

Smithfield Feb 28th 1930

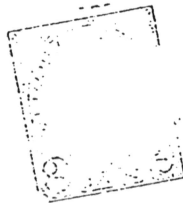
Mr Vern C. Poulter,

My Dear Brother Poulter,

I received your kind and welcome letter all right, and was more than pleased to hear from you. It always gives me great joy to have the privilege of talking of my acquaintance with Martin Harris, one of the Three Witnesses to the authenticity of the Book of Mormon. I have spoken in a number of wards in Cache Valley lately, in fact it is as follows:

This is to certify that I William Selkington was born in Bolton, Lancashire, England, on the 13th day of November 1866, and emigrated to Smithfield Utah, with my parents in latter part of September 1874, when thirteen years of age. I was soon hired out to work for a man named Martin Harris Jr. who was living in Smithfield, Utah. I soon found out that Martin Harris, Senior, one of the Three Witnesses of the

William Selkington
Smithfield Utah



Elder, Vern C. Poulter
South Minnesota 3044 Ellick ave So
Minneapolis
Minnesota,

2 Authenticity of the Book of Mormon was living
in the same house with his Wife and Family,
thus it became my good fortune to behold and have
the privilege of conversing with this man who
had been favored of God, to the extent of being
privileged to be chosen as one of the three men
that stood in the presence of an Angel of God,
who held in his hands the Golden Plates that Joseph
Smith received from the Angel Moroni, which
contained the contents of what is now called the
Book of Mormon of the Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter Day Saints. I took great pleasure in listening
to him relate the part he took in the early rise
of the Church, how he stood in the presence of the
Angel of the Lord, and after the Angel ascended
into Heaven, he saw the Heavens open and heard the
voice of God declare that every thing was correct
that the Angel had told them, and that the Book of
Mormon was translated correctly. I lived with him
nearly one year prior to his death, which took place

3 in Clarkston, Cache County, Utah, on the
10th day of July 1875, 92 years of age.
I testify to the World, that I held up his right
arm while he bore his dying Testimony, that he
with the Prophet Joseph Smith did stand in the
presence of an Angel of God, while he held the
Gold Plates in his hands, and turned the leaves over
one by one, and that he saw the Engravings on the
Plates, he also saw the Urin and Thummim, the
Breast Plate, and the Sword of Laban, and after the
Angel ascended into Heaven, the Heavens were
opened and he heard the voice of God declare that
all that the Angel had told him was verily true
and that the Book of Mormon which contains the
Everlasting Gospel was translated correctly.
while I held his right arm up he also bore his
Testimony to the whole World, and I thought he could
see the whole World. He died the next day, the 10th day
of July 1875. I wish I was with you to talk to
the people face to face, as I can only give you a

A little in this letter of what he told me
pertaining to the early rise of the Church, as I
talked to him hundreds of times, and he would
always tell me that he wanted me to tell the people
what he had told me, after he was dead; he would
raise his right hand up, and tell me he was telling
me the truth. I have a powerful Testimony of
the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
If I had a voice strong enough, and could stand
on a hill high enough, I would like to bear my
Testimony to the whole World, because I know by
the Spirit of God that that man told me the truth.
I went to his funeral and helped to fill in the
grave. I think I know more about Martin Harris
than any living person, as I am the only one of the
old stock that is alive today. I had the privilege of
preaching the funeral sermon on the last of the
old Harris stock about six weeks ago. This was the
last Harris that knew anything about Grandpa
Harris, and the older I get the more the Spirit whispers.

To my Spirit and prompts me to tell the
people what that man of God told me.
Brother Poulter, you are at liberty to use this
letter any where you want to, any place, to get it before
the people, and if anyone wishes any more
information I will only be so pleased to give it
to them.

I received a nice letter from a Lady Missionary
who is laboring in the State of New York asking
for the same information that I am sending to you.
I accordingly wrote her a nice letter, which I
am satisfied she will appreciate, and perchance
be a help to her.

Now Brother Poulter, I will stop my rambling remarks
by asking the Lord to Bless you, and all that are
laboring for the spread of truth and righteousness,
and hope that you will be rewarded by bringing in
many honest hearted people to the fold of Christ.
Your Brother in the Gospel of Christ
William Pilkington, Smithfield, Utah