"For your benefit and Aunt Minnie's, I am going to copy a testimony
son in the 17th ward of this city, by one of the wives of the Prophet
Smith. The lady who gave me this heard the testimony and knew her
actually. She not only knew this wife, but several other wives of the
Prophet, also. I have had special interviews with four other elderly
lady kwn from five to ten of his wives. The testimony is as follows:

"Minutes of a Relief Society meeting held in the 17th ward, on May
1909. Sister Fidelia L. Jacobs (the sister who gave me this testimony)
and her counselor, Mary Garrett, took charge. The meeting was truly
interesting one. Aftermany had borne faithful testimonies, Sister
W. Kimball arose and made the following statement. "In the year
1841, President Joseph Smith sought an interview with her, and said he
was a message for her. "I have been commanded of God to take another
wife and you are the woman," he said. She told that her astonishment
and that the announcement was like a thunderbolt to her. She
asked her if she believed him to be a prophet of God. She said
this was most assuredly. She said he explained the principles of plural
marriage, and said it was again to be restored for the benefit of the
family. "What have you to say?" he asked. How could she speak,
what could she say? He said: "If you will pray sincerely for light
understanding thereto, you shall receive a testimony of the correctness
of this principle." She said she did pray, but was so unwilling to con-
ger the matter favorably that she feared she did not ask in faith for
. She said that darkness instead of light took possession of her
mind and that she was tempted and tortured beyond endurance until life
seemed undesirable. "Oh! that the grave would kindly receive her that she might
be at the bosom of her dear dear mother. She wondered why she should
be chosen among the daughters, and said, "Oh Father, let this bitter cup
pass." Thus she prayed in the agony of her soul. She said the prophet
comforted her sorrow. He saw how unhappy she was and sought an opportunity of
speaking to her on the subject and said, "Although I cannot, under
distressing circumstances, acknowledge you as my wife, the time is near when
I will go to the Rocky Mountains and then you will be acknowledged and
valued as my wife. It is a command of God to you. I will give you
until tomorrow to decide this matter. If you reject this message the
life will be closed forever against you." She said this aroused every
cup of Scotch blood in her veins. For a few moments she stood fearless
before him and locked him straight in the eye. She felt at this moment
he was called to place herself on the altar a living sacrifice perhaps
to break the world in disgrace and incur the displeasure and contempt
of her youthful companions. All her dreams of happiness had blown to
be four winds, it seemed. This was too much, for as yet no shadow had
passed her path away from the death of her mother. She had been
bequeathless, but at last found utterance and said, "Although you are a
prophet of God you could not induce me to take a step so great
importance unless I know that God approves of my course. I would
rather die. I have tried to pray but receive no comfort, no light."
"Emphatically forbade him speaking to her again on the subject. She
said: "The same God who has sent this message is the Being I have
been whipped from my early childhood and He must manifest His will to
me." He walked across the room, returned and stood before her with
a most beautiful expression of countenance and said: "God Almighty
loves you. You shall have a manifestation of the will of God concerning
you. A testimony you can never deny. I will tell you what it will be.
It shall be that joy and peace you have never known." Oh! how she prayed for those words to be fulfilled. It was near the dawn of another sleepless night, when her room was lighted up by heavenly influence. In comparison it was like the brilliant sun bursting thru the darkest clouds. The words of the Prophet were indeed fulfilled. Her soul was filled with a sweet calm, sweet peace that she had never known. Supreme happiness took possession of her soul and she received a powerful and irresistible testimony of the truth of plural marriage which has been like an anchor to the soul thru all the trials of life. She felt she must go out into the morning air and give vent to the joy and gratitude that filled her soul. As she descended the stairs Pres. Smith opened the door below, took her by the hand and said: "Thank God you have the testimony. I, too, have prayed." He led her to a chair, placed his hands on her head and blessed her with every blessing her heart could possibly desire. The first day of May, 1843, she consented to become the Prophet's wife and was sealed to him for time and all eternity at his own home by Elder William Clayton. She said: "Today I have but one regret and that is that I have not been a more worthy representative of the principle of plural marriage and that I have not lived a more perfect life. But as I said before, I accepted it to obey a command of God to establish a principle that would benefit and exalt mankind and bring them back into His presence. A tie has been formed that will guide me to the most glorious destiny. If I continue to walk in the regeneration, which is the grand object of my life. No one can possibly feel more deeply to regret than I do the course taken by the sons of the Prophet Joseph Smith."