TOR; the DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS; and the doctrines of CATCHING and of PLURAL MARRIAGE.

Shortly before his death, Whitmer repeated once more, for the Richmond Conservator, what he had written in the Address: “I have never at any time denied that testimony or any part thereof, which has so long since been published with that Book, as one of the three witnesses. Those who know me best, well know that I have always adhèred to that testimony.” He died in Richmond, Missouri, on January 25, 1888, bearing testimony again on his deathbed of the authenticity of the Book of Mormon.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


KEITH W. PERKINS

WHITNEY STORE

The Newel K. Whitney store played a major role in the history of the Latter-day Saints in KIRTLAND, OHIO, during the years 1831–1838. When the Prophet Joseph Smith arrived in Kirtland on February 1, 1831, he strode up to the counter where Whitney was clerking and extended his hand: “Newel K. Whitney, . . . I am Joseph, the Prophet. . . . You’ve prayed me here; now what do you want of me?” (HC 1:146).

The Prophet later received a number of significant revelations in the Whitney store, including the WORD OF WISDOM (D&C 89) and two important revelations on PRIESTHOOD (D&C 84, 88). Jo-

Newel K. Whitney Store, at the four corners area in Kirtland (built 1826–1827; photo 1907; restored 1979–1984). Joseph and Emma Smith lived here beginning in the fall of 1832. It became the headquarters of the Church, home of the School of the Prophets in 1833, and the venue of Doctrine and Covenants 84, 87–89, 95, 98, and much of the Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible. Photographer: George E. Anderson.
Joseph Smith also worked on his translation of the Bible in an upstairs room.

The store started in a log cabin in 1823. The present frame structure was built in the flats of Kirtland, Ohio, by 1827. Operating the N. K. Whitney & Co. store as a mercantile establishment and as a post office, Whitney and his partner Sidney Gilbert maintained as large an inventory as any store in northeastern Ohio.

One of the first adult education programs in the United States, the SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS, was held in the store during the winter of 1833 in accord with revelation (D&C 88:127–41). The school’s purpose was to prepare missionaries to take the gospel to the world. Many people told of receiving visions in the store’s upper room. The UNITED ORDER, the predecessor of the current welfare system of the Church, had its beginning in the store, which was also used as the BISHOP’S STOREHOUSE (D&C 72:8–10, 76:3).

Today the building is owned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and has been restored to its 1830s form as a historical site for visitors. President Ronald Reagan awarded the restored store the President’s Historic Preservation Award on November 18, 1988.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

KEITH W. PERKINS

WILLIAMS, CLARISSA

Clarissa Smith Williams (1859–1930) served as the sixth general president of RELIEF SOCIETY from 1921 to 1928, a period in which the Relief Society focused on health care and other social issues. She began her Relief Society activity as a visiting teacher at age sixteen and later served as secretary and president of both the Salt Lake Seventeenth Ward and Salt Lake Stake Relief Societies. In 1901 she was appointed treasurer and a member of the general board. Ten years later she became first counselor to President Emmeline Wells. In April 1921, President Heber J. Grant appointed her general president of the Relief Society and editor of its magazine.

Clarissa was born April 21, 1859, in the residential wing of the Church Historian’s Office in Salt Lake City, Utah. She was the first of five daughters born to George A. Smith, an APOSTLE and Church historian, and his seventh and last wife, Susan Elizabeth West Smith. This family shared the residential apartment in the Historian’s Office with the apostle’s first wife, Bathsheba W. Smith, and her children. The polygamist wives and their families lived amicably in their comfortable pioneer residence.

Clarissa and her sisters received the best education available in the territory at that time. In 1875 she received a teaching certificate from the Normal Department of the University of Deseret (later the University of Utah).

Clarissa married William Newgent Williams on July 17, 1877, the day before he left on a mission to Wales. They had eleven children and lived to celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary. William was a successful businessman, regent of