

(Note: The following statement was dictated by Eliza M.A. Munson to N.B. Lundwall, in June, 1931, at Bountiful, Utah.)

Eliza B. Manwaring was my mother's name. She was in the first Mormon vessel that ever sailed across the ocean. James Allred met her after she landed and took her to his home where she became acquainted with his son, James T.B. and later became engaged to him. She was a trained cook from England and after she had stayed with my grandparents for a short time the Prophet Joseph wanted her to be a cook in the Nauvoo Mansion. She cooked there seven years but had only been there two or three years when he was killed.

The Prophet Joseph came to her and wanted her to help introduce plural marriages so she was sealed to Orson Spencer and Eunice Billings was sealed to Heber C. Kimball, but they never lived with them as husband and wife. Shortly after this my mother took sick and Hyrum Smith came to administer to her. She told him of a dream she had wherein she was given her choice of the man she wanted to marry and the other, and she walked down three steps and sat down by James T. S. Allred and he was her choice. She asked Hyrum Smith the meaning of the dream and he told her that if she married James T. S. Allred, who was only a boy of twenty, and a deacon, that she would have to go down three steps in the priesthood from that held by Orson Spencer, Hyrum Smith or the Prophet Joseph. So he told her that if she did not want to live with Orson Spencer as a wife, and did not want to go down in the Priesthood, as she would have had to do to marry James T. S. Allred, that she could have either the Prophet Joseph or himself. He said, "It is your choice," She said, "I am engaged to James T. S. Allred and he is the one I want. If I break my promise with him I don't think I will be up to much." And she said she preferred him.

My father and mother were sealed in the Nauvoo Temple. My grandmother, Elizabeth Warren Allred, joined the church in 1835. At the time plural marriage was first introduced, the Prophet used to have secret meetings with some of the men at which meetings he would explain all points connected with this celestial law. My grandmother said if the principle was right she wanted to know it, so she and Emma Smith disguised themselves in men's clothing and went to one of these meetings. The prophet said there were individuals present who were not one of them.

My grandmother was the one that cut the first garments - the very first pair, under the direction of the Prophet Joseph. They spread unbleached muslin out on the table and he told her how to cut it out. She cut three patterns before she cut one that was correct and the Prophet said that the third one would be alright. She told the Prophet that there would be sufficient cloth from the knee to the ankle to make a pair of sleeves. He told her he wanted as few seams as possible and there would be sufficient whole cloth to cut the sleeve without piecing. The first garments, marks were bound with turkey red and were without collars. Later on the Prophet decided he would rather they were bound with white.

From "Church Manuscripts" collection  
by Alan H. Ferber, vol. 2,  
BYU HBL