FURTHER TESTIMONY

The Evidence of John W. Ridges Corroborated and Confirmed.

Buckerville, Lincoln Co., Nov. 4th, 1861.

Editor Deseret News:

Dear Sir—Seeing the testimony of J. W. Ridges in the Semi-Weekly News of July 31, and being much interested in the subject, and knowing that these events were contemporaneous with the earlier events in Church history, especially those in and out of Far West, Missouri, and having learned of the visit of Brother Ridges to the Prophet Joseph, while they were incarcerated in the jail at Far West, I have the pleasure of permitting the writer of this letter to relate the story.

Orange L. Wight (eldest son of Elder Lyman Wight, who is now at the Old Far West Jail, and a native of the same town) was with Brother Ridges, and is a most reliable witness. Brother Ridges visited Brother Wight while he was a prisoner in the jail at Far West, Missouri, and they remained there several days. Brother Wight was a passenger in the same train with Brother Ridges, and they were both in the jail at Far West at the same time.

I found Brother Wight in his usual good condition, and seemed quite willing to make a statement regarding the events described. In regard to what you know about Joseph Smith, son of the Prophet Joseph, being imprisoned in the jail at Far West, Missouri, I say, "Certainly I am." Then, I said, "I just write out what Brother Wight related to me in his own words, and I can give you in your own words."

Following is Brother Wight's statement:

"My father, Lyman Wight, or my master, as we then called him, was a prisoner in the jail at Far West, Missouri, and was confined there for a time, and was there at the time that Joseph Smith, the son of the Prophet Joseph, was arrested and confined in the jail. I was in the jail at Far West, Missouri, at the time, and was there about seven years, and was confined there at that time. And if an ordinance of the Prophet Joseph were to be performed, I would certainly assist in it, and would certainly collect the price.

"Previous to this, while I was a prisoner in the jail, the Prophet Joseph, with certain of his followers, were in the jail at Far West, Missouri, and they were in the habit of teaching and practising polygamy. I have certain knowledge of the fact, and I may say that I was acquainted with most of his wives, and talked with them on the subject, and that at one time my wife also talked with them.

"If there is anything further that I might need to have regard to my recollection, I will willingly assist in this work.

Respectfully,

ORANGE L. WIGHT.

Further talk with Brother Wight brought out the following facts. He was in the jail at Far West, Missouri, in the spring of 1832, was with the Church of Christ and was married to a sister of J. H. Grant and others, who were in Nauvoo at the time that the Prophet Joseph was captured. Brother Ridges was a passenger in the same train with Brother Wight, and they were both in the jail at Far West, Missouri, at the same time. Brother Ridges was a passenger in the train that went up the Illinois river on the steamer Maid of Iowa to assist in the work of the Church.

JOSEPH I. EARL.