

APPENDIX D

Undated Manuscript

This account was found in a journal ledger in the Church Historian's office Salt Lake City. The pages had been cut out but were matched with edge of the journal to prove location. This was done in the presence and with agreement of Earl Olsen and Lauritz Peterson of the Church Historian's office. The first page of this ledger identified Frederick G. Williams as the scribe and bore the date of 1833. Subsequent pages in the journal contained copies of letters of Oliver Cowdery, Joseph Smith, Hyrum Smith, William W. Phelps, Reynolds Cahoon, Jared Clark, Sidney Rigdon, and John Murdock. The earliest letter was dated June 14, 1829; the latest August 4, 1835.

There was not date nor indication of scribe of the account of the manuscript which follows. The information provided in the above statements seem to suggest that this account was written near 1833. Since it is recorded in the first person this would also suggest either that Joseph Smith wrote it or he dictated it. From handwriting comparisons it would appear that the latter supposition is the more likely one.

A History of Joseph Smith Jr. an account of his marvilous experiences and of all the mighty acts which he doeth in the name of Jesus Christ the son of the living God of whom he beareth record and also an account of the rise of the church of Christ in the ~~even~~ of time according as the Lord brought forth and established by his hand firstly he receiving the testimony from on high secondly the ministering of Angels thirdly the reception of . . . [unclear word] the holy Priesthood by the ministering of . . . [unclear word] Angels to administer the letter of the Gospel. . . [unclear word] the Law and commandments as they were given unto him . . . [unclear word] and the ordinances forthly a confirmation and reception of the high Priesthood after the holy order of the son of the living God power and ordinance from on high to preach the gospel in the administrations and demonstrations of the spirit the key of the Kingdom of God confered upon him and the continuation of the blessings of god to him etc. . . . [unclear word] I was born in the town of Sharon in the state of Vermont North America on the twenty third day of December AD 1805 of goodly parents who spared no pains to instructing me in the christian religion at the age of about ten years my father Joseph Smith Senior moved to Palmyra Ontario County in the state of New York and being in indigent circumstances was obliged to labor hard for the support of a large family having nine children and as it required the exertions of all that were able to render any assistance for the support of the Family therefore we were deprived of the bennifit of an education. Suffice it to Say I was nearly instructed in reading and writing and the ground ground rules of Arithmetic which constituted my whole literary acquirements. At about the age of twelve years my mind became Seriously imprest with regard to the all important concerns for the welfare of my immortal

Soul which led me to Searching the Scriptures believing as I was taught, that they contained the word of God they applying myself to them and my intimate acquaintance with those of different denominations led me to marvel exceedingly for I discovered that they did not adorn their profession by a holy walk and godly conversation agreeable to what I found contained in that Sacred depository this was a grief to my souls thus from the age twelve years to fifteen I pondered many things in my heart concerning the situations of the world of mankind the contentions and divisions the wickedness and and abominations and the darkness which pervaded the minds of mankind my mind become indedingly distressed for I became convicted of my Sins and by Searching the Scriptures I found that mankind did not come unto the Lord but that they had apostatised from the true and living faith and there was no society or denomination that built upon the gospel of Jesus Christ as recorded in the new Testament and I felt to mean for my own sins and for the Sins of the world for I learned in the Scriptures that god was the same yesterday to day and forever that he was no respecter to persons for he was God for I looked upon the sun the glorious luminary of the earth and also the moon rolling in their magesty through the heavens, and also the stars shining in their courses and the earth also upon which I stood and the beast of the field and the fowls of the heaven and the fish of the waters and also man walking forth upon the face of the earth in magesty and in strength of beauty whose power and intiligence in governing the things which are so exeeding great and marvilous even in the likeness of him who created them and when I considered upon these things my heart exclaimed well hath the wise man said it is a fool that saith in his heart there is no God my heart exclaimed all all these bear testimony

and bespeak an omnipotent and omnipreasant power a being who maketh laws and decreeth and bindeth all things in their bounds who filleth Eternity who was and is and will be from all Eternity to Eternity and when I considered all these things and that that being seeketh such to worship him as worship him in spirit and in truth therefore I cired unto the Lord for mercy for there was none else to whom I could go and to obtain mercy and the Lord hear my cry in the wilderness and while in the attitude of calling upon the Lord in the 16th year of my age a pillar of light above the brightness of the sun at noon day come down from above and rested upon me and I was filled with the Spirit of god and the Lord opened the heavens upon me and I saw the Lord and he spake unto me saying "Joseph my son Thy sins are forgiven thee, go thy way walk in my Statutes and keep my commandments behold I am the Lord of glory I was crucified for the world, that all those who believe on my name may have Eternal life behold he won't lieth in Sin at this time and none doeth good no not one they have turned aside from the gospel and keep not my commendments they draw near to me with their lips while their hearts are far from me and mine anger is kindling against the inhabitants of the earth to visit them acording to their ungoldliness and to bring to pass that which hathtbeen spoken by the mouth of the prophets and apostles behold and lo I come quickly as it was written of me in the cloud clothed in the glory of my father" and my souls was filled with love and for many days I could rejoice with great joy and the Lord was with me but could find none that would believe the heavenly vision nevertheless I pondered these things in my heart but after many days I fell into transgression and sinned in many things which brought wound upon my soul and there were many things which transpired that cannot be writen and my fathers

family have suffered many persecutions and afflictions and it came to pass when I was seventeen years of age I called again upon the Lord and he showed unto me a heavenly vision for behold an angel of the Lord came and stood before me and it was by night and he called me by name and He the Lord had forgiven me my sins and he revealed unto that in the Town of Manchester, Ontaior County, N. Y. there was plates of gold upon which there was engravings which was engraved by Moroni and his father the servant of the living God in ancient days and deposited by the commandments of God and kept by the power thereof and that I should go and get them and he revealed unto many things concerning the inhabitants of the earth which since have been revealed in comandments and revila-tions and it was on the 22 day of Sep. AD 1822 and thus he appeared unto me three times in one night and once on the next day and then I immediate-ly went to the place and found where the plates was deposited as the angel of the Lord had commanded me and straightway made three attempts to get them and thus being exceedingly frightened I supposed it had been a dream of vision but when I cohsidered I knew that it was not there-fore I cried unto the Lord in the agony of my souls why can I not obtain them behold the the angel appeared unto me again and said unto me you have not kept the commandments of the Lord which I gave unto you therefore you cannot now obtain them for the time is not yet fulfilled therefore thous wast left unto temptation that thous mightest be made acquainted with the power of the adversary therefore repent and call on the Lord thou shalt be forgiven and in his own due time thou shalt obtain them for now I had been tempted of the advisary and sought the Plates to obtain riches and kept not the commandment that I should have an eye singled to the glory of God therefore I was chastened and sought diligently to

obtain the plates and obtained them not until I was twenty one years of age and in this year I was married to Emma Hale daughter of Isaach Hale who lived in Harmony Susquehana County Pennsylvania on the 18th January AD 1827, on the 22nd day of Sept of this same year I obtained the plates and in December following we moved to Susquehana by the assistance of a man by the name of Martin Harris who became convinced of the vision and gave me fifty dollars to bear my expenses and because of this faith and this righteous deed the Lord appeared unto him in a vision and showed unto him his marvelous work which he was about to do and immediately came to Susquehana and said the Lord had shown him that he must go to New York City with some of the characters so we proceeded to copy some of them and he took his Journey to the eastern City and to the learned saying read this I pray thee and the learned said I cannot but if he would bring the plates they would read it but the Lord had forbid it and he returned to me and gave them to me to translate and I said I cannot for I am not learned but the Lord had prepared spectacles for to read the Book therefore I commenced translating the characters and thus the prophcy of Isiah was fulfilled which is writen in the 29 chapter conerning the book. and it came to pass that after we had translated 116 pages that he desired to carry them to read to his friends that peradventure he might convince them of the truth therefore I inquired of the Lord and the Lord unto me that he must not take them and I spake unto him (Martin) the word of the Lord and he said inquire again and I inquired again and also the third time and the Lord said unto me let him go with them only he shall covenants with me that he will not show them to only but four persons and he covenants with the Lord that he would according to the word of the Lord therefore he took them and took his

journey unto his friend to Palmira Wayne county and State of New York and he brake the covenant which he made before the Lord and the Lord suffered the writings to fall into the hands of wicked men and Martin was chastened for my transgression for asking the Lord the third time wherefore the plates was taken from me by the power of God and I was not able to obtain them for a season and it came to pass after much humility and affliction of soul I obtained them again when Lord appeared unto a young man by the name of Oliver Cowdry and showed unto him the plates, a vision, and also the truth of the work and what the Lord was about to do through me his unworthy servant therefore he was desirous to come and write for me to translate now my wife had written some for me to translate and also my Brother Samuel H. Smith but we had become reduced in property and my wives father was about to turn me out of doors I had not whereto go and I cried unto the Lord and he would provide for me to accomplish the work where unto he had commanded me.