Testimony of Margaret West

(In presence of Jesse H. Smith, Sam'l H. Rogers, Smith D. Rogers add. and Joseph and I felt great joy. I received of my former wife, the vision of the New Jerusalem in Nauvoo, when I first heard that it was right for men to have two wives. I never thought that having more than one was right. I said: I would not believe it was right if an angel from heaven should come. And again, I said that if I should not believe it was right, I would not believe it. I knew very well what I thought the Lord would love me better if I refused to believe in such a heinous thing, for the Lord loves virtuous women.

I was very busy at that time, for we were preparing to go to the wilderness (that was what we called it then). I did not think I had the time to hear of the valleys of the mountains, but we went to the wilderness. My family and I were very busy parching corn, storing squash for drying and weaving cloth. In all my preparations I did not have time to go round and get the news of the day, but Sister Thompson and Sister Carmichael used to come and tell me what the folks were talking about, and who of the brethren had taken another wife. I told them not to believe a word of it, for I knew the authorities of the church would put it down. They would say: "You may look out, for your husband is sure to get another." Sister Carmichael said: "If it is so, I know William (her husband) will take another wife, for he will do anything the authorities tell him is right." "But," she added, "I will go down and talk with Sister Murray about it." Sister Murray was Brother Young's sister. In a few days she came again, having in the meantime seen Sister Murray, and asked if it was true that the brethren were taking more wives, to which Sister Murray replied that it was too true. When I heard this I was perplexed. I did not have much to say. I felt very serious over it and made it a matter of prayer.

On the Sunday morning following, after my husband and I were ready to go to meeting, we walked out through our gate, and he said, "Let us call in at John's (his brothers); perhaps some of them will go to meeting." As we passed through the gate, all creation was opened in vision to my view, as it seemed to me. We were as the grass of the field. I can see now how it looked as it ran off in the distance. Then I saw pluralities of wives, the celestial order of marriage, open to my view and knew it was right, and a virtuous principle and pertaining to the everlasting Gospel of Jesus. Then I saw the authorities of the Church, and what they had suffered to establish this peculiar doctrine. It was a grand point in the Gospel, and had to be established in this generation. There was no getting around it; it had to come forth. When I saw the labor of the brethren and their toils and sufferings, my heart was pained for them, and I loved and pitied them. I was no longer an opponent of the two-wife system. I did not speak of these things but pondered them in my heart. I realized the beauty and glory and exaltation connected with this heavenly prin-
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It was grand and glorious and I felt wrapped in joy. I recited on my former uniform and went to the Lord's house, was baptized for the remission of my sins in that respect, though at that time I did not confess to any person what the sin was, for the remission of which I was baptized. Woman's Exponent, August 16, 1895.

I address myself just to the Saints of God, who have entered into covenant with the Lord, and been ordained to the Holy Priesthood. If you are living your religion, and enjoy the spirit of inspiration, which is your daily food, know as God lives that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, that he received the administration of angels, that he brought forth the Book of Mormon, and translated it by the powers of God. You know he received the fulness of the everlasting gospel and the Holy Priesthood and apostleship, and the keys thereof, and that he organized the Church of Christ, "The only true and living Church upon the face of the whole earth," with its gifts and graces with which the Lord is well pleased. You do know Joseph Smith, the prophet, left his testimony upon the earth, and sealed that testimony with his own life and blood, and that testimony is in force "upon all the world, and that testament is filled with the revelation of God, that stand upon its pages like flames of living fire, ready to be fulfilled upon all the inhabitants of the earth. In this testament the Lord has commanded his servants to go to all the world and preach this gospel to the kingdom to every creature, as far as doors are open. He also commanded his servants to visit New York, Albany, Boston, and all the notable cities and villages of the earth reprobating their ungodly deeds, and warning them of the desolation and utter abomination which await them, if they reject the testimony of the servants of God. For with you, will the Lord Almighty? "I will rend their kingdoms, for I will shake not only the earth, but the starry heavens shall tremble, you cannot see it now, but upon you shall see it and know that I am God." You Latter-day Saints, do you not know these things are true? You do, and so do I, for the
William Adams was born on January 8, 1632, in Hillsborough County Down, Ireland.

My parents, although not very regular attenders to religious worship, especially my father, they were very anxious that their children should attend the Protestant church, so I was brought up to be religiously inclined and in my reflections on the crucifixion and death of the Savior, I wished it had been my lot to have lived in the days of the Savior how I would have defended him against his enemies; and the doctrine of everlasting punishment where sinners would be burning and roaring in hell for everlasting without end, which was the belief of the sectarian religion denominations. Wonder and horror and amazement would occupy my mind at the suffering of sinners. Often my mind would run on these and other principles of the sectarian world until the year 1840 when two Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who were Theodore Currie of America and the Rev. Black of Manchester, England, who proclaimed that the Gospel of Jesus Christ had been restored to the earth by a holy angel from heaven to Joseph Smith, a prophet of God in these last days. I believed their testimony; my heart leaped with joy and thanks to my heavenly Father for again revealing himself and restoring the Holy Priesthood again to men on the earth. My age at the time was a little over eighteen years and I was living at home with my parents, having received a common education. I read and studied the scriptures and defended the principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the best of my ability. I attended the meetings of the saints every opportunity and the more I attended the meetings my faith got stronger. I cannot express the joy I had when at the testimony meetings that was held on Sabbath evenings where the gifts of the spirit were enjoyed, the speaking in tongues, the interpretation of tongues, prophesying and hearing and seeing I could not hold off any longer. I was baptized by Robert Hutchinson who held the office of a priest, on Saturday evening, March 26, 1842 and confirmed by William Johnston, presiding Elder of the branch on Sunday following, being Easter Sunday. My age was twenty years, two months and eighteen days. I felt thankful to my father in Heaven for his blessings unto me and peace and joy filled my bosom and my friends and acquaintances turned against me because I had obeyed the gospel or had become a Mormon. In the summer following I was ordained to the office of teacher under the hands of Elder Andrew Hardy who had been appointed to labor and preach in Ireland and a few believed his testimony and were baptized. Elder David Addie Wilkie of Pastley, Scotland, was appointed to visit Ireland and was the instrument in raising a branch of the church in Crawford's Burn County of Down, numbering about twenty members. I spent my time very pleasantly in attending to my duty as teacher and bearing my testimony to those I came in contact with; this was a great pleasure and joy in trying to convince people that the Gospel was true. In a day in October 1842 I took to wife Mary Ann Leech to be my wife; she was a daughter of Hugh and Ann Jamieson Leech, a member of the branch. I was in my 21st year and she was about one year older than I was. She was a bonnet maker by trade and carried on the business in Hillsborough and on the sixteenth of September the year following I had a son born and we called him Charles, his grandfather Charles Adams. Persecution was getting very strong against the saints at this time, led by one Thomas Downey, a Methodist class leader who made himself very officious in opposing the Elders and disturbing their meetings. He was encouraged by the Marquis of Downshire, the landed proprietor in the County of Down. His estate brought him 100,000 pounds or £500,000 per year, being confiscated by conquest in the time of William Prince of Orange to Mr. Hill which was the family name of the present Marquis, another man by the same name. Mr. Parry was the family man of the present Marquis, another man by the same name. Mr. Parry who made himself very conspicuous in persecuting the saints, being a clerk in the office of the Marquis's office. My strongest desire was to gather with the saints to Nauvoo, Illinois, and on December 31, 1843, left home with my wife and child three months old, with a light heart bidding my father and mother, brothers and sisters and old friends farewell. We arrived in Belfast, ten miles from Hillsborough the same day and took passage on a steamer for Liverpool the next day, the first of January, 1844. Ruben Weed and Thomas Ward presided over the English mission.