

# 20 VISION VIRTUAL 20 SUCCESS

Steve and Frances Orton, family reunion co-presidents, planned a powerful commemoration for the 200th Anniversary of Joseph Smith Jr.'s remarkable vision in the Sacred Grove. Then, as we encountered the Covid-19 virus, through creative planning and by not giving up, what seemed impossible became a virtual success.

"We have tried to place what happened in that sacred grove in us," said Frances. Families met together in their own houses, eating their own Palmyra Pancake dinner by candlelight and joined our Virtual Family Night titled "Go to the Grove." We received over 3,000 views. This newsletter will share highlights of our 2020 reunion and of upcoming opportunities.

## PRESIDENT BALLARD IN AWE 200 YEARS WITH THE SMITH FAMILY

*Excerpts from President Ballard's 2020 reunion remarks*

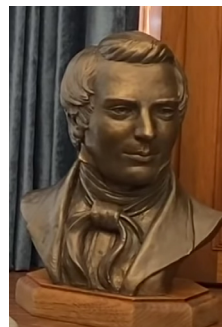
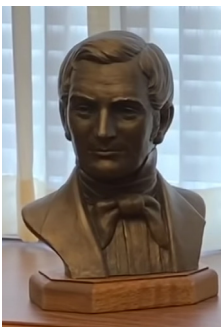
Every time I contemplate the heritage that is ours, I stand back in awe and wonder why I was so fortunate to be able to claim a relationship with the Prophet Joseph Smith. The Lord had prepared him from the very foundations of the earth to come in these last days, 200 years ago, and kneel in a wooded place near his home in Palmyra, New York and supplicate his Heavenly Father for a confirmation of the forgiveness of his sins and wanting to know what he ought to be doing for his own spiritual salvation.

I also echo our appreciation for Father Smith and Mother Smith. I've often wondered in my mind—when Joseph came from the grove and explained to his mother that he

had been visited by the Father and the Son, she believed him—just wonder what would have happened if she had not?

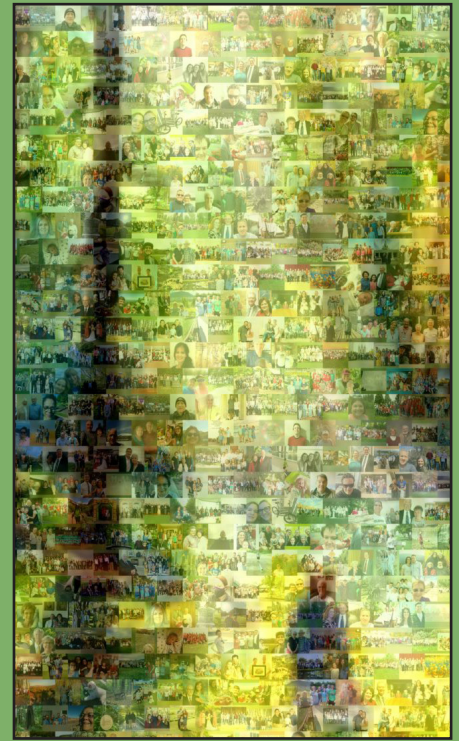
How blessed are we that Joseph Smith the prophet had a mother and a father that believed him and thus supported him in every way, along with his entire family.

I give you my witness that Jesus is the Christ. Jesus Christ and his Father appeared to Joseph Smith 200 years ago, opening up this last dispensation. It's wonderful to be part of the family. Let us live up to our legacy. I leave my love and testimony and blessings with all of you. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen. *President Ballard pictured between busts of Hyrum (left) and Joseph (right)*



## SMITH FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021



**Family Photo: 228 families with 2793 people included. To see the Family Photo in the Sacred Grove, and to see other fun statistics, see [JosephSmithSr.org](http://JosephSmithSr.org)**

With sadness, we note the passing of Ben Donoho, Smith family committee member and data steward since 1996.

*Smith*  
Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith  
FAMILY ORGANIZATION

# SMITH FAMILY WELCOMES JULIE TO FOUNDATION BOARD SMITH



Julie Smith has been asked by her father Wallace Smith, President Emeritus of Community of Christ, and Board Member of the Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Foundation, to serve on the Smith Family Foundation as a board member. “Although I can’t take his place,” Julie says, “I am filling his seat. I am happy to be part of this.”

In the April Smith family meeting, Julie shared

William Smith’s record of family prayer. “[We] always had family prayer since I can remember. I well remember father used to carry his spectacles in his vest pocket,...and when us boys saw him feel for his specs, we knew that was a signal to get ready for prayer...After the prayer we had a song we would sing.”

Julie said, “Grandma Smith was a musician. She had a piano in their front

room with a small, straight back stool that would swivel and go up and down.

We would spin around on that stool until we were dizzy. I have that stool now in my home. It is a great reminder of her. She has passed on her musical talents to her daughter, my Aunt Rosalee who was an accomplished organist



among other instruments. She wrote hymns and did harmonies for many of the hymns in Community of Christ hymnals. I am grateful for the legacy of both women who taught me the importance of developing one’s talents and how that can honor God.”

In her prayer, she invited each of the committee to feel His presence as we continue to feel His will.

*(Picture of Grandma Smith’s piano stool curtesy Julie Smith)*

## Go to the Grove *and* Donate! Help Make Joseph’s Name Known for Good

Each year the Joseph Sr and Lucy Mack Smith family arranges a service project that ties in with our family history.

### 2020 Donation

Our 2020 Vision Celebration commemorated the First Vision, so our service project raised funds through the Go to the Grove Race for Vision Care. The family donated \$10,000 to Vision Care on Joseph Smith’s birthday, Dec. 23, 2020.

The Smith Family’s first Virtual Go to the Grove was a huge success. Over 300 people from all 50 states participated. Funds donated to Vision Care also honor the good that began with Joseph Smith’s First Vision. The focus of “Go to the Grove” is a reminder that Joseph went into the grove by himself to ask a question of God. The answer changed the world.

### 2021 Donation

Our 2021 Go to the Grove –A Virtual 5K– this year reflects on the Smith family’s desire to study and learn together. In honor of that, the proceed are going to Learning for Life, an early childhood development and education program for displaced children.

We express our gratitude to all the participants in raising funds for Vision Care. Please help us continue the goodness. Race, bike, swim, walk and donate or just choose to donate.

## Meet the **Idig** Archaeologists



**Paul De Barthe** Excavations include the Bee house under which Joseph and Hyrum had been buried. Lived in the Nauvoo house during digs, inviting his family to become amature achaeologists. *Pictured far right*

**Shane Barker** Fieldwork at the historic Joseph Smith Family Log Cabin site in Palmyra, NY and other church history sites. Married to part-time archaeologist Katie. *Pictured middle right*

**Kathleen Black** Documented & repackaged artifacts from Historic Nauvo 60s & 70s. *Pictured middle left*

**idignauvoo.com** Complete bios and information of upcoming digs.

# 20 REUNION & INSPIRING 20 HIGHLIGHTS & MESSAGES



Steve Orton poured syrup on his pancakes and joked about families sticking together.

The Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith family donated \$10,000 to Vision Care to help make Joseph's name known for good.

Hank Smith spoke, and said, "Time and reflection are part of earning a testimony. Joseph Smith Jr. said, 'I reflected on it again and again.'"

John Bytheway suggested that if Lucy Mack Smith visited us today, she might hold up the Book of Mormon and ask, "Do you know what it cost my family to bring you this book?"

One Voice Children's Choir sang "My Own Sacred Grove."

Bryan Davis referred us to the promise from Elder Dietrich F. Uchtdorf that these things will make us stronger, and he and his mother, Kimberly Jo Smith, sang *How Firm a Foundation*.

Three inspiring, diligent, talented, courageous, and family-loving youth received Smith Family Scholarships.

Sister Reily Siebers sang "He Looked Up" by Michael McLean.

## Smith Family Scholarship

Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith's testimony forged a happiness and a strength in them that allowed them to do incredible things and be part of this glorious restoration.

The Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Association provides annual scholarships to college and high school students to help them learn about this great legacy and the values demonstrated by the Smith family, with the hope that this program will help to instill those values in our youth today.

The scholarship is open to all, not just family members. For more information, see [JosephSmithSr.org/scholarships](http://JosephSmithSr.org/scholarships).

2021 Winners will be announced at the August 5 Showing of *1820: The Musical* at the Covey Center for the Arts.

### Please Help Us By Paying Your Dues

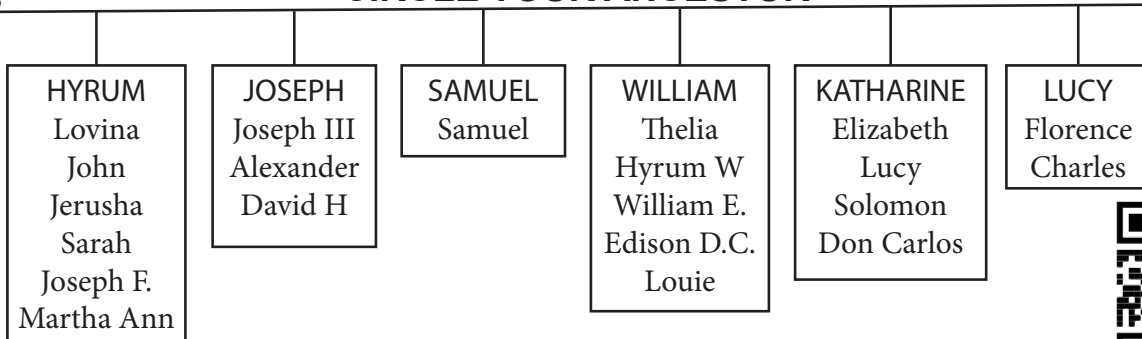
Your \$30 donation helps us reach our cousins, keep them up-to-date about family events & news, make exciting discoveries about our ancestors, & maintain our database at [www.JosephSmithSr.org](http://www.JosephSmithSr.org).

Send this form with your donation or address corrections to:  
[Joseph Sr & Lucy Mack Smith Family Organization](http://JosephSr&LucyMackSmithFamilyOrganization)  
 c/o Frances Orton  
 381 W 3700 N  
 Provo, UT 84604

Or Pay Dues Online  
[JosephSmithSr.org](http://JosephSmithSr.org)



### CIRCLE YOUR ANCESTOR





# NAUVOO 20 SMITH FAMILY & CEMETERY 22 REUNION & UPDATES



The Smith Family Foundation has installed a beautiful new fence, patterned after the original as seen in an 1845 Robert Campbell painting. It surrounds the Smith Cemetery and Homestead.

## SMITH FAMILY REUNION

NAUVOO 2022  
August 4-6

50th year anniversary of the first Smith Family Reunion.

In 1972, a busload of cousins traveled from Utah to Nauvoo to meet cousins from the Midwest.

Next year, we will celebrate by doing a family service project in the Smith Family Cemetery and Gardens.



Thank you to Dan Larsen, Anina Luff, and their family members for years of planting and caring for the flower beds in the cemetery. *(Pictures of the Smith Family Cemetery courtesy Lachlan Mackay)*

**“I would like to extend a personal invitation to the family to return to Nauvoo, or visit for the first time, when the pandemic is behind us and the world has returned to something approaching normal.”**

Lachlan Mackay

Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith  
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