

# HC to ML: Typographical Facsimile – Howard Coray to Martha Jane Lewis, August 2, 1889.\*

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Sanford, Conyas<sup>1</sup> Co. Col.<sup>2</sup>  
August 2, 1889

5 Dear daughter Martha.

Yours, bearing date June 2. /89  
came duly to hand; and I would have answered  
you at once if I could have taken the time  
necessary to treat upon all your questions and  
10 queries in a manner satisfactorily to myself as  
well as profitable to you but I could not consist=  
ently do so; Howard's time is about all occupied

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\*Howard Coray Holograph: CHL, MS 3047. At the time of this writing, Coray was living with his son in Sanford, Colorado, a Mormon colony established during the previous decade. Howard Coray was born May 6, 1817, Dansville, Steuben, New York, he died Jan 16, 1908, Salt Lake City, Utah. Married Martha Jane Knowlton, Feb. 6, 1841 (b. June 3, 1822, Covington, Kenton, Kentucky, d. Dec. 14, 1881, Provo, Utah).

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<sup>1</sup>Conejos.

<sup>2</sup>Sanford, Colorado is located about 20 miles north of the Colorado–New Mexico border roughly equidistant from the Colorado east and west state lines. The author's wife Martha Jane had died in 1881. Howard had married a plural wife, Mary Ann Johnson in 1853, but the union ended in divorce a few years later.

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12 Howard's time] Coray's son, Howard Knowlton Coray, b. April 10, 1848, Navuoo, Hancock, Illinois.

in looking after his saw mill— hauling lumber to  
fill contracts &c &c, consequently much labor and  
15 care has rested upon me— watering, hoeing out the  
garden, and a large potatoe patch that has taken  
me 3 weeks – hard work; besides, taking Edna to  
Sanford to School in a Cart and bringing her home  
at night — (2 trips) making 11 miles each school day,  
20 and in addition to this, have to go every night from  
2 to 3 miles, after the corns – making my daily travel  
some 16 miles per day — So you see, between travel-  
ing, hoeing, and watering, I have been kept pretty  
busy. I have just got through hoeing, and Edna  
25 does not go to school to day, which affords me  
leisure sufficient to write to you;

1st

Your<sup>^</sup> query is: do I think Mary will follow Clark  
out of the Church? No— I think not, ; but she is tried  
30 very sorely in her feelings — she is well versed in the  
scriptures, and has had many testimonies in regard to  
the truth of Mormonism— and being a very kind hearted<sup>3</sup>

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good woman, the Lord will feel after her and not  
35 permit the Adversary to lead her to destruction. As  
I understand Clark's affairs, he is in the right and  
has been badly used, in regard to his grist mill  
difficulty. but he is sadly wanting in some of the  
elements necessary to make a good Latter-day Saint,  
40 consequently the Lord, (as all will have to be tested  
and tried as gold in the furnace 7 times,) may have  
permitted trouble to come upon the family in this way.

If I understand the principles necessary for a

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<sup>3</sup>End of L1r.

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28 Mary will follow Clark] Mary Knowlton (Coray) Roberts, b. April 22, 1848, Winter  
Quarters, Douglas, Nebraska, d. May 19, 1923, Vernal, Uintah, Utah. Orville Clark  
Roberts, b. Sep. 1, 1833, Winchester, Scott, Illinois, d. Dec 12, 1912, Lamesa, San Diego,  
California.

man to possess in order to lead a woman into  
45 the Celestial Kingdom of God, O. C. Roberts will  
have to change materially from what he now is,  
be  
before he will<sup>^</sup> able to take Mare there, or get there  
himself. The condition of Clark's affairs is a sore trial  
50 to Mary— but we all have sore trials— Eppie has some  
trials, and I perceive, you. are tried not a little  
Now, concerning the Church's having a policy that  
conflicts, or seems to, with revelation : I don't know  
as I will be able to say anything that will be very  
55 satisfactory to you — I will, however, have to reason  
in my own way, hoping and trusting that what I  
may say will at least do no harm if it does no  
good. God says in the Book of D.&C that He com-  
mands men to do certain things and they don't step  
60 forward in obedience to His command, and then revo-  
kes the commandment. Ancient Israel was permitted  
to practice polygamy; but the Nephites were forbidden  
to do so on the ground that they, as well as Ancient<sup>4</sup>

3

65 Israel had caused their fair wives and daughters  
a great deal of sorrow &c., Now have not the Mor-  
mons been as unwise and cruel as they were? and  
was not a check necessary— something to bring  
them to their Senses? I think so. .

70 You say "it is painful to see one's landmarks being  
swept away." Well, as for me, this is not the case.  
When I first joined the Church I commenced gathering  
up evidences in regard to the truth of this work, or  
Mormonism . The first that made a deep im=  
75 pression on my mind was the baptism of fire and

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<sup>4</sup>End of L2r.

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50 Eppie] Euphrina Serepa Coray, b. Feb. 4, 1850, Fort Kearny, Kearny, Nebraska, d.  
Dec. 8, 1923, Salt Lake City, Ut.

the Holy Ghost. This was promised me before I was  
baptised by water. I soon went to Nauvoo— became  
acquainted with the Prophet— heard him preach and  
saw him conduct the April Conference of 1840. The  
80 power and wisdom that he displayed on this occasion  
was more evidence. I hear father Barnsby[?] speak  
in tongues and saw him & Jacob Foutz lay hands  
on a woman that had not been able to walk for  
6 months and she was healed. The next morning after  
85 she was administered to she could walk as well as she  
ever could. Mother had been deaf for over 20 years  
before she joined the Church, and was immedietely  
healed on coming into it. Now what do you know  
concerning our family’s being healed by the laying  
90 on of hands— yourself, Don, Mary &c &c. These gifts are  
to confirm those that believe— not make believers— I  
have studied the Gospel as revealed by Joseph Smith  
and wondered if it were possible for any one unaided<sup>5</sup>

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95 by the spirit of God to have revealed such a system  
of salvation and exaltation for man. My conclusion  
is ~~that~~ in the negative. I sat and listened to his  
preaching at the stand in Nauvoo a great many  
times when I have been completely carried away with  
100 his indescribable eloquence,—power of expression— speaking  
as I have never heard any other man speak— I have  
heard him prophesy many things that have already come  
to pass, I have seen him translate by the Seer’s stone  
was

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<sup>5</sup>End of L3r.

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82 Jacob Foutz ] Probably b. Nov. 20, 1800, Washington, Franklin, Pennsylvania, d. Feb. 14, 1848, Salt Lake City, Utah.

90 Don ] Don Silas Rathbone Coray, B. Sep. 20, 1864, Tooele, Utah,  
103 translate by the Seer’s stone] Most likely a reference to Book of Abraham. This would imply that JS may have translated in the 1840-41 time frame. The use of the stone in the endeavor is confirmed by Lucy Mack Smith to two traveling Quakers in 1846.

105 I ~~have been~~ present when he received a revelation  
on priesthood; he blessed me and prophesied that on  
my head, which has been literally fulfilled, and  
I have seen him by the aid of the Spirit of the  
Lord, as a prophet raised up to usher in the dispen=  
110 this, the  
sation of the fullness of times; besides, work and the workings  
of it, have been made manifest to me by the good spirit,  
Now, with these and more evidences of the truth of this  
work would it be wise for me to query in my mind as to the  
115 propriety of some of the transactions of those who are legally  
placed at the head to steady the Ark, as it were? I am  
satisfied that it would not be best for me. If the way and  
manner that polygamy is being handled looks a little queer,  
it is best to wait patiently for the outcome; and so in regard  
120 to Clark's case. Well, as for 91, I see no failure in it at  
present. The Savior might come and manifest Himself  
to but few.— In the Kirtland endowment He manifested  
Himself only to Joseph & Oliver, & it might be similar to that  
again.— Please write as often as convenient— Love to All,  
125 Your father Howard Coray<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>End of L4r.

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118 polygamy is being handled] May refer to the increase in Federal anti-polygamy fervor and/or new Church restrictions on contracting plural marriages (they had more or less ceased in the U.S. at this point).

120 Well, as for 91] Probably a reference to JS's statements regarding a December 1832 revelation – see D&C 130:14-17 for one instance, also see PJ addresses of February 14, 1835, April 2, 1843, April 6, 1843 and March 10, 1844 and notes there.