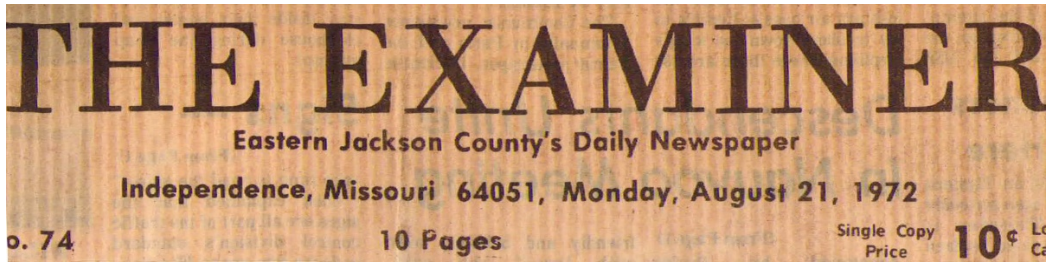


# 1972 Newspaper Articles on Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Reunion



## LDS, Not RLDS

The picture taken by The Examiner Monday of the descendants of Joseph Smith Sr., was made at the LDS Visitor's Center, not the RLDS as stated.

In addition, Mrs. Gracia Denning's first name was misspelled.

**FAMILIES UNITE.** . . Representatives of three of the sons of Joseph Smith Sr. toured the RLDS Visitor's Center Monday following a reunion of more than 300 family members in Nauvoo. Pictured are, from left, Jay Winter Smith, grandson of Samuel H. Smith; Mrs.

Gracia Denning, great granddaughter of Joseph Smith Jr.; and Willard R. Smith, grandson of Hyrum Smith. In the foreground is Paul Denning, great great grandson of Joseph Smith. (Examiner Staff Photo)



## relatives of Mormon Pioneer Plan Reunion

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A group split by 125 years of religious differences announced today it will hold its first reunion in Illinois this month in accordance with a directive from its elders to talk about religion.

Descendants of Joseph Smith Sr., whose son Joseph Smith Jr. is revered as a prophet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) and the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, plan the reunion Aug. 18-19 in Nauvoo.

ILLINOIS TOWN WAS FOUNDED by the Mormons in 1839, 10 years after their prophet's arrest and assassination. A year later, they arrived in the Salt Lake Valley.

Mormon prophet's descendants split from the majority and formed the Reorganized church with headquarters in Independence, Mo.

Members of the family say they hope the reunion will

be sent to all known descendants of the elder Smith, who had 11 children. It is not known how many persons this includes.

**THE LATE MORMON** President Joseph Fielding Smith, who died last month at 95, left more than 160 descendants.

He was a great-grandson of the elder Smith, as was W. Wallace Smith, president of the RLDS Church.

The Mormons shun ecumenism with any religion and have had almost no contact with the Reorganized group. Wallace Smith was invited to President Smith's funeral July 5 but declined.

The RLDS president and a brother of the late Mormon president, Willard R. Smith of Salt Lake City, signed the invitation to attend the reunion.

**"THE REUNION COMMITTEE** requests that discussion be confined to family matters and that religious and doctrinal matters be completely excluded," it says.

The goal of the reunion, the letter says, is to "compile a complete record of the descendants of Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith, to cultivate the type of relationships and interests necessary to have a successful family organization and to maintain all family ties and associations."



## In Nauvoo

# Smith Family Ends Reunion By Voting to Meet in '73

NAUVOO, ILL. (UPI) — Descendants of Joseph Smith Sr., patriarch of the Mormon church, Saturday capped their first family reunion in more than 125 years by voting to get togethr on a regular basis.

The 250 to 300 persons from more than half-a-dozen states, who gathered here starting Friday for the two-day reunion, voted to meet again next year and every two years thereafter.

A committee composed of descendants of Joseph Smith Jr., founder of the church, and his brothers, Hyrum and Samuel Smith, was formed to recommend a time and place for future reunions.

"It is really in a spirit of

love and harmony that they met here," elder Ron Mitchell of Nauvoo said of the reunion. "The love and harmony has increased since they began meeting."

### First Since 1846

The family reunion was the first since 1846 when the Mormons left Nauvoo, once the largest city in Illinois, on their famous 1,200-mile march westward under the leadership of Brigham Young to what was to become Salt Lake City.

Attending the reunion were descendants of Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucille Mack Smith. The couple had 11 children, including Joseph Smith Jr., recognized as the founder and first prophet of both the

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Joseph Smith Jr. and Hyrum Smith were taken from a jail at Carthage, Ill., where they were being held in protective custody, and slain by a mob on June 27, 1844. The incident set the stage for the evacuation by most Mormons of Nauvoo and their trek westward.

### 95-Degree Weather

As it did Friday, the temperature in this Mississippi River town in west central Illinois reached a muggy 95 degrees Saturday. The reunion guests met in lecture sessions at the air conditioned chapel and some braved the heat to examine the restored buildings of Nauvoo.

Buildings in the once-thriving town, including the homes of Brigham Young and Joseph Smith Jr., are being restored under a continuing project sponsored by the church. The town has been designated a national historical site by the National Park Service.

Lecture sessions were the only scheduled events during the two-day reunion. A program of folk music of the mid 1800s was presented Friday night by Prof. Maughan McMerty of Western Illinois University.



# Joseph Smith Offspring Hold 'Family Reunion'

NAUVOO, ILL. —(AP)— Descendants of Joseph Smith Sr., father of the founder and prophet of two Latter-day Saints religions, long separated because of conflicting religious views, have agreed to meet again next August.

Between 200 and 250 descendants participated in a weekend meeting here in what members called a strictly family reunion, having nothing to do with church business.

W. Wallace Smith of Independence, Mo., of the Latter-day and the Reorganized Church of Saints, said Sunday that it was agreed to have another reunion next year, probably Aug. 17-18.

He said there was discussion, but no agreement, on having bi-annual meetings and a reunion committee was established to investigate all possibilities.

"It gave us a chance to meet some of the descendants of Joseph Smith we didn't know and renew acquaintances with others we did," Smith said.

## FOUNDER N PROPHET

The son of Joseph Smith Sr., Joseph Smith Jr., is recognized as prophet and founder by both the Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter-day Saints (Mormon), Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (RLDS).

Many of the descendants of the senior Smith joined the Mormon journey to Utah where they have held high positions in the Mormon religion. Two have been president. The founder's direct descendants joined the RLDS church, which is headquartered in Independence.

One purpose of the reunion

gathering was to compile a record of Smith's descendants and "to cultivate the type of relationships and interests necessary to have a successful family organization, and to maintain all family ties and associations."

Only two nonfamily members of the church attended the reunion, both RLDS historians who addressed the family members.



ENTERTAINS AT NAUVOO — Margo Wright, center, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Wright, Grace, sings and plays the guitar at the family reunion for descendants of Joseph Smith, LDS prophet, in Nauvoo, Ill. At left is Willard





# The Nauvoo Independent

NAUVOO, ILLINOIS, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1972

## Joseph Smith Sr. family holds first reunion here

Over 350 descendants of Joseph Smith Sr. flocked to Nauvoo from throughout the world Friday and Saturday for the first family reunion since the Mormons were forced out of Illinois in 1846.

Joseph and Lucy Mack Smith were parents of Joseph Smith Jr., founder of Nauvoo and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

The get-together had nothing to do with the church, a family spokesman said. "It's just a family reunion. There's been a growing interest in doing this and now there are people coming from all over the world."

In addition to Joseph Smith Jr., the Smiths' other eight sons and daughters were Alvin, Hyrum, Sophronia, Samuel Harrison, William, Catherine, Don Carlos, and Lucy.

A letter calling the reunion was signed by W. Wallace Smith, family representative of Joseph Smith Jr.; Joseph B. Smith, family representative of Samuel H. Smith, and Willard R. Smith, family representative of Hyrum Smith, who was slain with his brother Joseph by a mob at the Carthage jail June 27, 1844.

The Nauvoo reunion of the Smith

family descendants was the first since the exodus in 1846 of Saints from Nauvoo in which the church was split into several factions.

One of two principal groups to survive was the group that followed Brigham Young, second president of the church, to Salt Lake Valley.

The other group, known as the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, resettled in Independence, Mo., where Joseph Smith had often declared the center of the church would eventually be established.

The Reorganized group based its belief on the principle that the presidency of the church rested within the Smith family.

The Salt Lake City group followed the precept that the presidency of the church should be selected by the quorum of the 12 apostles, the governing body of the church.

W. Wallace Smith is president of the Reorganized group based in Independence, Mo. Willard R. Smith of Salt Lake City is the brother of the late Joseph Fielding Smith who was president of the church with headquarters in

Salt Lake City until his recent death at 95.

Joseph B. Smith, representing the descendants of Samuel H. Smith, lives in Provo, Utah. Samuel H. Smith died at Nauvoo, living only a few days after the martyrdom of his brothers, Joseph Jr. and Hyrum.

Descendants of Catherine Smith Salisbury, sister of Joseph Smith Jr., were among those attending the reunion. Many of these descendants live in and around Hancock county. The three sisters of the prophet remained in Hancock county.

Reunion sessions were held in the Nauvoo Visitors Center and ended Saturday at 6 p.m.

A reunion is planned for next year in Independence, Mo., and thereafter the family will meet every other year.



## Smiths Reminisce

### Remarkable Reunion

By Elaine Speck  
A Member of the Sign's Staff  
Nauvoo, Ill.—"What has kept you so long?"

Lynn Smith of Independence, Mo., stood before members of his family, together this weekend for the first time in 126 years. The answer was all around them—in the history of this little town and in their common heritage of suffering and hardship.

It was 1839 when Joseph Smith, Jr., led the people who believed him a prophet to this spot by the Mississippi River. The followers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) had been driven from town to town by the suspicion and fear of those who did not understand them. In Missouri they were threatened with expulsion or extermination and Smith was kept five months in jails in the northwest part of the state.

They hoped this place would be different—that it would be theirs to settle in peace. Smith called it Nauvoo and said it meant "most beautiful" in some ancient language. At one time there were 12,000 persons here and the town was growing faster than Chicago.

But suspicion caught up with the Saints. In 1844 Smith and his brother, Hyrum, were shot to death by a mob in a jail in nearby Carthage, Ill. Two years later the Mormons fled Nauvoo. Most followed Brigham Young on the treacherous journey west to the Valley of the Great Salt Lake. The others, most of them descendants of Smith, Jr., did not accept Young's leadership. They stayed in the Midwest to form the Reorganized Latter Day Saint Church, with world headquarters now in Independence.

The family, descendants of



### Uncle J's Dream

J. Winter Smith (Uncle J) of San Jose, Calif., surveyed members of his family who gathered in Nauvoo, Ill., this weekend for their first reunion in 126 years. Smith, at 91 the oldest person there, told them it was "a dream come true."

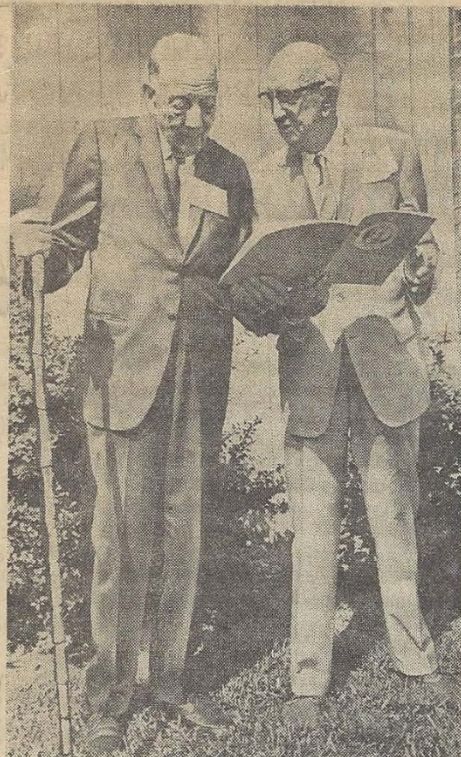
Smith's father, Joseph Smith Sr., had not been together since then. Some said their religious differences overshadowed their family bond. Some said it never had occurred to them to get together.

It occurred to Buddy Younggreen of Provo, Utah, eight years ago and it took him that long to put the reunion together. He became a practiced diplo-

mat — persuading, reassuring those who were leary that their family could get together without discord over religion.

"We have such a desperate need to uplift each other and inspire each other," he said. "The Smiths are true Americans. They have had hardships, suffering, joy, peace. Their lives

See SMITH on Page 9A



### Patriarchs

The two oldest members of the Smith family to attend the reunion were J. Winter Smith, 91 (left), of San Jose, Calif., and Willard R. Smith, 88, of Salt Lake City.

## ★ Smith Reunion

Continued From Page 1A  
are something everyone can identify with."

Younggreen has counted nearly 12,000 descendants of Joseph Smith, Sr. He tried to get invitations to the reunion out to all of them. And in each invitation was the cryptic message:

"The reunion committee requests that discussions be confined to family matters and that religious and doctrinal matters be completely excluded."

Apparently it worked. R.L.D.S. church members met their Mormon kin and the conversation could have taken place at a thousand family reunions. Names and faces they couldn't quite place. Someone who knew Aunt So-and-So ("Oh, everyone remembers Aunt So-and-So"). Dim recollections of playing together 50 years ago when they were children.

But religion, so intertwined in the family history, must have been on everybody's mind. Mrs. Grace Denning of Whitefish Mont., said it is a Mormon obligation to bring testimony of their religion to everyone they meet.

"I'm sure there's a desire on both sides to say how happy we are in our religion," she said. "but we're refraining from this. We're trying very hard to maintain the feeling of family."

There was that feeling in Nauvoo this weekend and a kind of

mild amazement that everything seemed to be working out so well.

"We're delighted. My husband has met people here he hasn't seen in 60 years," Mrs. Allegra Smith, Independence, said. "These people are really sincere people."

Her husband, Reginald Smith, an Independence lawyer, said there were ties established here that once were nonexistent. "I've gone through Utah before without anybody knowing I was there," he said.

He and his brother, President W. Wallace Smith, of the R.L.D.S. church in Independence, are the only living grandchildren of the prophet Joseph Smith, Jr. President Smith was warmly welcomed as he came before the group in the new visitors center building erected here by the Utah Mormons.

"Perhaps we have postponed this too long," he said.

The good feeling was most apparent when someone suggested that a meeting close with an old Mormon hymn written on the long journey west. Again there was the mild amazement and a murmur of laughter through the crowd when they were told that "half of you know it and half of you don't."

"It's remarkably friendly and congenial," said Fredrick Costello, 22, an R.L.D.S. church member from Orlando, Fla. "Everybody's just being family."



# Smith Family Heirs in

It was so good to have gotten together, members of the divided Smith family have decided to meet again.

Descendants of Joseph Smith Sr., who met over the weekend in Nauvoo, Ill., plan to gather again next year, maybe in Independence. Biennial reunions are being considered for future years.

It was the first time both sides of the family had met since they split over religion more than a century ago. It was strictly a family affair.

No mention was made of the differences between the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) and Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (RLDS).

It was into Nauvoo that Prophet Joseph Smith Jr., founder of the LDS Church, had led his followers in 1839. Members of the church had been driven out of many settlements by those who opposed their way of life.

On June 27, 1844, Joseph

Smith Jr. and his brother, Hyrum, were shot and killed by a mob in Carthage, Ill.

Two years later the President of the Quorum of Twelve, Brigham Young, led a group of church members off to Salt Lake City where he later assumed the First Presidency of the LDS church.

Most of the followers of Joseph Smith Jr., however, remained in the Midwest. Later, his son, Joseph Smith III, founded the RLDS Church in Independence, the city his

father had labeled "Center Place."

An organizer of the reunion estimated there may be as many as 12,000 descendants of Joseph Smith Sr. About 350 attended the reunion.

A committee met in Nauvoo to plan next year's meeting, probably to be Aug. 17 and 18.

Could all this lead to a reuniting of the two churches? The only two living sons of Joseph Smith III were asked that question this morning.

President Wallace W. Smith

# Historic Nauvoo Meeting

of the RLDS Church answered: "No comment."

But his brother, Reginald A. Smith, an Independence lawyer, replied: "Anything can happen."

President Smith described the meeting as "a very pleasant occasion for members of the family of Joseph Smith Sr."

"We felt it was an opportunity to be together, and gave some insight on the way other members of the family are living," he said. "It was

strictly a family gathering. There was no discussion of church matters. That was carefully avoided."

One of the ground rules for the meeting was that the two faiths would not be discussed.

A violation of that agreement would have been "an abrogation of trust," President Smith said.

Some of the presentations on family history were made by non-family members, including historians, the president related.

"We are now more acquainted with each other," he said. "I met some cousins I didn't know I had."

Mrs. Rosamond, wife of the president, thought the reunion was very well organized.

"We arrived Friday evening and found everything very well planned," she related. "An all-day program was planned Saturday. This was considered a family picnic rather than a church affair. We do have our differences, you know."

Never did Mrs. Smith hear any mention of doctrine.

"I thought it was very well handled," she said. "There was a spirit of friendliness. Everyone was very cordial and gracious."

"Many of the speeches related to the Smith forefathers — Joseph Smith Sr., and his wife, Lucy, and Joseph Smith Jr., and his wife, Emma."

Reginald Smith said the reunion idea apparently was  
(See Page 2)



# Descendants Unite in Nauvoo Meeting

(From Page 1)  
ceived by Buddy  
ngreen, an LDS member  
is a playwright in Salt  
e City.  
It was well done," he said  
hought it was a good idea."  
mith said he saw some  
tives he had not seen in  
or 50 years." He recalled  
eting some of them as a  
d. He was 12 when his  
er died.  
rs. Reginald (Allegra)  
th said the trip was  
ightful."  
The people were so

friendly and bubbling over  
with love," she said.  
"Families should get  
together. It was historical, but  
it was family to us."

Many of the houses in  
Nauvoo are being beautifully  
decorated, she said.

"Everyone should visit  
there," she added.

About 40 of the LDS  
members who attended the  
reunion stopped at the LDS  
Visitors Center in Indepen-  
dence this morning.

Joseph Smith Sr., paused  
here to reflect that the reunion  
was "a terrific success."

"It was strictly concerned  
with the family," he said.  
"There was a ruling that we  
did not talk doctrine, and  
everyone abided by it."

Joseph Bryan Smith is a  
great-grandson of Samuel  
Smith, who was one of eight  
children of Joseph Smith Sr.

Clinton Larson, a professor  
at Brigham Young University,  
thought the gathering was  
"very impressive."

"Many people were in each  
others arms," he said.  
"Several of the speakers had  
tears in their eyes. The  
reunion had the spirit of love  
that Joseph Smith had for his  
family and that his sons had  
for each other. The descen-  
dants want this patriarchal  
love to also be evident in the  
family's descendants."

It was agreed it was good to  
have met face-to-face with  
those who had been so far  
away. At least now lines of  
communication are open and  
there may be future meetings.  
No one really wanted to  
speculate beyond that.

CALIFORNIA INTERMOUNTAIN NEWS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1972

## Descendants Of Prophet Attend Family Reunion

From 250 to 300 descendants  
of Joseph Smith, Sen., gathered  
in Nauvoo, Illinois, recently and  
held their first family reunion  
in more than 125 years. Coming  
from more than a half-a-dozen  
states for the two-day reunion,  
they capped the occasion by vot-  
ing to get together on a regular  
basis.

It was the first time since  
1846, when the Saints left Nauvoo  
to March 1,200 miles westward  
under Brigham Young's leader-  
ship, that Joseph Smith's de-  
scendants had gathered.

Meeting in lecture sessions in  
an air conditioned chapel, the  
reunion guests selected a com-  
mittee composed of descendants  
of Joseph Smith, Jun., and his  
brothers, Hyrum and Samuel  
Smith, to recommend a time and  
place for future reunions.

Some guests braved the heat  
and examined the restored build-  
ings of Nauvoo, and Professor  
Maughan McMerty of Western  
Illinois University presented a  
program of folk music of the  
mid 1800s.



# Joseph Smith Reunion Held In Nauvoo

**Ed. Note:** The following article was offered by Mrs. Emily Covert of Thatcher, whose granddaughter, Mrs. Buddy Youngreen, participated in the reunion described.

For the first time since the family separated during the evacuation of Nauvoo in 1846, descendants of Joseph Smith Sr., and Lucy Mack Smith held a reunion in Nauvoo, Ill., Aug. 18-19.

The idea for a reunion originated from Buddy Youngreen, through his conversion to the LDS Church. He gained a great love for Joseph Smith and felt it a sad situation that the family had not been together since their conflict over religion.

A chartered bus left Salt Lake City Wednesday morning with 40 passengers, all of which were Smith relatives except Margo Wright, entertainer, Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Youngreen, executive secretary, Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Larsen, a professor at BYU.

Also making the trip was J. Winters Smith, 91 years of age, of San Jose, Calif., a grandson of Samuel Smith; Joseph Byron Smith, who assisted with the reunion; Mrs. Edith Patrick, sister of the late Joseph Fielding Smith, and her son, Joseph Patrick, who designed the Visitors Center in Liberty, the ceiling for the Mini Dome in Pocatello, and is presently working on Snowbird Ski Resort. Also making the trip were

Mr. and Mrs. Willard R. Smith. He is a brother of the late Joseph Fielding Smith, and she is a daughter of President Heber J. Grant.

It took two days to arrive in Nauvoo and they were the first Mormons to stay in the Nauvoo House. Here was where David H. Smith, youngest son of Joseph Smith, was born, and Emma, Joseph's wife, died.

The reunion started Friday morning with a film, produced by Buddy Youngreen. It was entitled "Seeds of Greatness." Speakers were Dr. Richard L. Anderson of BYU, who spoke on Joseph Smith Sr.; Jayne Anne M. Payne of Provo, recent runner-up to Mrs. America, who spoke on Lucy Mack Smith; Dr. Paul Edwards of Graceland College spoke on the daughters of Joseph Smith Sr.; Dr. Truman G. Madsen of BYU spoke on Emma Hale Smith; Dr. Mark McKernan, research historian for the Restoration Trails Foundation, spoke on David H. Smith. He recently taught at Idaho State University in Pocatello.

Others making the trip were W. Wallace Smith and his brother, Reginald, grandsons of

Joseph Smith.

Margo Wright sang various songs in the four different sessions. She said it was a great moment in the history of the great Smith family.

There were between 250 and 300 people at the reunion. Articles have appeared across the country concerning this historical event.

The idea for the reunion occurred to Buddy Youngreen eight years ago. He became a practiced diplomat, persuading members of the family that they could get together without discord over religion.

Mr. Youngreen has written and directed shows in Colorado, Jackson Hole, Pasadena Playhouse in California, and is presently working on three shows in Utah, two at Sundance Ski Resort and one at the Carousel in Salt Lake City. He has also written many songs.

Margo Wright was a friend of Mr. Youngreen's wife and said she could sing folk songs, so he asked her to go on the trip and be the entertainer.

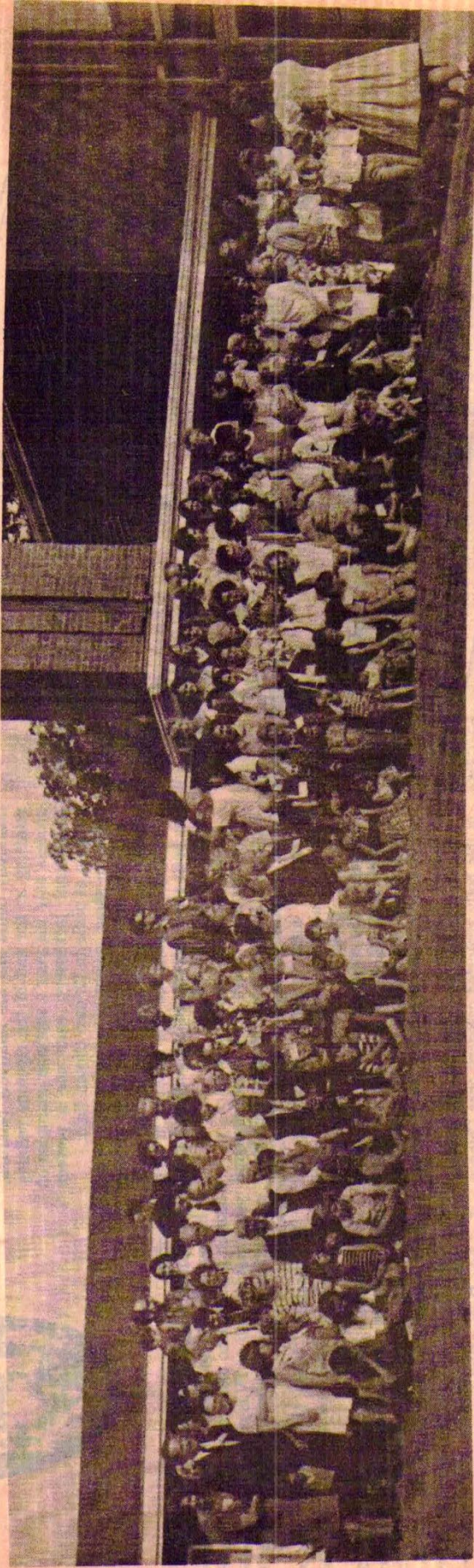
Mr. Youngreen's wife, Toni, is a granddaughter of Mrs. Emily Covert, a former resident of Thatcher.



# The Daily Gate City

The Tri-States

*What's happening in.....*



**TOGETHER AGAIN**—For the first time in some 125 years, descendants of Joseph Smith Sr. and his wife Lucy are reunited in Nauvoo. Represented are descendants from several of the Smiths nine children, called together from all parts of the world. In 1839 Joseph Smith Jr. founded Nauvoo, bringing there members of his church who had been driven from Missouri. He and his brother Hyrum were killed at Carthage in 1844. Some

members of the family followed Brigham Young to the Great Salt Lake Valley. Others remained in Nauvoo. In the 1860s, descendants of the Prophet Joseph Smith reorganized, establishing the RLDS church, which now has headquarters at Independence, Mo. Those attending the reunion are comparing family notes and making the acquaintance of relatives separated for over a century. — Gate City photo.



## Believed to be First

# Descendant of Mormon Founder Born in Utah

By MILDRED HALL

A baby believed to be the first direct descendant of Joseph Smith Jr. ever born in Utah was delivered at a Salt Lake City hospital last week after a race with the stork across the plains from Nauvoo, Ill.

It is a baby boy, born to Mrs. Kay (Gracia) Denning, of Whitefish, Mont., direct descendant of Joseph Smith Jr., founder and first president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

She had attended the family reunion recently held at Nauvoo for the descendants of Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith, parents of the Mormon founder.

Reaching Salt Lake City, Mrs. Denning immediately entered the hospital for the birth of David Joseph.

Following her hospital stay,

the new mother spent a day and a night as the guest of Mrs. Edith Patrick, sister of the late LDS Church President Joseph Fielding Smith of Salt Lake. Since then Mrs. Denning and the baby have been guests of Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Youngreen in Provo, who also attended the reunion.

On Monday, the Youngreens took David Joseph and his mother to the airport in Salt Lake for the journey to Whitefish, where they were greeted for the first time by father Denning and the baby's seven brothers and sisters.

Direct descendants of Joseph Smith Jr. did not come west to Utah after the Mormon founder and his brother Hyrum were murdered in Carthage Jail in 1844. Most of the Smiths in Utah concerned with the Mormon Church are descended from Hyrum and other brothers.



David Joseph Denning





SEPTEMBER 1972

# SAINTS HERALD

## FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

For the first time in history the descendants of Joseph Smith, Sr., and Lucy Mack Smith gathered at a family reunion. Over two hundred family members ranging in age from ninety-one down to babes-in-arms met on Friday and Saturday, August 18-19, at Nauvoo, Illinois, in response to an invitation dated April 6, 1972, and signed by W. Wallace Smith (descendant of Joseph Smith, Jr.), Joseph B. Smith (descendant of Samuel H. Smith, brother of Joseph Smith, Jr.), and Willard R. Smith (descendant of Hyrum Smith, brother of Joseph Smith, Jr.).

In addition to descendants of these three sons of Joseph Smith, Sr., descendants of Katharine Smith Salisbury, sister of Joseph Smith, Jr., and of William Smith, younger brother of Joseph Smith, Jr., also attended the reunion.

The first general session convened at 11:00 a.m. Friday and was addressed briefly by representatives of the three families issuing the invitation. Then followed the showing of a slide/sound presentation, "Seeds of Greatness," prepared by Buddy Youngreen, who presided over the reunion as the reunion committee's executive secretary. The slides featured artistic interpretations of Joseph and Lucy Mack Smith's children and concluded with a "Smith Family Album," showing pictures of many descendants of the Smith family.

Four of the other five general sessions featured guest speakers treating aspects of Smith family history. In the order of their appearance they were Dr. F. Mark McKiernan (David Hyrum Smith); Mrs. Jaynann M. Payne (Lucy Mack Smith); Dr. Richard L. Anderson (Joseph Smith, Sr.); Dr. Truman G. Madsen (Emma Hale Smith); Lynn E. Smith (daughters of Joseph and Lucy Mack Smith); Dr. Paul M. Edwards (sons of Joseph and Lucy Mack Smith). The papers were well received and carefully avoided the explication of areas of religious or doctrinal controversy.

The consensus of most of those at a general session on Saturday morning was that there would be a second reunion next August at a place as yet undetermined, and that after that, future reunions would be held not more often than biennially.

This reunion was a time for rejoicing and remembering, for the enjoyment of informal fellowship and music, and for identifying many a long-lost cousin "thrice removed." Every effort was made by all to avoid any reference to a connection between the Smith family reunion and interdenominational matters. Even so, the gathering was a time for reflection on the rich heritage of the Restoration by those who have lived in the tradition of the Joseph Smith, Sr., family, begun on January 24, 1796, with his marriage to Lucy Mack at Tunbridge, Vermont.

3

## The Smith Family Reunion

President W. Wallace Smith and his brother Reginald A. Smith, the only living grandsons of the prophet Joseph Smith, Jr., were among those attending the Smith family reunion (left to right: Reginald, Allegra, Rosamond, and W. Wallace).

A Kansas City Star Photo





# Joseph Smith Sr. Family Reunites in Nauvoo, Ill.

Lynn E. Smith, 1513 W. Walnut, a patriarch in the RLDS Church, welcomed the approximately 300 persons who attended the Joseph Smith Sr. family reunion last weekend in Nauvoo, Ill. He is a great-grandson of Joseph Smith J., founder of the restoration movement.

It took courage to leave Nauvoo and take the trek westward with Brigham Young in 1846, the speaker said, but it also took courage to remain behind with the wife of the prophet and his children to face continued persecution that had culminated in the death of Joseph Smith, Jr., and his brother, Hyrum. But this the prophet's family did and became respected citizens in Nauvoo and Hancock County.

Smith pointed out that his

grandfather, David H. Smith and his father, Elbert A. Smith, were both born in the Mansion House in Nauvoo where Joseph's widow, Emma, lived with her family.

In closing he said, "As one of the Smiths who stayed behind, I want to welcome the descendants of those who made their way westward, and in friendliness, simply ask, What kept you so long?"

Responses to the welcoming address were given by Joseph Byron Smith, descendant of Samuel Smith, and Willard R. Smith, descendant of Hyrum Smith both of Utah.

To honor Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith, ancestors of those who gathered in Nauvoo, several noted historians and writers presented historic papers.

Dr. Richard L. Anderson of

Brigham Young University spoke on "Joseph Smith Sr." Joyanne M. Payne, recent runner-up in the Mrs. America contest of Provo, Utah, spoke on "Lucy Mack Smith."

Dr. Paul Edwards of Graceland College spoke on the "Sons of Joseph Smith, Sr." Lynn E. Smith spoke on the "Daughters of Joseph Smith Sr." Dr. Truman G. Madson of BYU spoke on Emma Hale Smith.

Dr. Mark McKiernan, research historian for the Restoration Trails Foundation, spoke on David H. Smith. He has recently moved

to Nauvoo.

A highlight of the family gathering was a film, "Seeds of Greatness," written and produced by Buddy Youngreen of Provo, Utah, executive secretary of the Smith family reunion.

In addition of Mr. and Mrs. Lynn E. Smith, other family members from Independence who attended the family reunion were Mr. and Mrs. Anthony McKaye, and their five children, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Larson and their two children, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Smith and President and Mrs. W. Wallace Smith.





**LYNN SMITH, great-grandson of Joseph Smith Sr., addressed the Smith family reunion Saturday on the subject of the Smith daughters —Independent photo by Robert Hall.**



**DR. PAUL EDWARDS, great-great-grandson of Joseph Smith Sr., spoke to the Smith reunion group Saturday on the subject of the Smith sons.—Independent photo by Robert Hall.**





**COUSINS BY THE DOZENS**—Pictured here are about half of the descendants of Joseph Smith Sr. and their families, who attended the family reunion in Nauvoo Friday and Saturday. This photo was taken Friday afternoon before the entire crowd had assembled. It was the first time many of the Smith cousins had met. Others renewed old acquaintance during the reunion. The 1973 reunion will be held at Independence, Mo. Smith Sr. was the father of Joseph Smith Jr., founder of Nauvoo and of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day

**Saints**. Following his murder at Carthage in 1844, the church leadership was assumed by Brigham Young, who led the large percentage of the membership to the Great Salt Lake Valley of Utah in 1846. The family of the Prophet Joseph Smith remained in Nauvoo, later assuming charge of what became the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which now has its headquarters in Independence.

—Independent photo by Sam Strange.



