

Women's Collection

Mrs. Alexander's Statement

Bolton

My father, William Smith, and mother became converts in N. Y., and moved to Kirtland O. in ¹⁸³⁶ 1836. After Jo Smith, the Prophet robbed us, I worked out at housework at 25 cents a week. My sister received 50 cents a week, we gave our wages to our parents.

Father had broken his arm six weeks before leaving N. Y., and could not work. Mother had to work very hard, she had 14 children. Polly Beswick, who weighed about 200 pounds, made her home with her sister Mrs. John Tanner, who lived next house to ours and often called on us. She was of good disposition, very agreeable in conversation and every-

body

body liked her. She worked much of the time in Prophet Jo Smith's family. It was commonly reported, Jo Smith said he had a revelation

to his ^{wife} Vienna Jaques, who lived in his family, Polly told me, that Emma, Joseph's wife, told her that Joseph would get up in the night and go to Vienna's bed. Polly said Emma would get out of humor,

~~well~~ ^{well} and scold and flounce in the harness. Jo would shut himself up in a room and pray for a revelation, when he came out he would claim he had received one and state it to her, and bring her around all night. Polly said Emma was a very fine woman. She helped pack

Jo's household goods after he left and sent them to the Ohio River. I heard Mrs. Betsy Gilett, say in our house in Kirtland before the Prophet Jo Smith left for Mo. that he practiced a pluralit of wives.

MRS. ALEXANDER'S STATEMENT.

My father, William Smith, and mother became Mormons in Bolton, New York, and moved to Kirtland, Ohio, in September, 1836. After Jo Smith, the Mormon prophet robbed us, I worked out at housework at twenty-five cents a week. My sister received fifty cents a week. We gave our wages to our parents. Father had broken his arm six weeks before leaving New York, and could not work. Mother had to work very hard; she had fourteen children. Polly Beswick, who weighed about 200 pounds, made her home with her sister, Mrs. John Tanner, who lived next house to ours and often called on us. She was of good disposition, very agreeable in conversation, and everybody liked her. She worked much of the time in Prophet Jo Smith's family. It was commonly reported Jo Smith said he had a revelation to lie with Vienna Jaques, who lived in his family. Polly told me that Emma, Joseph's wife, told her that Joseph would get up in the night and go to Vienna's bed. Polly said Emma would get out of humor, fret, and scold and flounce in the harness. Jo would shut himself up in a room and pray for a revelation, when he came out he would claim he had received one and state it to her, and bring her around all right. Polly said Emma was a very fine women. She helped pack Jo's household goods after he left and ship them to the Ohio River. I heard Mrs. Betsy Gilett say in our house in Kirtland, before the Prophet Jo Smith left for Missouri, that he practiced a plurality of wives. There was much talk among the old women about plurality of wives, and Jo Smith's revelation about Vienna Jaques. Nathan Tanner was a pologamist, but divorced three wives and kept the first, who was my sister.

I heard Sydney Rigdon lecture in Kirtland after he left the Mormons. He said many Mormons who knew their secrets and left them were followed and murdered; he said the spiritual wives who had children they did not want, would throw them in the hazel brush along the Mississippi River for the turkey buzzards to eat. He said he had seen a good many of their dead bodies in the bushes.

Mentor, Ohio.

Mrs. Nancy Alexander

USHS, "A.B. Deming Papers,"
PAM 9687; copies of pamphlets
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