

Luman Andros Shurtliff Autobiography
MS 1605, Microfilm, Access No. 20492-ARCH (96923)

8 May 2003

Luman A. Shurtliff (also spelled Shirliff)
and Eunice Bagg Gaylord (b. 20 Jan. 1810, Springfield, MA)
sister to Lester Gaylord (b. 24 Nov. 1807)

Luman Shurtliff who had heard missionaries preach a few years earlier came to Kirtland to investigate Mormonism. Shurtliff talked with David Whitmer writing years later about his discussion:

I told him [David Whitmer] briefly in as few words as possible my belief and unbelief and that I did believe the Gospel they preached as far as I read it in the Bible But I could not say that I believed that Joseph Smith Jun was a true Prophet of God for I did not neither do I believe the Book of Mormon is a Revelation from God. Then facing him I said[,] now you know what I believe and what I do not believe And if you think I am a fit subject for Baptism I am read to go to the water if not I intend to start holm [home] to morrow and neaver [never] trouble my head any more about Mormonism[.] Mr Whitmer was silant [silent] a few seconds the<n> replide [replied] I will go to the <water> and baptise you or get one of my Quorum to do it[.] On our way to the River he called on Sylvester Smith and he Baptised me

This baptism occurred on 21 August 1836. Going home he prayed and heard a voice saying "Joseph Smith Jun Is a Prophet of the Most High God raised raised up for the restoration of Israel in these last Days And the Book of Mormon which you hold under your arm is true and brought forth for the Restitution of the scattered remnants of Jacob." ¹

[Leister Gaylord, wife and three children]

Luman A. Shurtliff described a conversation he had with Leister Gaylord about March 1838 in Ohio :

While I and Br Leister [Gaylord] was going from Kirtland to Sullivan to see about getting our Teems [Teams] In our conversation on the advancement of the Kingdom of God on the Earth I told him I believed that the time would come when men <in this Church> would have more than <one> Wife[.] Br Gaylord told his Wife [] and she told Sister [Rebecca?] Williams and Sister Williams had told Br [Frederick G.] Williams and They had talked it over and concluded it was redicalous [ridiculous] for an Elder to believe such an awfull [awful] doctrin<e>

Luman said he defended his position with brother Williams. Sister Williams said, "I tell you br Shirliff if such things are ever practiced in this Church I will leave it before Night

¹ Luman Andros Shurtliff Autobiography, original in LDS archives, 72-73.