

# Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Reunion

Conference Center Little Theater

Scholarship presentations and Emma Movie – Salt Lake City, Utah

August 3, 2018

By Frances Orton

Friday, August 3, we were blessed to have additional registration time in the lobby of the Little Theater before the Scholarship Presentations and Emma Movie. Dan & Kris Patrick as well as Don & Laura Blanchard handled continued registrations and handing out left over printed newsletters and materials.

AT 9:00 am, Daniel Adams began our meeting with the scholarship presentations.



Daniel began saying, “Nephi had this incredible vision where the angel shows to him the history of the earth. It is all about this covenant. God wants his children to come back as families and live with him. The incredible blessings and the protection that comes from that covenant. This whole vision that Nephi sees is his family eventually abandoning the covenant and the destruction and devastation that occurs as a result.

We can’t afford to let that happen to our own families. We see this in a personal level with our own families. We see this in a geopolitical level, literally, with the nations of the earth. When we abandon our family and we abandon our covenant and we abandon God then we have no protection and not security.

There is a great video called, Learning from Our Grandparents’ Pattern. It talks about how Joseph Smith and Lucy Mack Smith set up their family. It is a beautiful short video and I encourage everyone to go onto [josephsmithsr.org](http://josephsmithsr.org) and take advantage of the resources we have available there. We are a great family.

I am starting with the scholarship application. We talked about the purpose of the scholarship program last night. I expect we will expand the scholarship program and you have a very high chance with your youth of winning a scholarship from the Joseph Smith Sr. family. I think that is a cool thing to have on your resume and to look forward to.

The purpose of these scholarships is so that students can look at a video and learn about it and share it with their friends. We want it to be engaging and we want it to be fun and interesting.

We had a promo video that explained the scholarship. Daniel asked the crowd to show by raise of hands how who saw the promo video. There were not very many hands and Daniel said, “That is terrible. We really need to work on that.”

Daniel continued, “Now everyone is going to see that promo video because we are going to show it to you.” He then had Bethany Crowther come up to the stand with him and thanked her for all the work involved with putting the promo video together. The group showed their appreciation with applause.



Daniel Adams thanking his niece Bethany Crowther

After the promo video was shown we saw two of the entries for the scholarship. The third winning entry was an essay.

We have three scholarship winners. One of them is here today. His name is Trevor Redd Smith. He won the grand prize for 2018.

Daniel had Trevor come to the front and tell everyone how old he was. He said he was 21. When asked where he was attending school and where the scholarship money would be used he replied with Brigham Young University Provo.

Daniel also asked Trevor what inspired him to make the video. Trevor said, "That is a good question. I was in New York City on a study abroad others student from BYU and we visited Palmyra. The video explains it. I was surprised by how familiar the setting felt and I realized how important my heritage is to me.

Trevor Redd Smith's video was shown to the family.



The first Joseph Smith Sr and Lucy Mack Smith Scholarship First Place Winner – Trevor Redd Smith



Trevor Redd Smith – First Place Winner

Daniel called Trevor back up and said that there is one thing associated with a scholarship and that's the money. Daniel said, "We would like to award you with a check. Trevor can you tell me who signed this check? Trevor replied, "It is signed by M. Russell Ballard." Daniel then jokingly suggested after stating how cool that was that, "I wouldn't cash it."

Our second and third place awards were not able to attend. Due to time we will show the second place video by Brooke Harris Cheney and her husband Ryan who put together a rap video – Smithilton.

Third place was an essay by Julina Emily Bouck.

So, you can do an essay or a work of art but you also need to present a video to describe your work.

We want to thank all those who participated in the scholarship contest and we look forward to next year.

The time was turned over to Michael Kennedy to announce more information on the movie and upcoming projects.

Yesterday I announced that I would have exciting news. At least I hope it is exciting. We are working on a video on the First Vision that will contain new information that the public in general does not necessarily know. We are

excited to put this work together that will explain the circumstances before Joseph walked into those woods. It will include some great background information.

In addition to that we have a film that will be released at that time on the making of the Book of Mormon. You may not be aware and this is a little teaser, there are some strong similarities to the production of the Book of Mormon as the production of the Bible. We are going to show some comparisons that the Lord gave between those events. These are to build excitement for the show in Palmyra.



Michael Kennedy

“How many of you watched the Saratov Approach or Freetown? Quite a few of you. I have the director of those movie here with us. We are doing a partnering relationship with him to produce a movie that will be released in theaters about Liberty Jail. That director is with us today and I want to turn some time over to Garrett Batty.”



Garrett Batty

Garrett said, “I am grateful for the opportunity to be here. I want to take a minute to tell you briefly about the movie that Mike and I are working on together. It is never too early to start spreading the word.”

Garrett continued, “Our film is called Out of Liberty. I want to read a synopsis: In spring of 1839 a mob of armed men assembled outside the stone jailhouse located in Liberty, Missouri. Inside this small building six Mormon prisoners claiming their innocence against charges of high treason. Secretly plot one of numerous escape attempts to make sure that if the prisoners escape they will no doubt be met by the angry mobs. Should they risk waiting for a fair trial the mobs would continue their brutal actions toward the Mormon prisoners. Bridging the gap between these two groups stands one man, Samuel Tillery, the jailer tasked with keeping the two groups separate.”

“For nearly four months the reluctant Tillery stands his post, keeping the Mormons locked in, and the mobs locked out. But his assignment is not without significant challenges. With the atrocious conditions of the jail, and the frequent ploys to escape, the prisoners push Tillery's patience, and fueling the jailer's mistrust of his captives is the incendiary public opinion towards the Mormons and the government's evolving response to the charges against them.”

“Meanwhile, the prisoner's captivity attracts daily visitors, both friend and foe, including the controversial attorney, Alexander Donovan, and the eccentric Orin Porter Rockwell. Tillery's only hope is to outlast the conflict and keep peace until the trial in a property court.”

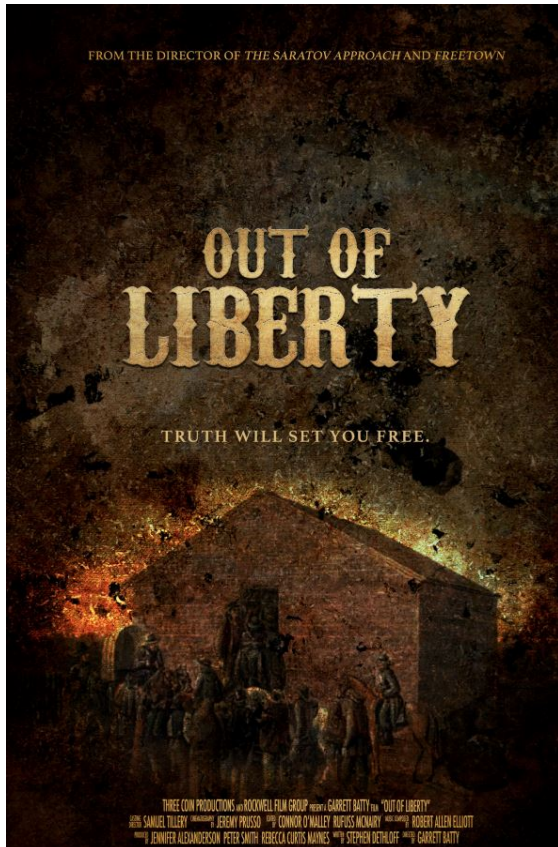
“But when Donovan arranges a hearing to take place in a local barn, and a convincing plea from a deathly ill Sidney Rigdon, puts his prisoners' safety and conviction in doubt, Tillery begins to question his own role in the conflict.”

“Does he continue to hold the prisoners, providing an easy target for the growing mob? Or does he aid in a government endorsed escape, risking retaliation from the opposition?”

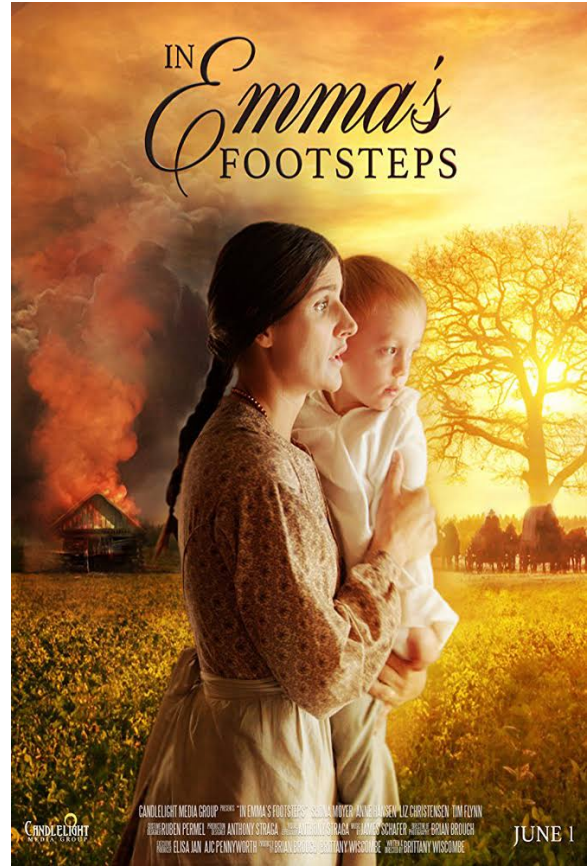


One thing is for certain, the situation calls for immediate action, or Tillery's own life may be in danger."

"So, we are excited about this project. We start filming in October, so we're a little way out, but I'm thrilled to have this partnership take place. I've admired Michael's involvement with these other films and look forward to being able to share this with you early 2019. Thanks."



During Friday morning as part of the reunion it was announced the Joseph Smith Jr & Emma Hale Smith Historical Society was partnering with Three Coin Productions (producers of Freetown and The Saratov Approach) in a new film production, Out of Liberty. Michael Kennedy and the Joseph Smith Jr. and Emma Hale Smith Historical Society arranged to have a family screening of the Movie, In Emma's Footsteps.



To be part of the Smith family and watch the events unfold in this movie was emotional. This was not just an opportunity to see family history unfold but to unite together and feel the strength from one another.



Candlelight Media

A production still from "In Emma's Footsteps" featuring actress Shona Kay Moyer, who plays Emma Smith.