

# A CRITICAL LOOK AT THE NEW LDS ESSAYS

## Context: 2025 Essays vs. Historical Reality

Analysis contrasts new LDS Church essays on Book of Mormon translation and plural marriage with critical historical evidence and context, revealing key discrepancies in official narratives.

### BOOK OF MORMON TRANSLATION: CLAIM VS. REALITY



**Essay Claim:** Joseph Smith translated at a "breathtaking pace" (April-June 1829).



**Historical Reality:** He had 5 to 10 years to develop the stories and narrative structure.



**Essay Claim:** Inaccurate artwork (plates on a table) was due to "faded memories".



**Historical Reality:** Church leadership knew about the seer stone in a hat and intentionally directed the inaccurate narrative for decades.



**Essay Claim:** The plates provide "important testimony".

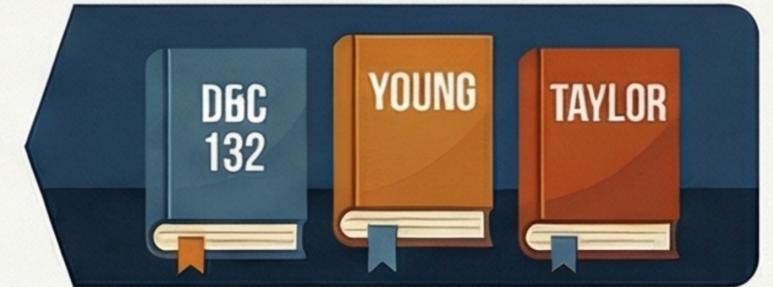


**Historical Reality:** The plates were reportedly not in the room during translation, and many witness accounts describe a visionary, not physical, experience.

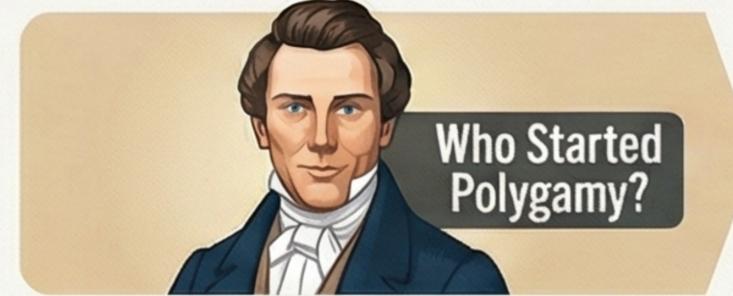
### PLURAL MARRIAGE: CLAIM VS. REALITY



**Essay Claim:** "No scripture...teaches that plural marriage is a requirement for exaltation".



**Historical Reality:** D&C 132 and multiple prophets (Young, Taylor) taught it was essential for the highest degree of salvation.



**Essay Claim:** Joseph Smith, not Brigham Young, introduced the practice.



**Historical Reality:** The church now uses sources it previously denounced as "anti-Mormon lies" (like the Nauvo Expositor) as "credible" to prove this point against polygamy deniers.



**Essay Claim:** Plural marriage ended in the early 1900s.



**Historical Reality:** Top leaders continued the practice secretly after the 1890 Manifesto, forcing a second, more definitive stop in 1904 due to government pressure.