

Newspaper Clippings and Articles
of the
**Joseph Smith Sr. and
Lucy Mack Smith Family Reunion**

1973 – Independence, Missouri

the Community
observer

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Women And Family

Plan Smith family reunion

The second annual Smith family reunion will be held in Independence August 16-18, bringing together the families of Joseph Smith, Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith.

The initial family reunion was held last year in Nauvoo, Illinois, and this year's assembly will mark the first Independence reunion of the families since the early members of the Saints church left Independence in 1833.

The 3-day reunion will begin with a reception and registration 7-10:00 p.m., August 16, at the Saints RLDS Stone Church, 1012 W. Lexington. Mrs. Earlena Reneau will be chairman of the reception.

The activities of August 17 will begin 9:30 a.m. at the Ridgewood-Pleasant Heights Church, 4341 Blue Ridge, with welcoming speeches by Reginald A. Smith, son of Joseph Smith III, Kenneth J. Smith, grandson of Alexander Smith, and Lynn E. Smith, grandson of David H. Smith.

The film "Seeds of Greatness", produced by Buddy Youngreen of the Mormon Church, will be shown. This

film tells the story of the descendants of Joseph Smith, Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith.

Pearl Wilcox, local author of a book about Latter Day Saints in Independence titled "With The Latter Day Saints on the Missouri Frontier", will be interviewed by Mrs. Anena Mackay. Mrs. Mackay is the grand-daughter of Frederick Madison Smith, past president of the Saints Church.

Following a luncheon served by the women of the Ridgewood-Pleasant Heights Church, the family members will hear Dr. Leonard Arrington, Mormon historian, speak on "Joseph F. Smith, son of Hyrum Smith", and Alma Blair, Graceland College history instructor, speak on "Joseph Smith III, son of Joseph Smith, Jr.". Special instrumental music will be provided by Beatrice Mengel, pianist, with the accompaniment of her sons, Dana, violinist, and Leslie, cellist.

A 6:30 p.m. banquet at the Auditorium Laurel Club will conclude Friday's activities. Music will be provided by the Hampton Family Singers and

a soliloquy on Emma Smith will be presented by Mrs. Grechen Booz.

Saturday's activities will begin with historic tours of Independence, including the Mormon Information Center and the Saints Auditorium. The afternoon program will include responses to the previous day's speeches, by family representatives of Joseph Smith III and Joseph F. Smith.

The reunion will conclude at 4:00 p.m. with the showing of a film entitled "Joseph and Emma", also produced by Buddy Youngreen.

Local members of the reunion planning committee include Patriarch and Mrs. Lynn E. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald A. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. Smith, Dr. Wallace B. Smith, Josephine Smith Ebling, Donna Smith, Mrs. Winsome MacDonald, Mrs. Edward J. Larsen, Glenna Kennedy Henderson, and Mrs. Tony Mackay.

Members of the out-of-town planning committee included Buddy Youngreen, Joseph F. Patrick, Ralph G. Smith, and Gracia Demming.



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SAINTS HERALD

Smith Family Reunion Held in Independence

By Lorene Smith*

More than two hundred descendants of Joseph Smith, Sr., and Lucy Mack Smith gathered in Independence August 16-18 for the second Smith Family Reunion in nearly 130 years. Since the inception of the Restoration, the once close-knit Smith family had shared together in the triumphs, hardships, and persecutions heaped upon the prophet Joseph since the founding of the church in 1830. They had followed his leadership and moved with their families to Kirtland, Far West, and Nauvoo.

After the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum at Carthage, Illinois, in 1844, as a result of mob action, closely followed by the death of their brother Samuel, the family became divided as did the church.

The widows and children of Hyrum and Samuel, both brothers of the prophet, went to Utah in 1847. Another brother, William, returned to Pennsylvania, where he had established a mission. He later joined with the Reorganized Church. Emma Smith, widow of the prophet, remained in Nauvoo with her daughter, Julia, and her four sons, Joseph III, Frederick, Alexander, and David. (Frederick died in 1862.) Also remaining in the Nauvoo area with their families were the three sisters of the prophet: Sophronia Smith Stoddard, Katherine Smith Salisbury, and Lucy Smith Millikin. Until her death in 1855 Lucy Mack Smith, mother of the prophet, also stayed with Emma.

It was through the efforts of Buddy Youngreen, a convert to the Utah church, and Joseph Byron Smith, a grandson of Samuel Smith, that the Smith family had its first reunion in 1972. These men made several trips to Independence in 1971-72 to gain the cooperation of President W. Wallace Smith and other family members to hold the first family reunion in Nauvoo last summer.

Joseph Byron Smith, undoubtedly the most enthusiastic family member to attend these reunions, says he promised his father that before he died he would see to it that the family would come together as a whole and get to know and love one another as they had

in generations past. At the recent reunion he said that the animosity which had previously existed between the two branches of the family was "buried in the deep sea," and that they should move forward in love and unity as the descendants of their common ancestor.

The reunion opened with registration and a reception held in the Stone Church foyer, Thursday evening, August 16. A steady stream of guests arrived between 7:00 and 10:00 p.m., with the most excitement evident when a busload of Utah cousins arrived about 8:30 p.m. The teen-age girls in the family wore pretty, long dresses and served punch and cookies while the parents and grandparents mingled among the guests shaking hands and catching up on family news.

At the Friday morning opening session official welcomes were given by the descendants of the Joseph Smith, Jr., family, who were the hosts for the reunion. Dr. Stephen P. Larsen, son of Lois Smith Larsen and grandson of Frederick M. Smith, welcomed the guests on behalf of the Joseph Smith III family. Kenneth J. Smith, son of Arthur Smith, spoke on behalf of the descendants of Alexander Smith, his grandfather. Lynn E. Smith, son of Elbert A. Smith, spoke on behalf of the descendants of his grandfather, David H. Smith. Responsive greetings were given by Ralph G. Smith and Joseph Fielding Patrick, descendants of Hyrum Smith. Joseph Byron Smith represented the Samuel Smith descendants. John A. Salisbury brought greetings on behalf of the descendants of the Katherine Smith Salisbury family.

One of the highlights of the first session was the showing of the film, "Seeds of Greatness," produced by Buddy Youngreen. Also at the Friday morning session Anina Larsen Mackay, granddaughter of Frederick M. Smith, interviewed Pearl Wilcox, author of *With the Latter Day Saints on the Missouri Frontier*. Luncheons on both Friday and Saturday were served by the women of the

*Wife of Patriarch Lynn Smith, Independence, Missouri

Ridgewood-Pleasant Heights Church. All of the daytime meetings were held in this beautiful, new air-conditioned church.

The Friday afternoon session opened with the music of the Floyd Mengel family string ensemble. A keynote address, "Joseph Fielding Smith, Son of Hyrum," was given by Dr. Leonard Arrington, Latter Day Saint Church Historian from Salt Lake City. Another keynote address, "Joseph Smith III, Son of Joseph Smith, Jr.," was given by Professor Alma Blair of the Graceland History Department. An appropriate hymn, "These Things Shall Be: a Loftier Race," concluded the afternoon session.

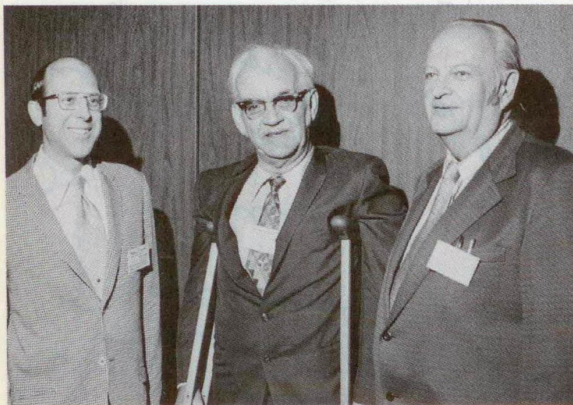
The Friday evening banquet, held in the Auditorium and served by the Laurel Club, was a highlight of the reunion. Dr. Wallace B. Smith, son of President Smith, offered the invocation. Janet Costello and daughter Ruth, descendants of Audentia Smith Anderson who wrote several of the Restoration hymns, led the group in singing. Master of Ceremonies Buddy Youngreen introduced the Hampton Family Singers, who did two groups of songs with such excellence and skill that the audience moved with them from laughter to tears. Gretchen Booz, dressed as Emma Smith in her later years and wearing a shawl that belonged to Emma, gave a soliloquy taken from *Emma Smith, the Elect Lady*. The setting was made more authentic with the portraits of Emma and Joseph hanging in the

background. The theme talk, "The Hearts of the Children Shall Be Turned to the Fathers," was given by Lynn E. Smith. He said, "When Joseph Smith dedicated the land for the temple site, he must have dreamt of the day when his family would be gathered to the land of Zion. Today, you and I share in a partial realization of that dream as we gather in this reunion." The benediction was by Joseph Fielding Patrick.

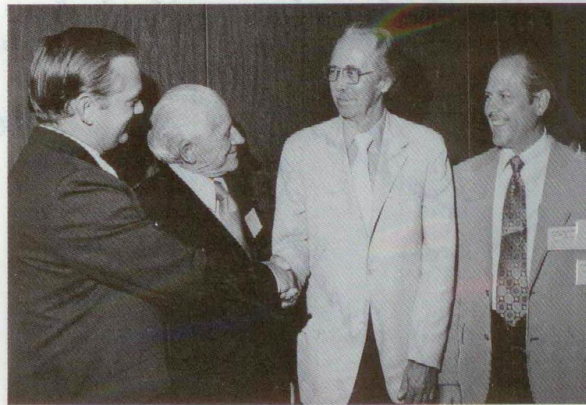
On Saturday morning the guests were divided into three groups for a bus tour of historic Independence, the Mormon Visitor's Center, and the Auditorium where they heard an organ concert by Delores Bruch and viewed Emma Smith's family Bible which listed births, deaths, and marriages in her own handwriting. The Bible, owned by Kenneth J. Smith, was on display in Heritage Hall.

At the closing session on Saturday afternoon, President W. Wallace Smith responded to the presentation given the previous afternoon on his father, Joseph Smith III, while Edith Patrick Smith responded to the presentation given on her father, Joseph Fielding Smith.

The film, *Emma and Joseph*, produced by Buddy Youngreen was shown at the concluding service. A tape made by Patriarch Elbert Smith before his death was presented. With the strains of "God Be with You Till We Meet Again," the family reunion adjourned to meet in August of 1975 in Salt Lake City.



Welcome speeches were made by descendants of Joseph Smith, Jr.—hosts of the reunion (left to right) Dr. Stephen P. Larsen, great-grandson of Joseph Smith III; Kenneth J. Smith, grandson of Alexander Smith; and Lynn E. Smith, grandson of David H. Smith.



Responses were given by descendants of Hyrum, Samuel, and Katherine Smith Salisbury (left to right): John A. Salisbury, great-grandson of Katherine; Joseph Byron Smith, grandson of Samuel; Ralph G. Smith and Joseph Fielding Patrick, grandsons of Hyrum.

THE EXAMINER

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Descendants of Smith Family Gather for Reunion

those years some of the descendants of Joseph Smith Sr. will gather tonight to begin two days of reunion activities here.

The reunion, which is no way church-related, but will begin with registration from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Stone Church.

The Latter Day Saints made their exodus from Independence 130 years ago. This week for the first time in all

Saint religion still hold to the principle that the temple will someday be built in Independence as Joseph Smith proposed.

Welcomes by descendants of the family will be extended at 9:30 a.m. Friday. Welcomes will come from Dr. Steven Larsen, descendant of Joseph Smith III; Kenneth J. Smith, descendant of Alexander Smith; and Lynn E. Smith, descendant of David H. Smith.

At that time he and Bishop Edward Partridge bought 38 acres of land and dedicated it for the building of the temple. All segments of the Latter Day

Day Saints on the Missouri Frontier."

The afternoon session will feature a presentation of music by the Floyd Mengel family. A talk on Joseph Fielding Smith, son of Hyrum, will be given by Dr. Leonard Arrington, LDS Church historian, and on Joseph Smith III, son of Joseph Smith Jr. by Dr. Alma Blair of Graceland College.

The family reunion banquet

will be at 6:30 p.m. Friday and will carry out the theme, "The Hearts of the Children Shall Be Turned to the Fathers."

Patriarch Lynn E. Smith will give the theme talk. Entertainment will be provided by the Hampton family Singers and a "Soliloquy on Emma Smith" by Gretchen Booz.

When the Saints left a time in Far West where they were again persecuted and

Responding to the welcome will be Ralph G. Smith, descendant of Hyrum Smith; Joseph Byron Smith, descendant of Samuel Smith, and Dorothy Dean, descendant of Catherine Smith Saltbury.

Next on the program will be a film, "Seeds of Greatness," produced by Buddy Youngren, followed by an interview of Pearl Wilcox, author of "With the Latter

Driven out of Missouri, in 1839 they settled in a city now called Nauvoo, Ill. The census shows that 30,000 Latter Day Saints lived in Nauvoo and the surrounding countryside by 1844. That year Joseph Smith Jr. and his brother Hyrum were killed by assassins as they were being held in the Carthage, Ill., jail in

protective custody.

Though Joseph Smith had designated his son, Joseph Smith III, to follow him as the president and leader of the restoration movement, he was only 12 years old at the time of his father's death. Confusion ensued and many leaders sprang up claiming their

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Smith—

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share of followers.

The largest group of these went west with Brigham Young to Utah. This group included the widows and children of two of the brothers of Joseph, Samuel and Hyrum, and some of the uncles. The sisters of Joseph—Catherine, Sophrinia and Lucy—chose to stay in Nauvoo with the prophet's widow, Emma, and her three sons. There Emma lived out her life, bringing up her children to be true to the teachings of their father.

In 1860 her eldest son, Joseph Smith III, became president of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Both of his brothers, Alexander and David, became active in the reorganization.

In 1920 under the leadership of Frederick M. Smith, son of Joseph Smith III, Independence was declared to be the city of Zion and the principal headquarters of the reorganized church. Since that time the leadership of the church has been by Israel A. Smith and W. Wallace Smith, both sons of Joseph Smith III.

Salt Lake City, Utah, had continued to be the headquarters of the Mormon church, and many of the descendants of Hyrum and Samuel have occupied leading rolls in the church.

A family reunion might have been impossible a few generations ago because of the friction and animosity that developed between the members of the families in the two churches. However, in recent years those feelings have mellowed toward the members of the family, regardless of the differences which still exist between the two churches, according to Lynn E. Smith, great-grandson of Joseph Smith Jr., and co-chairman with Reginald A. Smith of the family reunion.



Thursday, August 16, 1973

Joseph Smith Family Gathers for Reunion

"The hearts of the children shall be turned to the fathers" will be the theme for the 2nd annual gathering in Independence this week of descendants of Joseph Smith, Sr., and Mrs. Lucy Mack Smith. Their son, Joseph Smith, Jr., is recognized by both the Reorganized Latter Day Saint and Latter-day Saint (Mormon) churches as their founder.

The family reunion, the first of which was held last year in Nauvoo, Ill., will begin tonight with registration and a reception at the R. L. D. S. Stone Church, Independence. Activities are planned through Saturday.

The reorganized church has

its world headquarters in Independence. W. Wallace Smith, R.L.D.S. church president, is the son of Joseph Smith III, who was the first president of the reorganized church.

Before the family's reunion last year the descendants had not met as a family since 1844 when the Mormons followed Brigham Young to Salt Lake City and family members who rejected Young's leadership remained in the Midwest to form the reorganized church.

"A family reunion might have been impossible a few generations ago because of the friction and animosity that developed between the members of the families in the two churches,"

said Lynn E. Smith, one of the organizers of this year's reunion in Independence. "However in recent years those feelings have mellowed toward the members of the family, regardless of differences that still exist between the two churches.

This is in no way a church related activity," Smith added. Last year the 350 family members attending the reunion were asked to confine their discussions to family matters and not "religious and doctrinal matters."

Smith said he expects 200 to 300 persons to attend. Among activities, he said, will be a tour of the city and include visits to both the Mormon Visitor's Cen-

er and the R.L.D.S. Auditorium.

R.L.D.S., Mormon Founders

Smith Family Reunites

About 125 descendents of Joseph Smith, Sr., gathered this morning in Independence for a program of family introductions and a review of the history of the Smith family. They met at the Ridgewood-Pleasant Heights Church.

Joseph Smith, Jr., is recognized by both the Reorganized Latter Day Saint and the Latter

Day Saint (Mormon) churches as their founder. The family reunion, which will end tomorrow, is the second for the Smith family. The first was last year in Nauvoo, Ill.

Relatives who had not met before shook hands and embraced before the program began. Explanation of what branch of the family the visitor came from

could be heard as greetings were exchanged.

Waiting for the program to start, Joseph Bryon Smith, of St. George, Utah, a high priest in the Mormon Church, expressed his delight with the reunion.

"I think it's the most remarkable thing in the world," he

said. "This is the best thing that has happened to the family in 125 years."

Joseph Bryon Smith said that it was he and W. Wallace Smith, president of the R.L.D.S. Church, that first worked together to bring about the first reunion last year.

"We're going to take all our animosity and bury it in the ocean," Joseph Bryon Smith said.

One of the organizers of this year's reunion, Lynn E. Smith of Independence, said the reunion showed renewed interest among family members.

"A family reunion might have been impossible a few generations ago because of the friction and animosity that developed between the members of the families of the two churches," he said.

W. Wallace Smith said before today's program that he welcomed the reunion.

"I think it's a good chance for the descendants of Joseph Smith, Sr., to find out who everyone is, a chance we haven't had in a good long while," he said. "I think it is an opportunity to promote good will among relatives who might have had divergent views as far as their religion is concerned.

The reorganized church has its world headquarters in Independence. W. Wallace Smith is the son of Joseph Smith III who was the first president of the reorganized church.

Before the family's reunion last year the descendants had not met as a family since 1844 when the Mormons followed Brigham Young to Salt Lake City and family members who rejected Young's leadership remained in the Midwest to form the reorganized church.

Tomorrow morning those attending the reunion will tour Independence and visit the Mormon visitor's center and the R.L.D.S. auditorium. The closing session of the reunion will begin at 2 p.m. at the Ridgewood-Pleasant Heights Church.

THE EXAMINER

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Smiths Begin Reunion

Wearing color coded name tags indicating their family ancestry, more than 300 descendants of Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith began a two-day reunion this morning at the Ridgewood-Pleasant Heights Saints Church.

The session began with

words of welcome from three Independence members of the family, Dr. Stevan Larsen, descendant of Joseph Smith III; Kenneth J. Smith, descendant of Alexander Smith; and Lynn E. Smith, descendant of David H. Smith.

Responses came from

Ralph G. Smith and Joseph Fielding Patrick, descendant of Hyrum Smith; John Salisbury descendant of Catherine Smith Salisbury; and Joseph Byron Smith, descendant of Samuel Smith.

Joseph Byron Smith said that animosity which had previously existed between the two branches of the family

was "buried in the deep sea."

Co-chairmen of the event are Buddy Youngreen, Provo, Utah; and Lynn E. Smith, Independence.

A film, "Seeds of Greatness," produced by Youngreen, was shown followed by an interview of Pearl Wilcox, author of "With the Latter Day Saints on the (See Page 2)

Smiths—

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Missouri Frontier."

The Floyd Mengel Family entertained the group in the afternoon with musical selections. Speeches on Joseph Fielding Smith, son of Hyrum; and Joseph Smith III, son of Joseph Jr., were presented by Dr. Leonard Arrington, Mormon church librarian, and Dr. Alma Blair of Graceland College respectively.

A family reunion banquet is planned for tonight at the Saints Auditorium.

Saturday's activities include a historic tour, responses to the Friday afternoon presentations by President W. Wallace Smith and Edith Smith Patrick, daughter of Joseph Fielding Smith, a film on "Joseph and Emma," and a tape presentation by Elbert A. Smith, grandson of Joseph the Martyr.

The gathering included about 75 descendants of Joseph Smith III and 50 descendants of Hyrum.