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## SKETCH OF THE AUTO-BIOGRAPHY OF GEORGE ALBERT SMITH.

[Continued.]

SEPT. 10, 1832, I was baptized by Elder Joseph H. Wakefield, and confirmed by Elder Solomon Humphrey, in the presence of my father and mother, and many of our neighbors.

At the time of confirmation my mind was exceedingly calm and clear; but as I felt no powerful manifestation from the imposition of hands, I suffered the adversary to tempt me: it seemed as if a spirit came and said to me, "You have now committed the unpardonable sin, for you have been baptized without a change of heart." I was sorely tempted in this way many hours; but I soon overcame, and my mind was filled with light and peace.

After this, all my young companions commenced imposing upon me, to ascertain, as they said, whether I had any religion; and unless I would submit to imposition without resenting it, they considered me a hypocrite. I went to school part of the winter of 1832-3; all the large boys combined to abuse me. I was large of my age; boys three or four years older than myself, were of my size, and had always been able to handle me with ease. I endured their abuse until I could bear it no longer; and soon convinced them by physical demonstration that my strength had very much increased, and that I was able to master the school; after which I was treated with respect.

On the evening of the 29th March, 1833, my father attempted to preach in the Yellow School-house in Potsdam village; there were present a large assembly, including priests, magistrates and lawyers; but they got up such a riot that he was obliged to desist: after which an old lady got up and reproved them sharply for their disgraceful conduct. The leaders in this disturbance were professors of religion.

My father sold his farm, settled up his debts, and paid several unjust claims rather than stay and defend law suits. He fitted up two wagons, with a span of horses to each; in one of them he carried bro. Moses Bailey and family, and in the other his own family, which consisted of my father and mother, my sister Caroline, who was born June 6, 1820; my brother, John Lyman, who was born Nov. 17, 1828; my cousin, Clarissa Lyman, and myself. We were accompanied by Norman D. Brown and his father and mother, members of the church from Parishville. May 1, 1833, we started for Kirtland. On Friday, the 3rd, we arrived at Burr's Mills, Watertown, Jefferson Co., and stopped with Mr. Wm. Huntington to wait for Elder Joseph H. Wakefield and family to accompany us: while there my father preached twice.

On the 6th, we pursued our journey and camped in Ellisburgh. On the 7th, camped near Oswego, and pitched our tent for the first time. Our five covered wagons created much curiosity among the people, and we were frequently asked if we were afraid of the British, and were fleeing to the West: some told us we should die with the ague in the Michigan swamps.

On the 17th, we arrived at Silver Creek, Chautauqua Co., New York, and found a branch of the church, and stopped with Elder Alpheus Cutler, who was an old acquaintance of my mother: here I first met with Elder Amasa Lyman, the son of Roswell Lyman, my mother's cousin; and Elder Wm. F. Cahoon. We attended meetings with the brethren, and for the first time heard the gift of tongues. We travelled to Westfield, where there was a branch of the church; my father preached in the evening. I was so sleepy I could not keep awake; I went to the wagon, but was so sleepy that I could not get in to bed, although my bed was made there; but fell asleep by the wagon. While here one of bro. Brown's horses died, in consequence of which he began to doubt the work of the Lord; for, said he,

"If this was the work of the Lord, he would not suffer our horses to die when we are on the way to Zion."

Friday, May 25th, we arrived at Kirtland, Ohio, having travelled 500 miles. We were heartily welcomed by cousin Joseph; this was the first time I had ever seen him; he conducted us to his father's.

I was engaged during the summer and fall quarrying and hauling rock for the Kirtland Temple, attending masons and performing other duties about its walls. The first two loads of rock taken to the Temple ground, were hauled from Stanard's quarry, by Harvey Stanley and myself.

My father purchased a small farm of about 27 acres, two miles and a half from the Temple; and finished clearing about 10 acres during the winter and spring of 1834, and planted it with corn, &c.

In consequence of the persecution which raged against Joseph, and the constant threats to do him violence, it was found necessary to keep continual guard to prevent his being assassinated. During the fall and winter I took a part of this service, going two miles and a half to guard.

In Oct. 1833, my cousin, Jesse Johnson Smith, second son of my uncle Asahel, came to Kirtland, accompanied by his brother-in-law, Amos B. Fuller. They remained during the winter, and were baptized.

I was selected by President Joseph Smith to accompany him to Missouri. My father furnished me with a musket, generally known as a Queen's arm, a pair of pantaloons made of bed ticking, a pair of common cotton shirts, a straw hat, cloth coat and vest, a blanket, a pair of new boots, and an extra shirt and pair of pantaloons, which my mother packed in a knap-sack made of apron check.

On Sunday, May 4th, Joseph preached to the Saints in Kirtland, under the shade of the new school house, which was partially enclosed. Many of those who were to form the "camp of Zion" being present, he impressed upon them the necessity of being humble, exercising faith and patience, and living in obedience to the commandments of the Almighty, and not murmur at the dispensations of Providence. He bore testimony of the truth of the work which God had revealed through him, and promised the brethren, that if they would all live as they should before the Lord, keeping his commandments, and not like the Children of Israel murmur against the Lord and his servants, they should all safely return, and not one of them should fall upon the mission they were about to undertake; for if they were united and exercised faith, God would deliver them out of the hands of their enemies; but should they, like the Children of Israel, forget God and his promises, and treat lightly his commandments, he would visit them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

May 5th, 1834, I started with my brethren in the company called "Zion's Camp." I was large of my age; my eyes, which were always very weak, were unusually sore. I performed the journey to Missouri, and back to Kirtland, mostly on foot, in three months, about 2000 miles.

After my return to Kirtland I was attacked with the ague and fever, which made me an invalid until spring.

I was ordained into the first quorum of Seventies, in Kirtland, March 1st, 1835, by Joseph Smith, sen., Joseph Smith, jun., and Sidney Rigdon.

June 5.—I started on a mission in company with Lyman Smith. We traveled about two thousand miles on foot, without purse or scrip, through the eastern part of Ohio, the western part of Pennsylvania and New York; held about eighty meetings, baptized eight, and preached from house to house continually; returned on the 5th of Oct.

Went to school and studied grammar and history part of the winter, under the direction of Joseph. I was confined to my room by inflammatory rheumatism, which rendered me nearly helpless for several weeks.

I received my endowment in the Kirtland Temple in the spring of 1836, and thereafter went on a mission to the counties Cuyahoga, Medina, Wayne, Richland, and Knox, Ohio, traveling twelve hundred miles on foot. In July, I suffered much from inflammatory rheumatism in my knees, brought on by an attempt to work in a harvest field. I could walk but little for six weeks.

In the fall I commenced going to school in the Temple, and continued to do so about four months.

In the spring of 1837, Joseph sent me on a mission to the south. I preached through Portage, Columbiana, Carroll and Jefferson counties, Ohio, and about eight months in the counties of Tyler, Harrison and Monongahela in north western Virginia; met with much opposition, and from exposure while traveling in the mountains, wading creeks, sleeping cold, and incessant preaching, I suffered from inflammatory rheumatism, which again confined me for six weeks.

In the spring of 1838 I returned to Kirtland, having traveled two thousand five hundred miles, one half on foot, the other half on horseback, and accompanied my father and family to Missouri. I drove a horse team one thousand miles. I preached by the way every Sabbath, and frequently week days; our little camp attracted large congregations. We settled in Adam-ondi-Ahman, Daviess county.

I was ordained a high counselor by Joseph's direction on the 28th of June, 1838.

I was brought before a mob court, falsely accused, and bound over for misdemeanor, in \$1000 bonds, without being allowed to introduce my witnesses; my life was threatened many times during the session of the court.

In the fall I was sent on a mission to Tennessee and Kentucky, in company with Don Carlos Smith, and returned in the winter. We traveled fifteen hundred miles, one half by water, and the rest on foot. On our way home, being pursued by the mob, I came near perishing with cold, as we traveled two days and one night without stopping, facing a north west wind and storm. Don Carlos prevented me from freezing to death by keeping me awake. After a night's sleep, under the roof of a mobber, we traveled a day and night; we were lost on the prairie and Don Carlos came near perishing with cold. I found my father out of doors with frozen feet, the result of being driven with his family from Adam-ondi-Ahman, by the State authorities of Missouri. I visited Joseph, Hyrum and others in Liberty jail, in company with bro. Young and Kimball, and we were locked up with them for one hour. I removed my father and family to Quincy, and thence to Green Plains, distance two hundred and fifty miles.

I went to Far West, and, on the morning of the 26th of April, 1839, was ordained one of the Twelve Apostles, in place of Thomas B. Marsh, who had apostatized. I returned to Illinois, the journey being five hundred miles; moved my father to Nauvoo, assisted in taking care of the sick and laying hands on them until I was prostrated for several months. I accompanied the Quorum of the Twelve on a mission to England; started Sept. 21st; disease had impaired my health until I could scarcely walk. I suffered much from sickness on the way. I sailed from New York on the 9th of March, and arrived in England April 6th, 1840. I started from Nauvoo without money, and landed in England with a sovereign. I traveled and preached in the counties of Lancaster, Chester, Stafford, Hereford, Worcester and Gloucester, and accompanied Elders Kimball and Woodruff in establishing the church in London. My labors were crowned with success. I sailed from Liverpool on the 22nd of April, 1841, and arrived in Nauvoo on the 5th of July, having traveled on this mission 13,000 miles.

On the 25th I married Bathsheba W. Bigler, and moved to Zarahemla, Lee county, Iowa, near my father, where I built a log house. In the winter I moved to Nauvoo; Joseph gave me lot 4, in block 123. I built a frame house,

16 by 20, and drained and improved the lot, and made it one of the most pleasant in the city.

My son, George Albert, was born July 7, 1842.

In the fall of 1842 I went on a mission to the principal places in Illinois, preaching and allaying the prejudices that had been raised against President Joseph Smith by apostates and other enemies, traveling four hundred miles, one hundred on foot, and returned to Nauvoo Nov. 4. The winter was very severe, and I was confined to the house most of the time with bleeding at the lungs.

In the summer and fall of 1843 I traveled and preached through the Eastern States, attending conferences in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Massachusetts, and returned to Nauvoo, having traveled six thousand miles.

In the spring of 1844 I traveled twelve hundred miles, and preached and attended conferences through northern Illinois, Indiana and Michigan; returned to Nauvoo July 27th.

While in Nauvoo I was constantly attending councils and performing other duties at the call of President Joseph Smith. I was two years a member of the city council of Nauvoo, and one year an alderman. A short time before his death Joseph wrapt me in his arms and said, "I love you as I do my life," and his affections were surely reciprocated. I have used my utmost endeavors to counsel the Saints and keep them from being led off the track up to the present hour.

RINGS ROUND THE EARTH.—CURIOUS ASTRONOMICAL SPECULATIONS.—On Monday, the 12th, Professor Nichol, LL.D., delivered the third of a course of lectures on astronomy, at Manchester. The subject treated upon had reference chiefly to the rings of Saturn, and other analogous phenomena. He referred to an observation made in the introductory lecture, respecting there being a ring, or probably several rings, round the earth. What had hitherto been called the zodiacal light was only visible here in the form of a cone, but an American astronomer, who had gone to Japan and other favorable points to investigate the subject, found that the cone opened out and extended across the heavens from horizon to horizon, and that he had, by observation during the night, seen about three-fourths of the circle. This observer found that we had only been looking at the ring as we might do at a hoop held edgewise, thus making it assume a conical form.

The learned professor now proceeded to say that the theory previously held, that the zodiacal light proceeded from a nebulous ring round the sun, was thought to be premature, and that the appearance came from a great nebulous ring surrounding the earth. He explained, by diagram, that we should see the rays from this ring reflected more strongly from our horizon than at its points higher up in the heavens. No ring round the sun could explain this appearance, but one round the earth would entirely. They were forced also to the conclusion that it was not one ring only, but perhaps several. Its distance was about 100,000 miles; its breadth 52,000; its depth was not yet known; the mass of matter in it must be enormous, and no doubt it was fulfilling some important function in regard to the earth and the solar system.

The composition of Saturn's ring was then discussed, and an account given of the changes which had been noticed in them by various observers. From the dynamical conclusions of Laplace, combined with the changes ascertained, the lecturer drew the inference that the rings have no coherence; that they are neither vapor nor fluid; and gave as a theory of their constitution, that they are composed of millions of asteroids, circulating round the planet; the bright parts being where they are most thickly strewn, and the dark lines the absence of them. There was a faint slaty colored ring seen within the others, and this appeared to be gradually approaching the planet. It had approached at the rate of fifty miles a year; latterly, at about eighty miles a year, and if it increased to one hundred miles a year, it would reach the planet itself in 180 years.—[European Times.]

NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND.—A wretch of a husband, coming home at one in the morning, found his angel wife sitting up reading an old novel. With a coarseness almost amounting to cruelty, he took the book from her hand and placed before her a pair of child's socks which happened to have holes in them, disgustingly observing, "If you will fatigue yourself, my love, with any work at such an hour, I would suggest that it is never too late to mend."