APPENDIX C

PEER EXAMINATION

Notes From Meeting Concerning
Chapter Six: From the Winter of 1835 Through the Summer of 1837:
Further Expansion of Adult Education in Kirtland

11 November 2002
Bruce Satterfield  
Notes from meeting concerning Chapter 5  
11 November 2002

Concerns are bolded. Results of discussion follow.

• **Dr. Thomas wanted me to make clearer references to the importance of the solemn assembly and importance in the School of the Elders. We discussed ways to do that.**

• **What became of the Debating school?** Like many of the schools during this period, no records indicate the outcome of the debating school. There is no indication that it continued into the winter.

• **Orson Pratt started a night school in Dec. 1835 but ended it 15 days later because of other business. What business?** We get this from his journal account but he does not explain what the interference was.

• **Do we know anymore about the lyceum that was established in Dec. 1835.** Nothing. I found the charter on the last page of the *Journal History* of that year in the Church Historical Department in Salt Lake. No other information was given with it.

• **Since the Second Floor of the Temple was to be used for the School (D&C 95:16), why were they using the attic?** Initially, the schools were held in the attic probably because they were easier to finish. As the second floor became available, it appears the school of the prophets moved to that area.

• **Was the study of Hebrew for preaching?** No, it was only for studying the Old Testament. Hebrew was not in active use until the later 1800's.

• **Who published Seixas’ supplement for Hebrew? Was it issued in Kirtland by the Church’s press?** No, it was published by a printer in New York City for the Church. It
required Hebrew type. Obviously a printing office in frontier America would not have had Hebrew type. I will add this to my study.

- Previous studies indicate that Joshua Seixas did not teach a second term of Hebrew at Kirtland. But my studies found out that he did teach a second term. The evidence is verified by two independent sources.

- Who was H. M. Hawes, Esq (hired to supervise the Kirtland High School)? Nothing is known of his background except he knew classical languages.
Concerns are bolded. Results of discussion follow.

• Since Joseph Smith obviously believed that the learning abilities of the students would be magnified by their “endowment” in the Kirtland Temple, it should probably be noted that all the educational experiments of previous years culminated in a great “pentecostal” season of spiritual enlightenment in the winter and spring of 1836.

• Evidence shows pretty clearly that at least by 1836, the Elders School was focused on theological more than secular subjects.

• What became of the Debating Society? Not known.

• What was the “more important” business that drew Orson Pratt away from the school in 1836. It’s not clear–much attention was being given to finishing the temple at this time, however.

• What more is known of the chartering and administration of Kirtland’s Lyceum? Nothing–the only reference Bruce found was a single year-end note that reproduced its charter.

• What was the role of the second floor of the temple–usually called the “school floor”? Why was the attic story the main space used for education? (Bruce is looking into this further.)

• Was the study of Hebrew really for preaching or was it more for study? Bruce points
out that the revealed injunction (D&C 90) seemed to associate the study of languages
with proselyting abroad, but study of Biblical Hebrew was only an indirectly relevant as a
tool to help teachers understand scripture. Why they didn’t learn living languages is
unclear.

- **Who published Seixas’ supplement for Hebrew? Was it issued in Kirtland by the
  Church’s press?** No, it was published in New York by contract with a firm that already
  had the needed Hebrew type. (Depending on the expense, this would be a notable effort,
given debts.)

- **Previous studies have indicated that Seixas did not teach in the summer of 1836.
  Bruce has provided evidence that he did renew his contract at least into the early
  summer.**

- **What was the background of H.M. Hawes, mentioned as one of the hired teachers?**
  Nothing is known.