



FIGURE 17.4. William Clayton journal entry for 1 May 1843. William Clayton saw and handled the Kinderhook plates in Joseph Smith's home on 1 May 1843. He traced the outline of one of the plates in his journal and wrote his journal entry for the day around the tracing. Church History Library, Salt Lake City.

### Source Criticism and Analysis

Clayton began his entry with the note “A.M at the Temple.” His small brick office near the building site for the temple was where he fulfilled his office of temple recorder. It was there that he kept a record of the donations to the temple in the Book of the Law of the Lord.<sup>168</sup>

Next, Clayton wrote “at 10—m J to L. W.” Alex D. Smith, one of the editors of Clayton's Nauvoo journal, has noted that Clayton, in his journal, usually referred to Joseph Smith, the church's president, as “Prest. J.” or even just “J.”<sup>169</sup> Clayton's abbreviated note “at 10—m J to L. W.” should most likely be expanded as “at 10 [AM]—[I] m[arried] J[oseph Smith] to L[ucy] W[alker].” Later in

168. Alex D. Smith and Andrew H. Hedges, “Joseph Smith's Nauvoo Journals,” in *Foundational Texts of Mormonism: Examining Major Early Sources*, ed. Mark Ashurst-McGee, Robin Scott Jensen, and Sharalyn D. Howcroft (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018), 248–49.

169. *Ibid.*, 258.