

WOMAN PLEADS IN VAIN FOR HUSBAND TO QUIT SANDFORD

Mrs. Whittaker Freed,
Weeps and Tries to Take
Him From Shiloh.

TELLS ABOUT LIFE OF HOLY GHOSTERS

Describes Privations She Endured
and Death of One of Children
From Starvation.

Boston Journal Special Wire.

Auburn, Me., June 8.—Freed from the Holy Ghost and Us Society and from the restraint of her husband, A. A. Whittaker, who it is alleged through the influence of the Rev. Frank W. Sandford kept her a prisoner on the yacht Kingdom, Mrs. Florence N. Whittaker, and her four children, Edna 16, Joshua 12, Daniel 10 and Israel 8, are tonight speeding on their way to Presque Isle, where they will make their home with Rufus W. Whittaker, a brother-in-law, and Mr. Whittakers' parents.

Before Mrs. Whittaker left for her new home she met her husband in the corridor of the court house, where an affecting scene was enacted. Her eyes filled with tears and she urged him to go with her and leave Shiloh and Sandford forever. He shook his head and walked away.

Hearing on the writ of habeas corpus was held before Justice A. R. Savage of the Supreme Judicial Court in the attorney's room in the court house in Auburn late this afternoon. Attorney James A. Connolan of Portland conducted the case for Mrs. Whittaker. Only three witnesses were heard and the hearing lasted not more than half an hour. Justice Savage told Attorney Connolan it would not be necessary to go at length into the details of the case, and Mrs. Whittaker was called to tell her story.

Tells of Her Experience.

The story Mrs. Whittaker told in a low, dispassionate voice, was pitiful in the extreme. The hunger, privation, and the death of one of her children, from starvation, were sketched with Hugoesque horror of detail.

She told of Sandford's first appearance at the happy home of herself and her husband, on a farm near Durham, in Aroostook county, and of her husband's conversion to Sandfordism, and his determination to follow Sandford to Shiloh.

"I did not wish to disobey him and so we went," she said. She told of their arrival at Shiloh, where Sandford's rule "is absolute, and where all the converts give all they have, in the way of worldly goods, to Sandford. Even though her husband was made one of the 'elect,' they suffered privation.

No one was allowed to sell even the produce of their farms. All was turned into the common fund. Two meals a day, one in the morning, the other in the evening, were served. The food was scant and simple, sometimes a whole meal consisting of merely a plate of thin soup.

Cambridge Man Helps.

Of social life there was none. Infringements of any of the many rules brought swift and terrible punishment—

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MRS. WHITTAKER IS FREED FROM THE HOLY GHOSTERS

Woman Who Claims She Was Held Prisoner on the Rev.
Frank W. Sandford's Yacht Released by Court
and Goes to New Home.

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terrible, not because it was physical, but because it was a refined "third degreelam," in which Sandford and his elders took part.

There was no medical attendance. She saw her children growing blind, because their eyes were not treated for the disease hunger and ill nourishment had wrought in their little frames.

To ask for food was to court the reproof that only the "carnal spirit needed food." Elder Gleason, so she said, stood outside the door in which her suffering children lay, and said he would not buy food "to feed their carnality on."

Five years ago the trip to Jerusalem to found a colony was undertaken. The Whittakers went along. In Palestine the baby became sick.

"I had no food and could get none," Mrs. Whittaker said. "I saw the little one grow thinner and thinner every day until it died."

Life in the colony "under the walls of Jerusalem" was described as even worse than in Shiloh. Then Sandford went on his tour around the world, taking Whittaker with him, and Mrs. Whittaker and her babes were left alone.

She and her daughter decided they would go away. The colony, learning of their determination, told them they were damned and forced them out, telling them to go to Jaffa and pray for forgiveness.

Ejected From Colony.

She told of her experience in Jaffa and of how she was ejected from the colony at that place. Later she received aid through the American consul and finally received money from relatives in Maine to pay her passage home.

It was as that time Sandford induced her to board his yacht Kingdom, agreeing to give her free passage home and her liberty as soon as she arrived in Maine. Mrs. Whittaker said Sandford did not keep his promise, and that after arriving in Portland harbor she was kept a prisoner on the Kingdom for thirty days, and until rescued by friends through a habeas corpus process. She said she had not been in sympathy with Sandford and his work for two years, but was unable to get away.

When asked by the court what her plans were, she said she was capable

of earning a good living and providing a comfortable home for her children.

CAMBRIDGE MAN HELPS.

Nathan H. Harriman of Cambridge, Mass., a former Shilohite, and who has been active in securing Mrs. Whittaker's release, testified that he was well acquainted with both Mr. and Mrs. Whittaker, and knew better than anyone else the terrible plight she had been in for the past two years.

"I have been working to secure for herself and children their freedom, and now I shall be glad to do anything I can to give them a new start in life."

Rufus Whittaker, of Presque Isle, her brother-in-law, and a former Shilohite, said both his home and his father's home were open to Mrs. Whittaker and her children.

"We are well-to-do, and I can assure the court my brother's wife and children will be given a good home."

Without further delay Justice Savage issued the following order:

STATE OF MAINE.

S. J. Court (in vacation):

Auburn, June 8, 1910.

After hearing, it is ordered that the within named Florence Whittaker be discharged from the restraint alleged in the petition and be allowed to go at liberty. And that the children, Edna, Joshua, Daniel and Israel Whittaker, be committed to the care and custody of the mother, Florence Whittaker.

A. R. SAVAGE, Justice S. J. Court.

It was expected the hearing would be held in the general court room, which was filled with spectators, including Elder George Higgins and A. A. Whittaker, husband of the complainant, who came from Shiloh to witness the proceedings.

Spectators Disappointed.

Not until the hearing was over and the decree issued were they informed of what had been done. Other spectators were disappointed in not hearing the case.

A. A. Whittaker said: "I had supposed the hearing was to be public. So far as I know my wife had no grounds for her complaint. She was well treated on board the Kingdom, and as her husband I did only what I thought was right."

Mr. Whittaker refused to make any statement regarding his future plans, before he, in company with Elder Higgins, left for Shiloh.