

The Reorganized Church claims Joseph Smith never practiced plural marriage but his practice of it is documented.

When Brigham Young first heard it, it is said he envied the man in the passing hearse.

Heber C. Kimball had a similar reaction.

Eventually, ~~some~~ most of the 12 and some others while in Nauvoo accepted the doctrine and entered plural marriage, some by personal revelation of its truthfulness and some by obedience.

After the death of the Prophet and the Exodus to Utah in 1847 the Church began to preach the doctrine openly.

It was a very controversial doctrine. Especially for women.

It was taught that the first wife opened the door for her husband. When she accepted into the home a second wife.

(?) I believe it was ^{Orson} Parley P. Pratt who made a famous speech defending plural marriage, one of the points was that men are naturally polygamous and that this doctrine reduced the tendency for men to sin.

Many advocates said it provided for widows, women who couldn't marry otherwise and the over-abundance of women who had joined the church. The last point has yielded to the light of research. The population of men to women was about even.

Even removed from Utah the ~~body of the~~ rest of the U.S. by rules of plain descent Polygamy managed to bring persecution on the church.