Emma Hale: Wife of the Prophet Joseph Smith

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Abstract
The problem of this thesis concerns itself with the questions: Why did Emma Smith oppose the men who were in the leading council of the Church and who were the closest friends of her husband? What was her attitude towards the Church her husband founded? What kind of woman was she, and what effect did she have upon her husband and the Church he organized?

It will be the purpose of this thesis to point out some significant facts pertaining to these questions, gathered in the main, from primary sources such as the Journal History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, news clippings from newspapers published in Illinois, Iowa and Missouri at the time Emma Hale was living and from the Woman's Exponent of the same time. A gleaning of material has also been made from the six volume History of the Church and the Comprehensive History of the Church, Mormon source books, and the one volume, Story of the Church and from the four volumes of the History of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, source materials of the Reorganized church.

The more personal details in the life of Emma Smith as recorded in this thesis are statements made by her mother-in-law, by a grand-daughter, and by her husband.

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Emma Smith was not aware of most of Joseph Smith's plural marriages at the time the ceremonies were performed. She never supported polygamy for long. Aroet L. Hale gave this assessment: I will write a few words about Sister Emma Smith The Wife of the Prophet Joseph. A grate meny of the Saints in these days think that the Prophet Wife Emmer Hale Smith was a bad woman that she tried to poison the Prophet Their never was a more dutiful woman than Emma Smith was to her Husband till after the Prophet had made public the revelation on secelestial marriage & begun to take to himself other wives This proved. Joseph Smith's beloved wife, Emma Hale Smith - had also been given promises through divine revelation, of her Elect Status amongst women - and this had yet to be fully understood by the Saints. As a part of this fulfillment, under the direction of her Prophet-husband, Emma Hale Smith, was called to serve as the inaugural President of the Female Relief Society, in Nauvoo. It is my opinion, that the significance of the organizing of the LDS Women's Relief Society of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints - is yet to be fully understood and recognized, in the proper context of the