

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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1842 Autograph Testimonial Letter for Sarah Andrews of Trenton, N.J. testifying to her fitness as a mother in her attempt to regain her children from her husband, a Mormon, who apparently had kidnapped them and taken them to Nauvoo

Trenton: 1842

\$800

To Whom it may Concern

We the undersigned have been personally acquainted with the Hon^{ble} Mrs Sarah Andrews for fifteen years past and know her to be a woman of good Character and for several years past a respectable Member of the Methodist Church in this City. She has three Children and has proved herself to be an affectionate and most devoted Mother having for the past two years as well as at other periods to maintain herself and children entirely by her industry without the aid of her husband who has for some three years past professed to be a Mormon and against the will and consent of his wife and children determined to remove them to the Mormon Settlement in the west. The Andrews left Philadelphia two years since and removed to Trenton in order to secure her children from being dragged from her to said settlement. Now this is to certify that Mrs Andrews was maintaining her family comfortably and sending her children to school and in every way bringing up her family in a proper way. When the said husband Chester Andrews came to Trenton and watched his opportunity and in a clandestine manner stole away her two boys, now she does not complain of his taking away the elder son who she supposes was willing to accompany his father but he has yielded with Benjamin Jone from her her beloved youngest boy Edward against his will. She feels as a Mother should feel deeply wounded and wants

give the words of the psalmist you have seen me believe the boy is most affectionately fond of his Mother and the separation from her having a long Journey and separation will be of serious moment to his health we believe that if he is restored to her he will be properly brought up and if death will be properly taken care of you which cannot be the case if he remains with a Father who has always acted a most unnatural part toward his Family and in this case has only taken this course to wound and injure an unoffending wife the undersigned want therefore to recommend to whom this letter may be shown to afford his best aid at this juncture to preserve one of a parent that of a parent there for a Child

Joseph A. Yard
B.T. Howell
Jos. Cunningham
W.P. Hunt

Folio. Autograph Letter Signed by several people (B.T. Howell, Jos. Cunningham, W.P. Hunt, Joseph A. Yard [or Gard]) dated June 2nd, 1842 in favor of Mrs. Sarah Andrews, testifying to her fitness as a mother and provider: "... having for the past two years as well as at other periods to maintain her children and herself entirely by her industry without the aid of her husband who has for some three years past professed to be a Mormon and against the will and consent of his wife and children determined to remove them to the Mormon settlement in the west. Mrs. Andrews left Phila'd. two years since and removed to Trenton in order to secure her children from being dragged from her to said settlement... When the said husband Chester Andrews came to and watched his opportunity and in a clandestine manner stole away her two boys."

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his father but he has fled with boldness
from her.

Chester Andrews was apparently ordained an elder in 1840 with Joseph Smith presiding at the first general conference to be held in Philadelphia. A Chester Andrews apparently made his way to Utah in 1853, whether with his sons or not we haven't determined. A very interesting letter testimonial letter, and a reasonably early attempt to assert the rights of women to control their children. [BTC#400144]