MANUSCRIPT TRANSCRIPT

Maria L. (Cowdery) Johnson (South West City, Missouri) to David Whitmer, Richmond, Missouri, 14th [?] January 1887, P10, f16, RLDS Library-Archives, transcribed 5 February 1992.

South West City, McDonald Co. Mo. Jan. 1[?]4th 1887

Dear Uncle David

The Dr. got home yesterday- between 1 & 2 O clock- felt very tired- but enjoyed his visit to Richmond so much- brought us out presents of "Wooden ware" and we are all much pleased with them.

[page 2] Hannah thinks her Butter Padle [sic] & fork are the nicest of any-but I don't think they are any better than the rest. We are so proud of them—show them to all our Friends & Neighbors that come in to see us. You ask did we consent to Give the Seer Stone to Phineas Young- He came in to Grandfathers House while my Father lay dead- and asked my Mother to let him see this stone- she got it- & let him take it when he kept it she felt so bad and troubled at the time did not think what we were about- My Mother says she can't remember whether he asked her to give it to him or not- I do not remember that he asked to keep it-

[page 3] but do not think he did only to see it- and then kept it. I remember his coming in and asking to see this stone- as well as though it were only yesterday- but do not recollect that my Mother gave it to him

[page 4] [to] keep- we have no papers of my Father in relation to church matterswe once had a great many letters & papers- but in our many moves that we have had to make finally destroyed them all. I remember reading a great many of W. W. Phelps letters but none of Joseph Smiths We have an old copy of the "Book of Commandments" but no copies of "the Millennial Star." I wish now that we had kept those of Letters and papers- but the old green chest we used to keep them in got so old and worn out- and came all to pieces that we burned them all up.

[page 5] Tell Josie [?] the Dr. is mistaken about my ever having received the picture of her Baby- I[t] did not come. Len[?] Bisbee wrote to me that she had sent one but I forgot to mention in my answer to Len[?] that I did not get it. Hope she will send another one as I should be much pleased to get it. I believe I have answered all the questions that was[?] asked Hope to hear from you all before long.

[page 6] I bring my letter to a close with Love and kind regards to all the relations. We often feel lonely so far away from all- but like this climate so much better than up Home. With love & remain as ever M. L. Johnson

[page 7 fragment] P.S. The Dr. says he noticed such a difference between down here and up home. The Heat is up as high as in April And just a green as can be in past[?] had only a day or two of cold weather this winter the ground is not frozen at all. hope to see some of you down to see us before long- [we are always?] so glad to have any of the Kin come that can come- Love to all.

M. L. Johnson

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