sin. That any respectable female might
indulge in sexual intercourse and there was no sin
in it, provided the person so indulging keep the same
to herself, for there could be no sin where there was no
accusation. And most clandestinely with wicked lies
persuaded me to yield, by using the name of Joseph
Smith, and as I have since learned totally
false & unauthorized. And in consequence of
those arguments I was influenced to yield to my sedu-
cer Chauncy Higby.

I further state that I have no personal acquaintance with Joseph
Smith and never heard him teach such doctrines

as stated by Chauncy Higby, either directly or indirectly.

I heartily repent before god, asking the forgiveness

of my Brethren.

Margaret S. Nyman

County of Hancock

State of Illinois

City of Nauvoo

Nauvoo. May 24, 1842

To wit. Then formally appeared before me,

George W. Harris, Alderman for the

City of Nauvoo, ^Margaret Nyman^ testifies of the above [account] ^ & testified under oath

that the above declaration is true [...]

George W. Harris, Alder

Margaret Nyman

Testimony

C. Higby

Catherine Fuller – Joel S. Miles has been at my house
sometime in January – made propositions of illicit
intercourse – said there was no harm in it – that the
heads of the church were practicing such things &c
accomplished his designs twice – had not been at her house
for the past three weeks.

Caroline Butler – has seen Joel S. Miles go there.

Summary

Of

Testimony against

Joel S. Miles

Testimony of Matilda Nyman before the High Council of the Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter day Saints in the city of Nauvoo, May [...] 21, 1842, against Chauncy Higby.

During this spring Chauncy Higby kept company with me

from time to time and as I have since learned wickedly deceitfully

and with lies in his mouth, urged me vehemently to yeald to [his]

desires. That there could be no wrong in having sexual

intercourse with any female that would keep the same to

herself, most villainously and living by stating that he had

been so instructed by Joseph Smith and that there was [no]

sin where there was no accuser. Also vowing he would

marry me, not succeeding, he on one occasion brought one in

authority in the Church who affirmed that such intercourse

was tolerated by the heads of the Church – I have since

found him also to be a lying conspirator against female

virtue & chastity having never received such teaching from the

heads of the Church, but was at the time partially influenced

to believe in consequence of the source from whom I received

it. I yealded & became subject to the will of my sedu-

cer Chauncy Higby – And having since found out

to my satisfaction that a number of wicked men have con-

spired to use the name of Joseph Smith or the heads of the

Church falsely & wickedly, to enable them to gratify their

lusts, thereby destroying female innocence & virtue

I repent before god and my brothers and ask forgiveness.

I further testify that I never had any personal acquaintance with

Joseph Smith & never heard him teach said doctrines as [... ...]

either directly or indirectly – Matilda Nyman.

Hancock Co

State Illinois

City Nauvoo

To wit Nauvoo City, May 24, 1842. That personally appeared

before me George W. Harris alderman of said city Matilda

Nyman the signer of this instrument & testified under oath that

The above declaration was true. George Harris, Alderman

Margaret F Nyman

[vs]

C. Higby

Matilda Nyman. C. Higby. John C. Bennet. William Smith. S

Justus Morse. Darwin Chase. Taught –

Margaret Nyman says Dr. Bennett has been at Davis last July.

John C. Bennett & Chauncy Higbee seducers.

May 28 Fellowship withdrawn from Justus Moss [sic]

Alexander McRay came in & testified that he had

[nightly in form] of Chauncy Higby – Chauncy waited &

would testify against [blank] Nymans. At Davis. I think her

mother was ^allowing it^ Jane Nyman – Hugh White.

Matilda Nyman says widow Fuller is guilty of the same.

Dr. Bennett was with her. I went to take a

walk. C. Higby brought him there. She says she

always has been his his friend & always will be.

& told us there was no harm & persuaded us

both to [submit]. Saw Bennet in the act

with Sis Fuller. - - - Bennet Married Wm

Warren. I was with C. Higby at the same

time Margaret.

Miss Munjar has moved out of [...]

by [...] sleep to the [... & ...]

she was guilty.

Widow Fuller said she had [... ...] sent

to her by the name of Warren. But [...] got

it [...] of Chauncy.

Mrs. Gee lived above our house Bennet called

almost every Day. Miss Gee would send
her children quick away till Bennet call -
Chauncy Higby is cut off from the church.

Testimony of Sarah

Miller before the High

Council Nauvoo

May 24, 1842

Minutes

Chauncy Higbee taught the same doctrine as was taught by Bennett and that Joseph Smith practiced such conduct but he did not have it from Joseph but he had it from Dr. Bennett.

Wm Smith has also been at my house and proposed unlawful connexion but I refused because I had come to the determination to break off such conduct as I saw I was ruining myself.

Darwin Chase has also been at my house sometimes last winter made propositions as above but did not urge much – I did not yield to him.

Lyman O. Littlefield has also been at my house – made similar propositions – taught the same doctrines as the above – but did not accomplish his object because I saw I was ruining myself and bringing a disgrace upon the Church. This happened on the last of January or first of February. He came several times in the space of a few weeks.

Joel S. Miles has also been at my house – made propositions similar and taught the same doctrine and accomplished his objects – sometime in January came several times but has not been lately.

About the middle of July Thatcher was at my house – came twice – has not been since.

Suppose Dr. Bennett has gained his object 10 or 12 times

“	C. Higbee	“	“	“	5 or 6 times
“	Joel S. Miles	“	“	“	2 times

John C. Bennett was the first man that seduced me – no man ever made the attempt before him [~~William Smith~~] insisted very much that I would not marry – and proposed if I would Grant his desires he would furnish me with food &

C Higbee also promised to keep me and supply me with food.

Widow Fuller or Warren against Darwin Chase

Don't know what the man came for – ^if it was not for [...]^ came in sat down by the side of me began to behave indelicate. I told him to behave himself. He said there was no harm in it – come with Chauncy Higbee [&] Hill – in the evening – laid his hands on [me] in an unwarrantable manner – [chairs] touched each other put his hands on me. I thought by his wishes should &c he desired or intended unlawful intercourse – walked to my house with Sister Tompson from meeting.

Matilda Nyman – Darwin Chase prepared to have illicit intercourse with me but did not urge it hard. Taught the same doctrine as others but did not use the name of Joseph.

Before High Council May 29, 1842

Widow Fuller

Against Darwin

Chase

Testimony of Catherine Fuller

L. O. Littlefield had been at my house and made propositions to have unlawful intercourse – he urged hard. This was about the last of January or first of February – had been 3 or 4 times in course of 2 or 3 weeks – he urged doctrine such as the following, namely that there was no harm in having unlawful intercourse that others conducted in the same way – there should be no sin come upon her – if there was any it should come upon himself that the heads of the church were practicing the same things – named Joseph Smith – he urged this doctrine – was there about the first of February about 8 in the evening.

Caroline Butler – went & rapped at Widow Fullers door – could not gain admittance – a sister had been before us and between the time that sister was there and the time we went a man was seen to go into the house.

This was on the Wednesday – on the Saturday after L. O. Littlefield & C. Higby summoned us before squire Hills for rapping at the door &c – who bound us to keep the peace 3 months.

On motion by Pres. Marks it was resolved by the Council that L. O. Littlefield be expelled from the church until he makes full satisfaction.

Summary

Of

Testimony against

L. O. Littlefield

Testimony of Catherine Fuller ^{^Warren^1} before the High Council of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the City of Nauvoo May 25th 1842 against John C. Bennett & others

Nearly a year ago I became acquainted with John C. Bennett after visiting twice and on the third time he proposed unlawful intercourse being about one week after first acquaintance. He said he wished his desires granted. I told him it was contrary to my feelings he answered there was others in higher standing than I was who would conduct in that way and there was no harm in it. He said there should be no sin upon me if there was any sin it should come upon himself. I told him I was not guilty of such conduct and thought it would bring a disgrace on the church if I should become pregnant. He said he would attend to that. I understood that he would give medicine to prevent it. Sometime last winter ^{^I} became alarmed at my conduct and told him I did not wish his company any longer[^] he told me that the heads of the church were conducting in this manner ^{^and specified Joseph's name^} and he thought he had equal right as they had, I think this happened last October, He said that Joseph taught and conducted in the above manner. He also was with Mrs. Shindle now living beyond Ramus and also with the two Miss Nymans. [...] I do not know that he kept company with any others neither did I hear him say he had.

I have also had unlawful connexion with Chauncy Higbee and George M. Thatcher. C. Higbee taught this same doctrine as was taught by ^{^J. C.^} Bennett and that Joseph Smith taught and practiced those things, but he stated that he did not have it from Joseph

¹ 93YD-LQX

but he had his information from Sr. John C. Bennett. He, Chauncy L. Higbee has gained his object about 5 or 6 times.

[~~William Smith~~] has also been at my house on the 24th of last month being the day I was married and proposed unlawful connexions but I refused. And told him that it was contrary to the teaching of Joseph on the stand. He answered that Joseph was obliged to teach to the contrary on the stand & keep down prejudices and keep [peace] at home.

[William Smith] insisted very much that I should not marry and proposed to supply me with food &c if I would remain unmarried and grant his request – Chauncy Higbee also made propositions to keep me with food if I would submit to his designs.

Darwin Chase as also been at my house – sometime last winter as made propositions for unlawful connexion he did not urge much – I did not yeild to him.

Liman O. Littlefield has also been at my house and made similar propositions and taught the same doctrines as those already referred to – He did not gain his designs because I saw I was ruining myself and bringing disgrace upon the church.

This took place about the last of January or first of February. He came several times in the space of a few weeks.

Joel S. Miles has also been at my house and made propositions for unlawful intercourse and taught similar doctrine to that taught by Bennett. He accomplished his designs twice. He came several times but has not been lately. ~~The above transactions~~ This took place sometimes in January.

George M Thatcher has been at my house twice, sometime in

the middle of February but not since that time. He had ^unlawful^ intercourse with me twice he said the heads of the church were teaching and practicing [spiritual wifery?] such things and he had as good rights as they had.

Sometime about a year ago last summer as I have been informed, ^Bosworth^ went to the house of [...] Brown but the door was fast. I thought they were not at home but happening to look over the door where a clapboard was off I saw Dr. J. C. Bennett and Mrs. Brown sitting very close together.

John C. Bennett was the first man that seduced me – no man ever made the attempt before him.

J. B. Backenstos has also been at my house – was introduced by Chauncy Higby – made requests similar as above – gave me two dollars.

He accomplished his designs only once – has been there two or three times since. This happened in the fore part of this winter.

~~I have also had unlawful connexion with Lxxxxxxx, Higbee and George W. Thatcher.~~

~~G. W. Thatcher was with me xxxxxx in February [rest illegible]~~

Catherine Warren

v.

J. C. Bennett & others

Testimony of Melinda Lewis before the High Council of the Church of Jesus

I saw Darwin Chase at widow Fullers and that is all that I knows about him. I do not know Joel S. Miles. don't know that I ever heard his name before. I am not acquainted with Widow Fullers house at all.

I saw Chauncy Higby at Widow Fullers frequently just before dark and one time I went in and saw him there I thought he had no right to be there. I saw Chase there

saw Jno C. Bennett there last summer. Saw several strangers there did not know them. Did not see Backenstos there – I have seen L. O. Little field go over the fence and she and him stand and talk a good many times – have never seen Wm Smith there do not know Thatcher.

Do not know of any other men visiting there – heard reports of Widow Miller.

Know nothing of Clothier's ~~Caroline Butler~~

Caroline Butler

I have frequently seen Darwin Chase & Chauncy Higby go to Widow Fullers frequently - have seen Joel S. Miles go there – have seen L. O. Littlefield go in there - A man from Carthage was there a few weeks ago (Barriss's wife testimony) Barriss's wife was there – did not tell his name – was a widower – two nights before she was married.

Barriss' wife said they sat up pretty much all night. Do not know

Justus Morse² nor Shindles wife was frequently with widow

Fuller – Neymans girls was frequently there, don't know any particulars.

Ellen Edwards – Limes on the same block with Caroline Butler about

¼ mile from Fullers – not acquainted with Darwin Chase nor Joel S. Miles.

² Justus Morse (KWJR-4GJ) lived in Ramus around this time.

Went in one night, ^went in without knocking as she frequently did – went to tarry^

and saw four men there one was Chauncy Higby – saw

no improper conduct – new years week – Don't know Justus Morse

I know J. C. Bennett – never saw him there – not acquainted with

Clothiers only one of the girls – seen her at the meeting several times – not

acquainted with Ghee's – am acquainted with Mary and Seymour

don't know where they live – I him at my fathers – never heard Mary ever

say any thing about Bennett or Higbee

Mary Hardeman – not much acquainted with widow Fuller

have seen Darwin Chase – not acquainted with Joel S. Miles. Acquainted

with J. C. Bennett – went with Ellen Edwards to widow Fullers

saw Chauncy Higbee & Darwin Chase – did not know the others.

Melinda Lewis³

I am very suspicious of Miss Barriss⁴ but do not know any thing

positive – is now working on the island with a man who is not

her husband – have seen them frequently walking together

his name is Richard Sheldon. She is frequently visiting with

Widow Fuller and tarries all night – her husband is sick.

Sheldon is a single man – and is at work for Barriss.

I and sister Lewis went one night (Wednesday) to sister Fullers and

rapped at the door – she would not admit us in – we felt grieved

because we knew our husbands were supply her with fuel &c

we talked to her somewhat aggravating – but from her good pulled

³ KWJT-XXKX

⁴ LHNL-RC7

a curtain sideways than was hanging over a crack in the door.

A sister had been before us and rapped at the door – could not gain admittance – and soon after a man was seen to go into the house on the Saturday after Chauncy Higbee & Lyman O. Littlefield had as before squire Hills for rapping on the door &c he bound us [...] to keep the peace for three months time is out tomorrow – Said it was her custom to not open the door when she has company she did not want anyone to know who she kept company with.

C. Butler testified she saw with regard to Sister Barriss and said that was the reason they had objected to her becoming a member of the Female Relief Society.

Testimony of Miss Maria Champlin⁵ before the High Council of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—May 27th, 1842.

All that I know ^one week ago last Sabbath^ L & C. Hig. rode out ^and was out^ until 10 [hr] with Rachel⁶ & Elenor⁷ Kingsley — Rachel &

Littlefield came back [in] an hour before ^the others^ started about dusk – rode – did not say what they were going for – to take a ride. I thought their conduct was imprudent. She said some things to me which L[yman Littlefield] has said to her – such as some things as were going on up here and referring to the leaders of the church. Did not see them there at any other time. ^They were there the Sunday before^ I have not seen Joel S. Miles particularly know nothing of his improper conduct. Kingsleys are not members of the

⁵ LH62-G5F

⁶ MG5B-54S

⁷ LHFF-B1S

church. They say they came up here to join the church but in consequence of the conduct and proceedings of some in the church they would not.

Polly Mecham. The L. & C came to the Champlins ^on foot^ in the afternoon ^between 4 & 5^ rode out & came back about 10 o'clock ~~last Sunday~~ – was there a week ago last Sunday tarried until dark and then went away. I heard him speak concerning some terrible things going on in town, did not say whos they were.

~~Kingsleys are not members of the church – came up here to~~

Champlin – I was at home when they came then & should think about 5 o'clock. Read news of improper – about 2 woke talked about having a ride – went out – we went to bed. Rachel came home about 10 o'clock and said Ellen she was afraid was thrown from her horse and ~~her~~ & L went away again to seek them. ^They four^ returned sometimes after and Littlefield & Chase tarried about one hour afterwards.

Wm Champlin. Know nothing particular to Kingsleys character only hearsay such as [...] they lived 15 or 20 miles from us. I did not see you conduct yourself only like a gentleman – did not see anything ill.

Walked out on the prairie – did not see you after you had been gone a few minutes – could not see far. There is ten houses – more a great ways off – gone about an hour – did not hear you say where you was gone.

If you were ont on prairie people could see. I did not think it was prudent. They said they had been acquainted formerly that you had married a sister-in-law. Saw you [... ...] – rode on horseback started first to the woods – was gone a few minutes probably 20 returned & went to prairie – there are houses in sight – think you were gone until about 10 o'clock. There is our house on the way to

the prairie – Rachel said you told her of some of the proceedings carried on in the city – and said you told her Joseph[... ...] it – said nothing about Chase – did not thing any thing about your conduct being bad when you came in – when you went out on the prairie I did.

Champlin – I thought they behaved well til after they started with the intention of taking a ride – rode two on a horse a man and woman on each horses, from the statements of Rachel to me respecting what L. had said. She drew the conclusion that there was wickedness practiced in Nauvoo and that Joseph put men up to it and then took means to discover it and disapproved it.

The girls first proposed to ride out. That Joseph was taking means to find out who was carrying on thus and coax men to make it known. Joseph would persuade men to do unlawful acts and their [... ...] – this was what you said to her Rachel.

Kingsley girls did not hear a good character in Pa nor in Mo.

Not acquainted with Kingsleys girls.