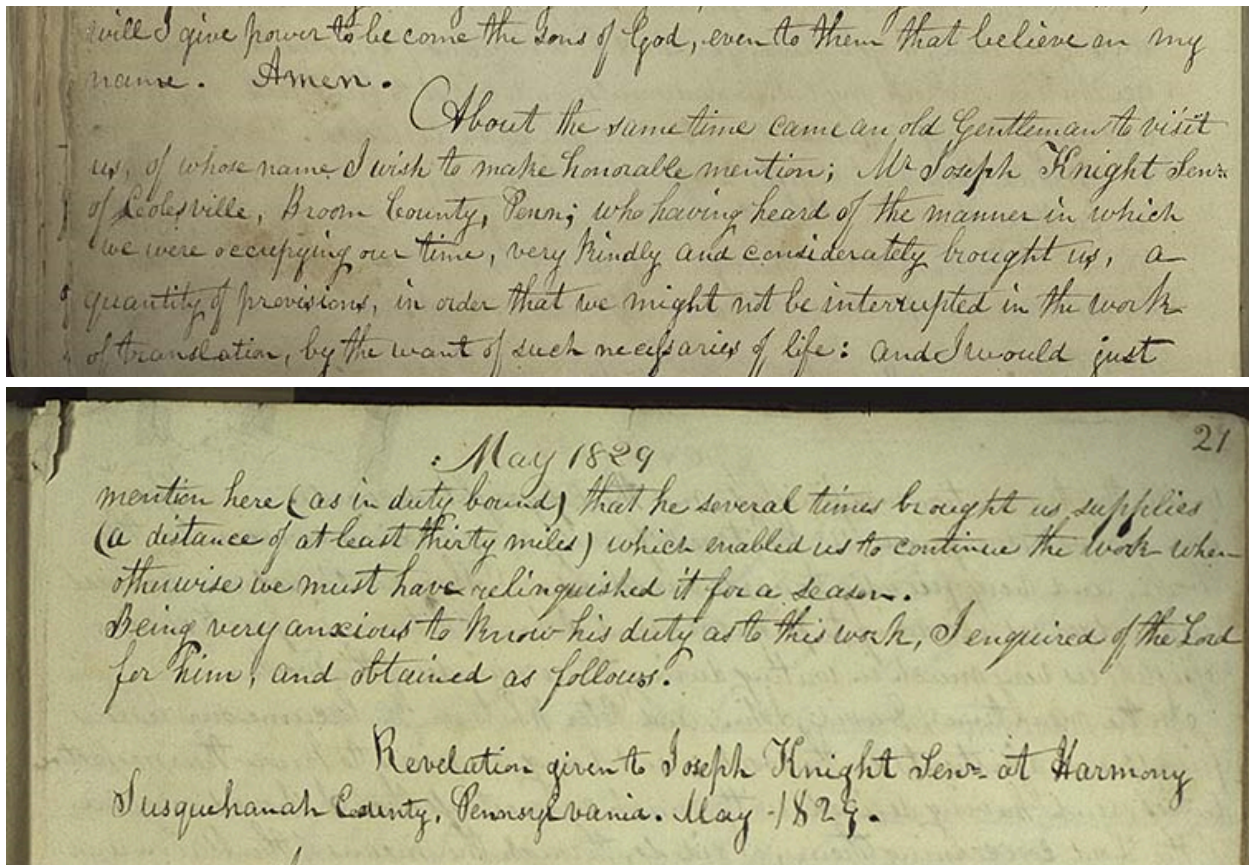


Doctrine and Covenants Section 12



The handwriting of a scribe recording thoughts on Joseph Knight written just above the Revelation found in Section 12.

Joseph Smith's gratitude for help from Joseph Knight, Sr.

In the book *History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Period 1, History of Joseph Smith, the Prophet, by Himself*, are Joseph Smith's feelings for Joseph Knight, Sr. and the circumstances of Section 12:

"About the same time an old gentleman came to visit us of whose name I wish to make honorable mention – Mr. Joseph Knight, Sen. of Colesville, Broome County, New York, who having heard of the manner in which we were occupying our time, very kindly and considerately brought us a quantity of provisions, in order that we might not be interrupted in the work of translation by the want of such necessities of life; and I would just mention here, as in duty bound, that he several times brought us supplies, a distance of at least thirty miles, which enabled us to continue the work when otherwise we much have relinquished it for a season. Being very anxious to know his duty as to the work, I inquired of the Lord for him and obtained the following: [and then is recorded the nine verses that have become Section 12 of the Doctrine and Covenants.]¹

¹ Joseph Smith, *History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Period 1, History of Joseph Smith, the Prophet, by Himself*, Published by the Church, Deseret Book Company, 1951, pp 47-48.

When Joseph Smith received revelations the usual process was that he dictated to a scribe who would record it on a loose sheet of paper. Later in preparing the revelations for publication, they were copied into a book.²

Joseph Smith and John Whitmer began work on a permanent record by the summer of 1830 as they arranged and copied documents. This work continued for several years. In March of 1831, John Whitmer was appointed to keep church records and history, which resulted in Revelation Book 1 and Revelation Book 2.³

Before the revelations were available in book form, many of the revelations were printed in the Church official newspaper, *The Evening and Morning Star* in 1832 and 1833. The Book of Commandments was published in 1833, and republished as part of the Doctrine and Covenants in 1835.⁴

Diane Mangum, December 2024

² Richard Turley, Jr. and William Slaughter, *How we Got the Doctrine and Covenants*, Deseret Book, 2012, pp 11-12.

³ <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/intro/introduction-to-revelations-and-translations-volume-1>

⁴ Ibid.