



Type: Book Chapter

Organization of the Church/"Clear as the Sun—Fair as the Moon"

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Organization of the Church

By the end of March 1830, the Book of Mormon was translated, published, and available for distribution. The next major event of the Restoration would be the organization of the Church. God revealed the precise day for this momentous event:

... being one thousand eight hundred and thirty years since the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the flesh, it being regularly organized and established agreeable to the laws of our country, by the will and commandments of God, in the fourth month, and on the sixth day of the month which is called April—¹⁹

At the appointed time almost sixty people came to the home of Peter Whitmer, Sr. in Fayette, Seneca County, New York, to participate in the events of this day. Approximately one-third of those attending had traveled one hundred miles from Colesville in order to be present on this occasion.

According to the laws of the state of New York, six people were required to organize a religious society. Joseph Smith, Jr., Oliver Cowdery, Hyrum Smith, Peter Whitmer, Jr., Samuel H. Smith, and David Whitmer were the six men who laid the foundation of the latter-day kingdom of God. They were not fishermen, as several of the ancient Apostles had been, but were farmers, intimately acquainted with the earth and the process of preparing, planting, and harvesting. Even Oliver, a

school teacher who had served as scribe during the translation of the Book of Mormon, had also engaged in farming.

Following a prayer, those present raised their hands to show that they accepted Joseph and Oliver as spiritual leaders and teachers. These two brethren then ordained each other to the office of elder and administered the sacrament to those present. Those who had been previously baptized were confirmed members of the Church. Later in the day several others were baptized including Joseph's parents and Martin Harris. This was a time of teaching, testimony, joy and happiness for those who attended.

The world did not note this day of eternal significance, but the seed was planted and from this small beginning something great would grow: the Church and kingdom that would fulfill God's grand and glorious purposes in the latter-days.

Note: According to some sources the moon was full on the evening of 6 April 1830.²⁰

Fair as the Sun — Clear as the Moon

April's fair sun shines
in a sapphire sky
above forests, lakes, fields
of Seneca County.

At this appointed hour
no grand orations echo
through marbled
legislative chambers.
Within log walls the Prophet,
angel-taught, kneels,
invoking heaven's blessing.

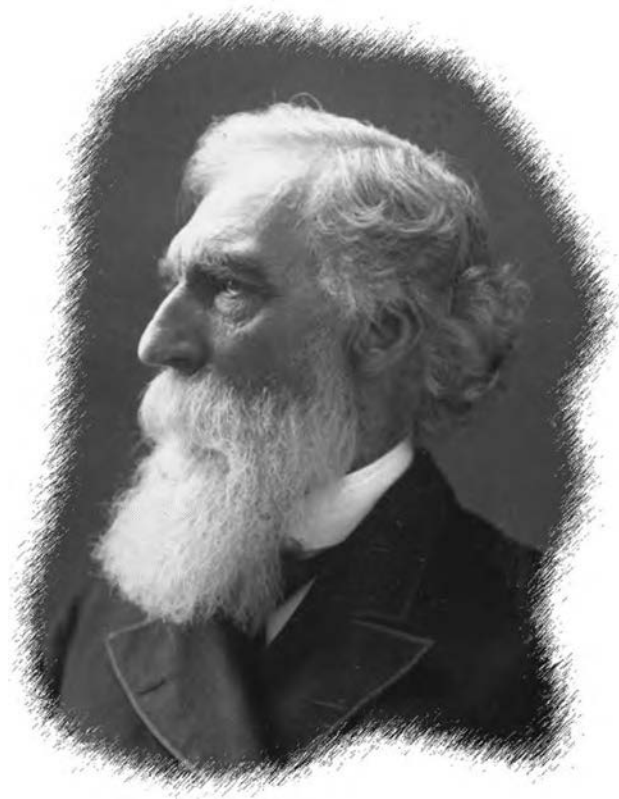
Witnesses acknowledge
him elder, apostle, seer,
translator of sacred records
now printed, bound
to confound the wise.

Mary Whitmer serves
no sumptuous banquet for
well-dressed, wealthy guests,
but by her hearth
in this small room
sacramental emblems
become the feast
and the willing,
membership confirmed,
affirm the ancient order
of the Apostolic Church.

New York headlines do not
note this small assembly
nor announce the news,
as the Spirit moves across
baptismal waters and
teaches gospel truths, but

a marvelous work is begun,
and when evening comes
the clear moon rising full and white
reflects the glory of this day
across the fertile furrows
of Peter Whitmer's Fayette farm.

*... by small and simple things are great things brought to pass;
and small means in many instances doth confound the wise
(Alma 37:6).*



No man should be satisfied until he has secured a perfect assurance that this is the path of exaltation and glory; that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God.

—Lorenzo Snow²¹