

25.

MARTIN HARRIS INTERVIEW WITH  
ALMA L. JENSEN, 4 JULY 1875

Alma L. Jensen, Statement, 1 June 1936, Dayton, Idaho, typescript, Archives, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

**EDITORIAL NOTE**

Alma Larsen Jensen (1864-?), son of Ole A. and Annie Marie (Larsen) Jensen, was born at Mendon, Cache County, Utah. On his eleventh birthday, 4 July 1875, he and two other boys visited Martin Harris and heard his testimony of the Book of Mormon. In July 1909, Jensen began to serve as bishop of the Dayton Ward in Franklin County, Idaho (Jensen 1971, 3:425). For Jensen's father's statement about his interview with Harris, see III.F.24, MARTIN HARRIS INTERVIEW WITH OLE A. JENSEN, JUL 1875.

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In the summer of 1875, my father, Ole A. Jensen, then a counselor to Bishop Jardine<sup>1</sup> of Clarkston, Utah, told me that a man by the name of Martin Harris was living in Clarkston, Utah, and that the said Martin Harris was one of the witnesses of the Book of Mormon, and that he had seen and heard an angel from God testify to the truth of the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. Being of an inquisitive nature, I determined to learn for myself as to what the testimony of Martin Harris would be. I asked two of my chums, James Baker<sup>2</sup> and Isaac Stokes<sup>3</sup> to go with me to see Martin Harris. We called on him July 4, 1875, this being on my 11th birthday. Thomas Godfrey<sup>4</sup> introduced us to Mr. Harris who was living at the home of William Carbine.<sup>5</sup>

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1. John Jardine (1830-1903) did not become bishop of the Clarkston Ward until May 1877 (Jensen 1971, 3:424-25).

2. Probably James S. Baker, age twenty-four, listed in the 1880 census of Richmond, Cache County, Utah, as a farmer (1880:244).

3. Perhaps Isaac Hale Stokes, son of Henry Stokes, born in Mendon, Cache County, Utah, in 1864 (Black 1987, s.v., "Henry Stokes").

4. On Thomas Godfrey (1846-1933/34), see introduction to III.F.22, MARTIN HARRIS INTERVIEW WITH THOMAS GODFREY, MAY 1875.

5. Probably William V. Carbine, age forty-four, listed in the 1880 census of Clarkston, Cache County, Utah, as a farmer from New York

MARTIN HARRIS COLLECTION

In introducing us, Mr. Godfrey said, "Brother Harris, I have brought these young men to hear your statement as to whether or not you believe the Book of Mormon to be true." His face was turned to the wall. He turned and faced us and said, "Now I don't believe, but I know it to be true, for with these eyes I saw the angel and with these ears (pointing to them) I heard him say it was a true and correct record of an ancient people that dwelt upon this the American continent, and I hereby testify to you young men that it is true."

I had such a feeling come over me that I shall never forget. I was convinced he spoke the truth.

This statement is made by me of my own free will and choice this 1st day of June, 1936.

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(1880:223). This was evidently the same William Van Ordin Carbine born in 1835 at Cairo, Greene County, New York (*Genealogical Surveys of L.D.S. Members*, 1924-29, 5:118-19).