

Charles Bird Historical Excerpt

Ila Peck submitted the following rather humorous glimpse of history around the time of Charles Birds conversion taken from US/CAN 974.778 H2c 1836-1892, "A History of the Valley and County of Chemung - From "The Closing Years of the Eighteenth Century" by Ausburn Towner, p. 120.

"A "wool-carding machine" was connected with the flouring-mill, an instrument little known these days, but very useful and important then, when the "women folk" spun and wove so much cloth for home consumption. The machine was operated by one by the name of Charley Bird, who was a curious combination of a man. He became afflicted with the Mormon dispensation that about that time began to raise its head so that it could be seen, and he joined the new religion, emigrating with its adherents into Ohio and then to Illinois. He took with him into the "promised land" three Misses Campbell, who kept a millinery shop where Greener's piano manufactory is now located. Whether they became "birds" all together or waited for their wings until they reached the Mormon heaven doth not appear."

Thanks, Ila, for this humorous glimpse into history and some added insight into our ancestor.