

The Original 23 High Priests

In that manifestations of Deity generally are event driven, it should be noted that the event in this case was the ordination of men to the office of High Priest that resulted in the manifestation of God the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ to those being ordained. The location was the small school house on the hill of the Morley Farm.

Joseph Smith ordained Lyman Wight first, and then Hyrum Smith, John Murdock, Reynolds Cahoon, and Harvey Whitlock in an order that I do not know. Joseph then began a process of choosing those to be ordained and Lyman would ordain them. In the end, Joseph had ordained 5 men and Lyman 18.

The notation following the man's name is my own personal notation of how the men and their activities might be grouped. A = is just an ordinary apostate who generally just went his way. A! = is an apostate who then turns on the Church to bring real trouble. A* = is an apostate who fell away, but it will take God to determine their fate. These men are as follows:

A = Wheeler Baldwin, Ezra Thayer, Harvey Whitlock, and Lyman Wight

A! = Ezra Booth, Joseph Wakefield, John Corrill, and Jacob Scott

A* = Martin Harris, Thomas B. Marsh, Sidney Rigdon, and John Whitmer

It seems to me that personal pride and a refusal to accept leaders were the two major problems. It is of note that Jacob Scott only lasted one day after this experience.

Wheeler Baldwin - (A) ?

Born 7 Mar 1793, Died 11 May 1887. Baptized 8 Jan 1831. Was converted by a special experience when Satan in the form of a braying mule was caused to pass away from him and his traveling companions thru the power of prayer. Performed mighty miracles. Ordained a High Priest 6 Jun 1831 by Lyman Wight, endowed 7 Jan 1846 in Nauvoo IL, Left the Church and joined the RLDS in 1863.

Ezra Booth - (A!) -

Born 1792 in Conn., baptized in Kirtland in 1831 following Elsa Johnson's healing, missionary. Apostatized in Sep 1831 and was excommunicated 6 Sep 1831. Ezra helped tar and feather Joseph Smith at the Johnson farm in 1832. George A. Smith said he preached until he found that it didn't pay.