Rhodes, Emily

story told by:

Stevenson, Charmane Cummings

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Fourth Period English

Stevenson, Charmian Cummings. 5 April 1943. Emery, Utah. Personal Interview. Emery, Utah, 6 April 1995.

This is the story of my great-grandmother on my mothers mothers side, Emily Kleshes. It's about how she became a member of the Mormon church. The story is told exactly how my mother told it. Emily was born and raised somewhere in Germany. She gave up everything for what she knew was true

Emily was walking down the street enjoying herself when she heard some beautiful music. She wondered where it came from and decided to follow to where the sound was coming from. She turned a corner and saw two nicely dressed men. They had an English accent, she knew because her brother was taking private English lessons.

Emily went up to the men and started to talk with them, they gave her a book and told her to find out about their church for herself. What she felt was more than curiosity.

She knew that the two men were Mormon missionaries. Her parents hated Mormons and thought Mormons were heathens. Emily just hoped that they wouldn't find out that she was secretly reading The Book Of Mormon, she had no idea what they would do if they ever did.

Then one day they found the book accidently left on her bed. That night they burned the book in front of her and told her that if they ever found her reading that book again that they would disown her and that she would not have her inheritance, which was a lot.

Emily knew she had to finish that book, she wanted to know if the Nephites really would be wiped off the face of the earth like it had been prophesied. So Emily managed to get her hands on another Book Of Mormon.

When she finished it she returned it to the missionaries that

She first met and had a couple of secret meetings with them. Emily knew that the Mormon church was true and then was baptized by another set of missionaries.

About a month after she was baptized she felt that it was time to make a living for herself. She made the preparations to leave for the United States on a boat.

She thought of just leaving in the middle of the night and never telling them, but decided that her parents needed to know what she was doing. I guess she hoped that she just might be able to ~~convert~~ make them ~~understand.~~ Early the next morning she packed and set her stuff by the door. When she heard parents get up, she bared her testimony for the first time and told them that she was baptized in the Mormon church. As Emily expected her parents yelled at her and even though they tried to convince her to think the way they do, they couldn't and did what they threatened to do. The last they saw of her was her running out the door in tears.

Emily arrived in America feeling a lot better than she had felt for a long time. Emily didn't know it, but a man was watching her very closely as she was coming off the ship. He had been having dreams of her and knew the place where she was in his dreams. He traveled across the country from his knew home in Utah to the place of his birth. The thing he was worried about was that she wasn't Mormon. When Emily got off the boat he came to her and introduced himself, they ended up getting married soon after.