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Title: **Book-67**
Provenance: **Courtesy of Antone Clark Files, also located at Farmington Museum**

Category: **Volume**
Person:
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Biography of Hyrum Don Carlos Clark by Owen Morrell Clark

Hearing One of the Three Witnesses Bear Testimony

One of Ezra Thompson Clark's sons was among the last members of the church to hear David Whitmer bear testimony about seeing the golden plates and an angel before Whitmer passed away.

The visit of Hyrum Don Carlos Clark, sixth child of Ezra Thompson and Mary Stevenson Clark, to the Book of Mormon witness is written by Ezra's brother-in-law, Edward Stevenson. Stevenson is the figure most commonly linked with the three witnesses of the Book of Mormon following the falling away from the church of all three.

In a letter written to John Taylor on Jan. 7, 1878, Bro. Stevenson talks of visiting Whitmer outside of his Richmond, Missouri home. Stevenson made 17 trips across the country in his lifetime and often tried to visit at least one of the three witnesses during each of those treks, according to historian J. Grant Stevenson.

"Dear Brother:

Image #1Hyrum Don Carlos ClarkI am happy to say that Brother Clark and myself arrived at this place December 28th, 1877, in safety and in good health....we found David Whitmer, the only surviving one of the Three Witnesses of the Book of Mormon. With the exception of rhumatism he seems to enjoy health, possessing fair and prominent features. After being kindly received we held four hours conversation, and met again, and spent four hours more in the evening; the next day Sabbath, two hours more. We found him quite communicative and cheerful, and seemed pleased to receive us. After some conversation he showed us the original manuscript copy of the Book of Mormon written by Martin Harris, David Whitmer, Emma Smith and Christian Whitmer, it was about two inches thick, of foolscop and clean and well preserved. It feel into his hands through the death of Oliver Cowdery, who died and was buried north of Richmond where lie the remains of Peter Whitmer and his wife— both are father and mother of David Whitmer."1

HyD (Hi—Dee), as he was known to his family, was headed east to Tennessee to serve a mission when he accompanied his uncle to the Whitmer home. Hyrum's son, Heber,

JH Jan. 7, 1878, pp 2-3.1

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