

USDS, Josette Brooks Papers,  
MS B103, Box 16, F13

The enclosed letter and statement are from originals owned by Mrs. Nell Osborne of Salt Lake City. I made them from copies of Mrs. C. Leland Dalley, St. George, Utah. The following is taken from a life of Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Rollins Lightner written by Mrs. Elsie E. Barrett, Wilshire, Los Angeles, California. I thought you might like this, though you probably have it. I had always understood that Louisa Beaman was Joseph's first plural wife. According to the record, Mary Elizabeth Rollins Lightner was born in Lima, Livingston County, N.Y., April 9, 1818. She was married to Adam Lightner of Liberty County, Mo. on August 11, 1835. She lived with his all her life (or his, rather, for he died first at the age of 75) and bore him ten children. Yet she was sealed to Joseph Smith. Following is her account of her first meeting with the Prophet: (evidently early in 1831 from the incident preceding)

"...I was sent for and when I entered the room he looked at me so earnestly I felt afraid and I thought, "He can read my every thought, and I thought how blue his eyes were. After a moment he came and put his hands on my head and gave me a great blessing, the first I had ever received, then he made me a present of the book saying he would give Bro. Morley another copy. He came in time to rebuke the evil spirits and set the church in order. We all felt that he was a man of God. He spoke with such power, and as one having authority. (This book was stolen from our house later years when my husband and I left everything and rode night and day to Louisville, Kentucky to keep my husband from having to go as a witness against the Prophet, as he was not a Mormon the Gentiles wanted him on their side, and he loved the Joseph, so wanted to get away for awhile. Joseph gave me another book with a lock of his hair in it and autographed.)

"A few evenings after his visit to our house, Mother and I went over to the Smith house. We wanted to hear more about the Golden Bible. They were not settled yet, but as there were other visitors, when the Prophet saw us he said, "We might as well have a meeting." I sat with the others on a plank that had been provided, the ends resting on boxes. After prayer and singing, Joseph began talking. Suddenly he stopped and seemed almost transfixed, he was looking ahead and his face outshone the candle which was on a shelf just behind him. I thought I could almost see the cheek bones, he looked as though a searchlight was inside his face and shining through every pore. I could not take my eyes from his face. After

a short time he looked at us very solemnly and said: "Brothers and sisters do you know who has been in your midst this night?" One of the Smith family said, "An angel of the Lord." Joseph did not answer. Martin Harris was sitting at the Prophet's feet on a box, he slid to his knees, clasped his arms around the Prophet's knees and said: "I know, it was our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." Joseph put his hand on Martin's head and answered; "Martin, God revealed that to you. Brothers and sisters, the savior has been in your midst, I want you to remember it. He cast a veil over your eyes for you could not endure to look upon Him, you must be fed with milk and honey, not meat. I want you to remember this as if it were the last thing that escapes my lips. He has given you all to me and commanded me to seal you up to everlasting life that where he is you may also be, and if you are tempted of Satan say "Get thee behind me Satan." These words and his looks are photographed on my brain. Then he knelt and prayed. I have never heard anything like it since. I felt he was talking to the Lord and the power rested on us all. The prayer was so long that some of the people got up and rested then knelt again. This is the only meeting of its kind I have ever heard of."