Mary Elizabeth Rollins

Was born in the Town of Lennan, Livingston County, State of New York, April 7th, 1818. My father John B. Rollins came from one of the New England States. I think it was Vermont. My mother, Rosalia Van Bentheigen was born in Albany, State of New York in 1796. She married my father in 1814. Three children were the fruit of this marriage, James Henry, myself, and sister Caroline the youngest. When she was six months old, my father was shipwrecked on Lake Ontario during a terrible storm. Only one person was saved out of all the passengers and crew. When I was ten years old, we moved to Kentland, Ohio, and lived in a house belonging to Alderson Sidney Gilbert. My mother's sister's husband.

We remained there two years, when we heard of the Book of Mormon, or Golden Bible being found by Joseph Smith. Soon the news was confirmed by the appearance of Oliver Cowdery, Peter Whittaker, and Saba Petersen with the famous Book of the Restoration of the Gospel through the Prophet Joseph Smith. They bore a powerful testimony by the Holy Spirit of the truth of the great work they had engaged in, and which they were commissioned by the Father to spread to all the world. Quite a number went forward for Baptism. Brother and myself also in the month of October, 1831. A Branch of the Church was organized, and Father Morley was ordained an Elder to preside over it. He owned a large farm, about a mile from Kentland, and some three or four Families went there to live. Meetings were held there, so it was called the Morley Settlement. It was a great help, and one of good spirit, and one of piety prevailed among Brethren for some time. After Oliver Cowdery and his brethren, left there for Tang to Milpohuri to found a place for the Canner State of Ohio, a very happy settlement, and some years dwell among the Aroms.
With a private Family at four dollars a week for both of us - I continued Teaching until I had forty dollars, which I used in buying Board. I felt greatly rich, although I was not in any manner comfortable. I lived by the best means to support myself, and I traveled through the hot sun to distant towns. We then moved some distance away from here to get means to go to Montrose where I bought five or six horses, for seven dollars near enough to be conveniently near. Here we took for our passage to Montrose (which was upon the Sauk across the Mississippi River) and found Mr. Burt had moved ten miles from there. It was what was called the half Breed Tract. We hired a team and went there, and found them living in a small log hut, only one room in it. We were joyfully received, and in October 18th my daughter Caroline Keziah was born. When she was three weeks old, we moved to Farriington 10 miles from the half Breed Tract, situated on the Desmoine River. Mother sent me a bed, knives and tools, which I gave us a few dollars of flour. (for she had but little herself) and some other necessaries. While we dishman gave us a barrel of tobacco, and some squashes, so we commenced housekeeping in two rooms. One Mr. Lightner used for a shop, as there was no one there that could make furniture. The people gladly let him have all the tools, and lumber he wanted, and will take his work for pay. We lived well for nearly two years. I obtained work from a tailor, and learnt all my clothes, and the children, for we were anxious to save enough to get a home of our own, which we did by building a frame house containing one large room, which we expected to add to, as we got able. In the mean time he bought a great deal of choice lumber to season for Beavers, Tables &c. Finding our house not in a healthy part of the place, we sold it for two hundred dollars. Cash and as he wanted Mahogany, and some other things that he could not get at home, he went to Montrose for them - he had been there but a short time, when a Steam Boat came in, and bought the freight that the Bank, of which our money was on, was long, and we only got twenty five dollars for our.

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...for on looking out one morning he found his Niles, in which he was securing his December pay. Not a plank was saved. What to do for our children and lives, until试验 County opened. And he knew. While in this dilemma, Mr. Brant, Mr. Stagg, Father, came over from Nauvoo to visit us, he saw our situation and offered us a house with him, until we could do better. He believed a God send to us, and we gladly seized the opportunity. So the same day Mr. Brant, myself, myself and 2 children crossed the Mississippi River on the ice, as it was late in the evening; he did not dare to take his team to cross the river, and up the hill near the temple where he lived. Next morning the ice was all broke up, and it was some days before he could get his team across. In the mean time, Brother Joseph, and Brother Brigham, came to see us, and invited me to go the next day to his office in the Wrick Store. I was surprised at this, he asked me if I was afraid to go? I replied, why should I be afraid of the Prophet of God? he said Brother Young would come for me. That night I dreamed Joseph was married to him, and occupied an upper room in a new house, in the morning we were called to breakfast, and ... wondered what Emma would say it to him, for I was afraid of her, but Joseph took me by the hand and led me down the stairs, at the first of each, stood Emma smiling at us and conducted us to the breakfast room. I awoke then, and did not know what to think of my dream. But on going to the office next day, I received the interpretation. For what was my astonishment, when Joseph made known to me that God had commanded him in July 1831 to take me for a wife, but he had not dared to make it known to me, for when he received the Revelation, I was in Nauvoo, and when he did see me, I was married. But he was again commanded to fulfill the first Revelation, to suffer condemnation. For I was created for him; before the foundation of the Earth was laid, I said if the Lord told you such a thing, why don't he come and tell me?
Moreover, I never would contend to be saved to
him, unless I had a witness for myself; and I
told me a great many things concerning the Order, and the Blessings
pertaining to it &c. I felt that he and I were both long
for I had dreamed for years that I belonged to him;
and had besought the Lord to take away such Thoughts
from my heart. No human being can tell the feelings
on this occasion. My faith in him, as a Prophet almost failed.
I could not sleep, and scarcely eat. Next day Mr. Young
came to see me, and said after we left the Office, Joseph
told him that an Angel appeared to him, and told him
that the Lord was well pleased with him, and that I
should have a Witness that what he told me was true.
I marveled at this; but made it a subject of prayer, night and
day. One night in February, I felt impressed to pray as
Moses did in the Battle of Israel, with the Arimathite by holding
up his hands towards Heaven, I also covered my head with a
White Cloth, and sprang with all Soul, that if the
Doctrine were true, to give me a witness of the same. One night
I retired to Bed, but not to sleep; for my Mind was troubled to
Sleep fled from me. My Aunt Gilbert was sleeping with
me at the time, when a great light appeared in the Room
Thouking the Wondrous Work was on fire, that was spread on
the hearth. I rose up in Bed to look, where is a Passage
stood on front of the Bed looking at me. Its Clothes were
White, or any thing I had ever seen. I could look at the
Person, but when I saw its Face, so bright, and more beautiful
than any Earthly could be, and those eyes piercing me
through and through. I could not endure it. It seemed as
if I should die with fear, I fell back in Bed and covered
my head so as not to see it; I pushed away very hard to
have her look up and see it too. But I could not wake her
and I could not speak. I thought if she were awake, I would
not feel so afraid. As it is, I can never forget that face, it
seems to be near before me. A few days after this Joseph
asked me; if I had received a witness yet? I said no, he said
you soon will have; for the Angel expressly told me, you shall
Have then told him what I had seen, for I fully realized what I had lost by my cowardice. The Family all said they knew something had happened to me, for my Countenance was almost transparent—enough, when I told them of it, there was great rejoicing
and they felt that I had been highly favored of the Lord, as yet they knew nothing of what Joseph had said to me. When Joseph had
conquered al the appearance of the Terrors, and I had told him he seemed much affected, and told me that it was an
Angel from God, and that it came wrought with more
knowledge, and Revelation, than he dare reveal, and
that if I had prayed in my heart to God, all fear would
have left me, and it was Satan who caused the Cup of my lips
he told me of Many things to take place soon in my life, as sign
of the truth of what he had revealed to me. His words were
verified to the letter, after receiving other Testimonies I felt
I could no longer disbelieve, and in the Month of March 1841
Brigham Young sealed us for time and all eternity,
William Richards, and Peter P. Kimball knew of it, but were not
present; on the 22 of March I was Confined with my 3rd Child
we called him George Algerston, Mr. Lightner had settled
his Business in Farmington, paid his debts by giving up all his Tools &c. which left us poor indeed, but as none
of the brethren owed us Nearly Ten Thousand Dollars, we
thought we could get some of it to help us, but those that
owed us the most took the benefit of the Bankrupt law and
refused to pay us. One Man offered to let us have a bbl of Pork
and a Coffee Pot, if we would give him back his note of five
hundred dollars which he held, we did so, and we were very
thankful for it. But when we opened the Barrel, we
found the Meat Sour, and full of Mice—My husband
Could get no Work, and I commenced teaching Painting to
Juba Moodie'Sonette, Pierce Marks Taught, and Jonathan
Whiting-
also painted pig-leap aprons for the twelve
on Lisbon St., also fifty Masonic Aprons for the Lodge.
Also processed a lot a black below the Joseph Mansion.
But as we could get no more work in Nauvoo, Mr. Lightner
found a job of Cutting Cord wood, 15 Miles up the River at
a place called Wintover, he got a little log house with a
ransom floor, Made of logs split in two, and very
rough.
Joseph in learning that we were going to leave there, felt very sad, and while the tears streamed down his cheeks, he prophesied that if we attempted to leave the Church, we would have plenty of sorrow; for we would make property in the right hand, and live on the left, we would have sickness and death, and lose our children. And that I would have to work harder than I ever did in my life. and if at last your are over, all will be ready to die, you will get back to the Church. I thought these were hard sayings, and felt I might doubt them. But theSeason proved them true. Before leaving Nauvoo, on the 15th of July there was a general parade of the Legion, about nine Emma came to me to borrow my lighting Table, as the Officers were to drive with her, and Joseph came also. He said to the Lord commanded him to Babylon as that day. Emma asked why is this? they have always been good members in the Church, and another thing too, I will be ready soon, and you certainly won’t go in those clothes! as he said he wanted us to be ready by the time he was for this was likely going to be the time. As we lived on the bank of the river, we were soon ready. My mother, Emily and Miss Gilbert and myself were Baptised and Confirmed. Joseph tried hard to get Mr. Lightner to go into the water, but he said he did not feel willing, but would agree to do it. Joseph said to me that he knew he would be Baptised, unless it was a few moments before he died. It was with sorrowful feelings that I went to continue to live, but by the taking me. Seeing me, even the water, and that was all. A Lady called on me and asked me if we had a Cow? I said no. She said if we could let her have my Redsteal, she would give me a Cow and calves & gladly accepted her offer, and slept on the floor until we could make a substitute. In a short time, George was taken sick and died. I was alone with him at the time, the Doctor had gone to a neighbor for assistance. An old Lady helped the doctor, and Mr. Lightner had to make the Coffin— as he was the only Carpenter in the place. The two Men that dug the grave, and a little girl was all that went to bury my Darling. I felt that the Prophet’s words were beginning to be fulfilled, we then moved to a more Comfortable house, in April 3rd, Rev. C. W. Matthews was Born, which he was two months old. I commenced teaching a few children in Spelling & Reading. I had not taught long before I took a severe cold that caused inflammation of the bowels, I was so low that my life was despaired of by two Physicians.