

A number of young men with myself went to see Martin Harris.  
On the way some of them said, to Bro. Jensen, "You are the oldest, you ask him  
some questions." When we got there, I did ask him.

"Brother Harris, do you believe the Book of Mormon is true?"

He said, "No, I do not believe it, knowledge supersedes belief.  
I know it is true. The angel showed me the plates and I heard the voice of  
God declare they were translated correctly."

He was very earnest and sincere in his testimony.

Thomas Godfrey

John E. Godfrey

John Buttars

Charles Shumway

Alma L. Jensen

They are old men now, but they have never forgotten the testimony of Martin Harris  
with the shaking hand of age they sign this statement.

Alma L. Jensen

John Buttars Thomas Godfrey

John E. Godfrey

Charles Shumway

Received from

Cora P. Godfrey

Clarkston,  
Utah

This is a copy of a  
letter I received from  
Cora P. Godfrey in 1930.

Anna Johnson

*Sherri Ann Bell McArthur's Great Great Great Grandmother on her Mother's side* JACOB GATES *Brother of Lucinda Gates Bingham*

Jacob Gates embraced the Gospel in his early manhood, being baptized by Elder Orson Pratt when he was twenty-two years of age. From then on to the day of his death, April 14, 1892, he was engaged in the work of the Church.

He passed through the persecutions of the Saints in Missouri and Illinois, and crossed the plains in the fall of 1847. He shared in the rugged life and hardship of the pioneers of Utah. During his life, Elder Gates filled several missions for the Church in the United States, and two in Europe. It was while en route on his first mission to England, that he visited Oliver Cowdery, as related by his son as follows:

"My father, Jacob Gates, while on his way to England, in 1849, stopped at the town of Richmond, where lived at that time Oliver Cowdery. Hearing that Oliver was in poor health, and wishing to renew old acquaintance, as they had been friends in earlier days, father called on him at his home. Their conversation during the visit drifted to early Church history, and to their mutual experiences during the troublous times in Missouri and Illinois. Finally, father put this question to him: 'Oliver,' said he, 'I want you to tell me the whole truth about your testimony concerning the Book of Mormon -- the testimony set forth to the world over your signature, and found in the front of that book. Was your testimony based on a dream, was it the imagination of your mind, was it an illusion, a myth? Tell me truthfully.'

"To question him thus seemed to touch Oliver very deeply. He answered not a word, but arose from his easy chair, went to the book case, took down a Book of Mormon of the first edition, turned to the testimony of the Three Witnesses, and read in the most solemn manner the words to which he had subscribed his name, nearly twenty years before. Facing my father, he said:

"'Jacob, I want you to remember what I say to you. I am a dying man, and what would it profit me to tell you a lie? I know,' said he, 'that this Book of Mormon was translated by the gift and power of God. My eyes saw, my ears heard, and my understanding was touched, and I know whereof I testified is true. It was no dream, no vain imagination of the mind -- it was real.'

"Then father asked this question: 'If all that you tell me is true, why did you leave the Church?' Oliver made only this explanation; said he: 'When I left the Church, I felt wicked. I felt like shedding blood, but I have got over all that now.'"

State of Utah )  
County of Salt Lake ) ss

Jacob P. Gates, of Salt Lake City, Utah, being first duly sworn, deposes and says, that he is a citizen of the United States, of the age of fifty seven years, and that he is the son of Jacob Gates, who, prior to his death, related to affiant a conversation which he had with Oliver Cowdery, at the town of Richmond, State of Missouri, and that the above and foregoing is a true and correct statement of said conversation as given to him by his father.

Jacob B. Gates

"Testimony of Martin Harris, a Witness of the Book of Mormon."

It was in Clarkstown, Utah, July 1875.

"Early in the morning a thought came to my mind, that I would go and see how Brother Harris was. It was only three blocks from my home. I heard he was not feeling well, and people came from other towns to see Brother Harris, and hear his testimony of the Book of Mormon. But when I arrived, there were two men present. Brother Harris lay on his bed leaning on his elbow. I said, "How are you Brother Harris?" He answered slowly, "Pretty well."

We came to hear your testimony on the Book of Mormon. "Yes, he said in a loud voice, as he sat up in bed, "I wish that I could speak loud enough that the whole world could hear my testimony. Brother stand over so I can see you." Then he stretched out his hand and said, "Brother I believe there is an angel here to hear what I shall tell you, and you shall never forget what I shall say. The Prophet and Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmore and myself went into a little grove to pray, to obtain a promise that we should behold it with our own eyes. That we could testify of it to the world. We prayed two or three times, and at length the angel stood before Oliver and David, and showed them the plates. But, behold, I had gone by myself to pray and in my desperation I asked the Prophet to kneel down with me, and pray for me, that I may also see the plates. We did so and immediately the Angel stood before me and said, "Look," and when I glanced at him I fell; but I stood on my feet and saw the Angel turn the golden leaves over, and I said, It is enough, my Lord and my God!" Then I heard the voice of God say, "The book is true," and translated correctly." Brother Harris then turned himself as though he had no more to say; we made ready to go. He spoke again and said, "I will tell you a wonderful thing that happened after Joseph had found the plates. Three of us took some tools to go to the hill and hunt for some more boxes, of gold or something, and indeed we found a stone box. We got excited about it and dug quite carefully around it, and we were ready to take it up, but behold by some unseen power, it slipped back into the hill. We stood there and looked at it, and one of us took a crow bar and tried to drive it through the lid to hold it, but it glanced and broke one corner off the box. Some time that box will be found, and you will see the corner broken off, and then you will know that I have told the truth. Again Brother as sure as you are standing here and see me, just so sure did I see the Angel with the golden plates, in his hand; and he showed them to me. I have promised that I will bear witness of this truth, both here and hereafter." His lips trembled and tears came to his eyes. I should like to have asked a question, but I failed to do so. But I refrained myself and shook hands and thanked him and left.

"When I think of the day I stood before Martin Harris, and saw him stretch forth his hand and raise his voice and bear his testimony the feeling that thrilled my whole being, I can never forget nor can I express the joy that filled my soul. This is a true statement!

"Signed Ole A. Jensen."

The two other brethren are John Godfrey and James Keep."

Received from Leah Ravsten-- Clarkston, Utah.

This is a copy of a letter  
I received from Leah Ravsten  
in the year 1930.

Anna Johnson

Leah Ravsten  
Clarkston,  
Utah