

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

1975 – Salt Lake City, Utah

# 1975 Reunion in Salt Lake City August 7, 8 & 9

*Reception, Fellowship, Music, Film, Luncheon,  
History, Banquet, Drama, & Sightseeing Featured*

The third biennial reunion of the descendants of Joseph Smith, Sr., and Lucy Mack Smith, will be held Thursday through Saturday, August 7, 8 & 9, on the 26th floor of the new Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Office Building in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Church Office Building is the tallest building in Salt Lake City. The multi-purpose area on the 26th floor has a small stage, a spacious cultural hall for meetings, a kitchen, roof gardens and large picture windows that provide a spectacular view of the city, the surrounding mountains and the Great Salt Lake.

A get-acquainted reception is the first scheduled activity. This reception will be held Thursday, between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. as family

members pick up registration packets and associate with kinsmen.

Following the reception, reunion members are invited to attend a rehearsal of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in the century-old Tabernacle, adjacent to the Assembly Hall and Temple, at nearby Temple Square. The 375-voice choir will perform in front of the towering pipes of the Tabernacle Organ.

The next reunion session will be Friday, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Welcoming speeches, announcements and a special slide-film presentation concerning the family, produced by Buddy Youngreen, will highlight this meeting.

After a catered luncheon, between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., reunion members will

reconvene for a special program.

At 6:30 p.m., Friday evening, the family will enjoy a banquet. Special entertainment will be presented during the dinner.

The banquet will conclude by 8:30 p.m., allowing reunion participants time to travel two blocks to the newly restored and refurbished Promised Valley Playhouse where they will be guests of honor at the evening performance of the musical-comedy "Promised Valley."

Chartered buses will take members of the Smith Family on a special interest tour of Salt Lake City beginning at 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Scheduled stops include the Beehive House, Territorial

(Continued on Page 2)

## 1975 Reunion

(Continued from Page 1)

Capitol & Utah State Capitol Buildings, This Is the Place Monument and the Granite Mountain Genealogical Vaults. The tour will conclude with a picnic at Brighton, in the Big Cottonwood Canyon. Lunch will be provided.

The final session of the 1975 family reunion will take place at 3:00 p.m. Saturday. A live dramatic program concerning highlights in the lives of the family's illustrious progenitors, Joseph Smith, Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith, will be presented at this time. Closing announcements and a statement relative to the 1977 biennial reunion will bring the 1975 reunion to a close.

Members of this year's reunion committee are Mr. and Mrs. Eldred G. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Patrick and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph G. Smith representing the descendants of Hyrum Smith.

while Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Byron Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Allen L. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Melvin T. Smith represent the descendants of Samuel Harrison Smith. Mr. and Mrs. Lynn E. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Kay Denning and Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Kennedy represent the Joseph Smith, Jr., family and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Duke, Miss Dorothy Dean and Mr. Warren L. Van Dine represent the descendants of Katherine Smith Salisbury. Additional members of the reunion committee are Mr. James E. Swann, Travel Coordinator, Miss Donna Lee Smith, Assistant Travel Coordinator, Mrs. Arma Eddington, Building and Arrangements Coordinator and Buddy Youngreen, Executive Secretary of the Joseph Smith, Sr., Family Reunion organization.

1975 reunion Co-chairmen are Joseph F. Patrick and Buddy Youngreen.

# Smith kin gather in reuni

Approximately 500 descendants of Joseph Smith Sr. met in Salt Lake City, this month for a family reunion.

According to Buddy Youngreen, executive secretary of the reunion committee, Salt Lake hosted the third reunion held since 1972. Youngreen indicated that descendants from as far east as Florida and west as California came together for the reunion.

Youngreen indicated that the first reunion was held in 1972 at Nauvoo, Ill., the second reunion took place in 1973 at Independence, Mo. Youngreen indicated that no reunion was held in 1974.

According to Youngreen many activities were planned for the family. The activities included attending the rehearsal of the Tabernacle Choir, meetings featuring stories

about Smiths who came west, historical films and tours of the Salt Lake area.

Among those in attendance, according to Youngreen, was Lynn E. Smith, a descendant in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; the grand-daughter of Israel Smith, past president of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Winter Smith, the Prophet Joseph's brother Samuel.

Youngreen indicated that most participants in the reunion stayed in hotels in the Salt Lake area.

During business conducted during the reunion Youngreen indicated it was decided to have a reunion every two years. The next reunion will possibly be held in Kirtland, Ohio.

# Smith family ready for Friday reunion

Over 500 descendants of Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith are expected at the third biennial reunion through Friday in Salt Lake City.

Most of the members are from the Mountain West, but many have come from Independence, Mo., and other places in the Midwest, according to Buddy Youngreen, executive secretary of the family reunion organization.

The reunion begins tonight with a reception on the top floor of the Church Office Building and a visit to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir rehearsal.

President N. Eldon Tanner, first counselor in the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, will address the fami-

ly in a day-long program in the Church Office Building auditorium Friday. Other speakers will include Joseph F. Patrick, Bountiful, co-chairman of the reunion; Lynn E. Smith, Independence, Mo., a patriarch in the Reorganized Church, and Eldred G. Smith, Patriarch in the LDS Church.

The family will attend the Promised Valley Playhouse Friday. Saturday, the LDS Church will host them on a tour of Salt Lake Valley.

Joseph Smith Sr. was the father of Joseph Smith Jr., first prophet and president of the LDS Church. He and his wife had several other children, including Hyrum Smith, whose descendants are attending the gathering.

# What the Past Reunions Have Meant to Me

By Gracia N. Denning

(Gracia is a great-great-granddaughter of Joseph Smith, Jr. She is married to Kay Denning and they have eight children. They reside in Whitefish, Montana.)

Little can we dream how much posterity we each may count in a hundred years? . . . so it must have been a little over 100 years ago with our

esteemed ancestor, Joseph Smith, Sr.

—Could he have known that his posterity would number over 12,000? Could he have suspected the distances to which they would scatter in the course of time? . . . some as far away as Australia and Europe.

Would it have been within the realm of his imagination to suspect that within a few

years after his death, bitterness and strife would sever the branches of his family, one from the other? Had he known these things, surely he would have urged that charity be practiced and the filial ties be mended. And, were it possible, even at this late date, would he not gather his kindred together to receive his council and affectionate advice? Knowing this to have been his nature in life, and believing as we do in the eternal existence of the soul, I fancy that the reunions thus accomplished, have been looked upon, by our progenitor, with benevolence and that the future gatherings will continue with his blessings, even from his vantage point beyond the veil.

To bring together the many factions of the family almost seemed like foolishness -- a pipe dream. It had been discussed at times by individuals within the family. Uncle J. Winter Smith, Uncle Willard R. Smith, Cousin Ralph G. Smith and Cousin Joseph Byron Smith, had all made attempts to bring such a reunion about. As the years passed, it seemed to be an unattainable dream.

The general opinion was well expressed by my Uncle Jim Horner when he heard of the idea. He looked startled and declared, "There's no place on earth big enough" . . . meaning the impracticality of bringing together such diverse and opposing ideologies as those existing among the Smith descendants.

Who it was that actually gave birth to the idea is in-

(Continued on Page 2)



(Left - right) J. Winter Smith, W. Wallace Smith and Willard R. Smith at first reunion in Nauvoo, Illinois, August of 1972

(Continued from Page 1)  
 consequential, but the greatest appreciation and affection should be extended to those friends who cheered the project forward once it was begun. To mention only a few: Clinton F. Larson, Truman G. Madsen and Richard L. Anderson. Without their encouragement and advice the reunions might never have occurred. We also appreciate Ellis E. Craig, Dorothy Glad, and many others too numerous to mention.

Buddy Youngreen was to become the catalytic force, whose personal dedication and genuine love for all members of every branch of the Smith family will eternally shine as an example for us all. From home to home, across the whole country, Buddy gathered into his portfolio, pictures, stories and family data necessary for the organization of a family reunion. It doesn't matter if your name is Thompson or Costello, to Buddy, you are a Smith. It would be hard to estimate the amount in dollars and cents, as well as time, which Buddy and his wife, Toni, have willingly sacrificed to promote these Smith reunions. It is a labor of love.

In the spring of 1972, Buddy took a memorable trip to Independence, Missouri. He went with Joseph Byron Smith, Allen Smith and Joseph Beesley. Together, these men sought the support of the Independence family in bringing about a reunion of the descendants of Joseph Smith, Sr.

The kindly interest and encouragement of W. Wallace Smith, President of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, culminated in a unanimous decision to hold the reunion at Nauvoo, Illinois. The dates were set for mid-August. A

reality. The task which lay ahead was monumental. No doubt there came to Buddy, more than once, that thought . . . "Will fools rush in where angels fear to tread?"

It was from a little town in Nebraska that I received a call from Buddy informing me of the projected reunion and asking for my suggestions concerning it. My elation at the prospect of the reunion was somewhat dampened by the fact that I probably could not go, due to pregnancy. Never-the-less, my spirit soared at the thought that after so long apart, a reunion might heal the scars of the past.

The whole idea was to bring the family together without religion or controversial issues entering in. How well I remember the hours of planning . . . choosing the right speakers . . . selecting topics . . . a film prepared to lay before the family a glimpse of the personalities, hopes and dreams of Joseph Smith, Sr., and his wife Lucy. Everything was planned with one goal in mind, to spark a common bond which would overshadow all the differences. To unite the family in loving relationship.

As the big day drew near, I was in the ninth month of my pregnancy and desolate at having to miss the reunion. Every solution I thought of drew a blank. It was too expensive to fly, too far to drive. I was not well enough to make the trip. Yet, to miss the reunion seemed unthinkable! I was filled with the desire to be there. It was more than a desire, it was an obsession. The thing that motivated me was the wish to stand where my ancestors had stood. I wanted to see their sunsets and touch their belongings. I wanted to meet my cousins. I knew there would be other years and other reunions, yet I also knew that there would

Beyond all reasonable caution I knew I just had to go. My husband let me go, reluctantly, but with his blessing. Our son Paul went along to take care of me.

The bus trip from Salt Lake City to Nauvoo, Illinois was long and hot. I recall it now only in isolated moments of enjoyable conversation with my newly met relatives. How dearly I came to love Uncle Willard and Aunt Florence, their daughter Sarah and Uncle J. and Uncle Dave. How quickly first impressions fade, for I found out that Aunt Sue wasn't cross at all, once you got to know her. How Joseph Byron loved the trip and his dear sweet wife relaxed for the first time in months.

Cleone Isom and Esther Brown took special care of me. I had to eat right and sleep often to satisfy their friendly concern. From the first day on the bus, loving care and generosity marked the attitude of each towards the other.

I shall never forget Joseph and Ethel Patrick and their children. Joseph's mother, Aunt Edith Patrick was particularly kind to me. When I first met her, I thought she was very tall. It was a surprise to me later to realize she isn't tall at all. It is only her erect carriage and her towering spirit that gave me the feeling I was looking up to her. Her kindness to me was boundless and when my little son David has grown old enough, I shall delight in telling him how she took us in and gave us love and tender care when he was born away from home and in a strange city.

I loved the Cannons and found hours of enjoyment listening to discussions and just getting to know the entire group. In many ways the bus trip itself previewed the climax at Nauvoo. Here assembled were the descendants of Hyrum, Samuel Harrison and Joseph Jr. as well as those whose lines went back to George Albert and Uncle John Smith. Clinton F. Larson whose public relations work was invaluable, his wife Naomi and Margo Wright who entertained us with her pretty voice and her guitar. Toni Youngreen, who patiently suffered the early stages of her pregnancy while I was in the last of mine, and Buddy who moved about introducing everyone, relating stories and generally binding each of us in a common bond.

We arrived in Nauvoo late at night. Travel-weary though we were, as we unloaded and found our bunks in the Nauvoo House, which stands on the banks of the Mississippi River, each of us experienced the thrill of our lives. Though

mosquitos swarmed around us viciously, Buddy, Toni, Margo and I walked out on the bank of the river. Standing perhaps on the very spot the Prophet Joseph may at one time have stood, we made a circle, joining hands and with tears running down our cheeks, gave thanks for a safe journey and asked for God's grace to attend the reunion the following day.

Over three hundred people flooded into Nauvoo for the reunion. They came from north and south and from coast to coast. One young couple arrived from New York. They had heard of the reunion over the news on the car radio and had driven all night to get there. Family members came from every economic condition and represented nearly every major religion and occupation. They met . . . somewhat reticent . . . then as film and speakers gave them common ground, they molded into a family unit.

Our bus group drove to the Carthage Jail in the afternoon. Lynn and Lorene Smith came along. I cannot describe the sadness that I felt in that place. It was as though the tragedies hung -- timeless -- in the air. It was with a sense of terrible personal loss. I viewed the bloodstains on the floor. I could picture how the Prophet must have fallen out the window. Our group did not require a tour guide's words. To us it was a tragedy too close to ourselves . . . too personal to be discussed . . . as though it was our blood spilled there upon the floor and theirs, within our veins, ran cold.

That evening we were glad to share a fine supper at the Nauvoo Hotel and dispell the remnant of nostalgic grief in animated conversation. There was real regret in our farewell . . . we were one family-once again.

Our journey back was hotter and longer than going. Many of the aged on the bus suffered real discomfort and one very pregnant lady (namely me) wondered very positively if she should not have stayed at home.

In spite of the discomforts, we viewed the sacred Temple sight at Far West, Missouri, and stood in the meadow at Adam-ondi-Ahman. We enjoyed the tour of both visitor centers in Independence and particularly appreciated the cooling rain and the personal visit with our Cousin Wallace Smith who posed for snap shots with members of the family and seemed not to mind the rain.

Shortly after our bus arrived in Salt Lake City, I went to the hospital and gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. Arriving after such a trip, and



Clinton F. Larson with his daughter Lori at 1973 reunion

occasion, it seemed fitting to give him the name David Joseph Denning.

The last meeting held in Nauvoo had been one with the Reunion Committee which includes representatives from each family. We planned to organize the next reunion, the following summer, in Independence.

The second reunion was hosted by the family in Independence, with Lynn and Lorene Smith at the helm. Reginald and Allegra Smith, and numerous others, formed an able organization through whose efforts a fine program was prepared. It was good to meet once again with old friends and meet new ones. Bud and LaVonne Fredrick and the Costellos, as well as Eric Smith. Margo was back with us to sing and the spirit of unity and family affection prevailed as it had in Nauvoo. Particularly poignant to us all was the gathering of "the cousins" at Josephine Ebeling's home. My mother, Lorena Normandeau and my Aunt Elizabeth Hahn had not been back to visit their cousins in many, many, years. Velora, Bea and June, Glenna, Kenneth, Don Marion, Winsome, Harold . . . and many more beloved cousins posed for pictures, smiled and wept and swapped stories of the years gone by. I think everybody felt most keenly the vacancies left by those who have been gone awhile. It crossed my mind to wish my grandmother, Coral, could have been there . . . then came the thought . . . perhaps she is.

Everyone appreciated the opportunity to view the original paintings of David Hyrum Smith at the home of Lynn Smith. Here I met Glauud Leslie Smith and discovered we have a common interest in painting.

The tour around the city of Independence was enjoyable and gave family members an opportunity to chat together informally. It was on this tour I had the pleasure of visiting Alma Blair and Leonard Arrington. I shall never forget Dorothy Dean, Kenny Duke and Warren Van Dine. The reality of the Salisbury cousins, about whom my grandmother used to tell me, came alive for me through these, Katherine's descendants.

The banquet for the family gathered quite a number together around the board. This was, for me, the moment when the family feeling was nearly overwhelming. As I looked across the hall, a sea of smiling faces met my gaze. My eyes misted as we sang songs together and listened to a wonderful family group, whose music could not fail to touch the heart.

We hated to say goodbye.

and our bus turned to the west and everyone looked ahead to the mountains. Many of the family on the bus were the same as the year before. Lucille Major and her mother added much to the group and we all missed Joseph Smith Cannon and his wife. It was such a pleasure to get acquainted with Ralph G. and Geneva Smith. Cleone Isom was back and the Patricks. We all felt a little sad at times for we all missed Uncle Willard's sweet smile and gentle humor. We had all appreciated Patriarch Eldred G. Smith coming to the bus before we left Salt Lake City and the spirit of his prayer remained with us all the way going and returning. Parting was eased by the knowledge that we would be together again in 1975, and this time, the family in the Salt Lake area would have the opportunity to be host.

We shall greatly miss Reginald this year. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Allegra. There will always be a place for her within the family circle, and we hope she will be able to meet with us often.

What more can I say to urge upon your minds how much the reunions have meant to me? Reared in Northwestern Montana, far away from my mother's family, I was practically ignorant of my Smith heritage until fate intervened and our family moved to Eastern Montana. There I learned about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and about Joseph Smith. To me, the reunion of the Smith descendants was a chance to meet my relatives, to hear about the lives, the hopes and the sufferings of my ancestors. Through this, I have come to know myself better. Both my strengths and my weaknesses seem to fall into focus, through becoming better acquainted with the roots from which I come.

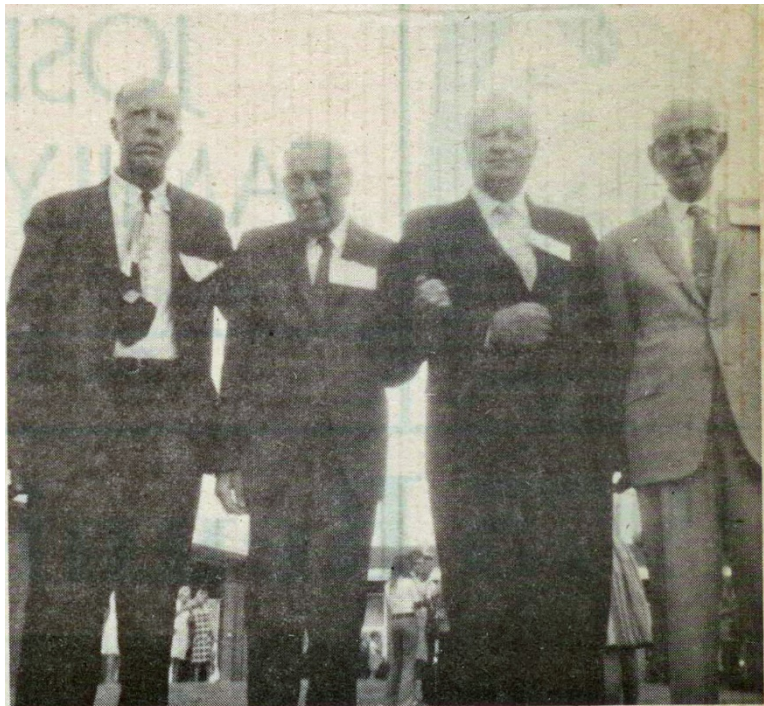
Regardless of the hardships or the sacrifice involved, I would not have missed the reunions in Nauvoo and Independence. I look forward with keen anticipation to the meeting of the family once again.

Though I cannot name every single person here-in that I would wish to, the faces pass before my mind's eye endlessly. Each of you are precious in my memory . . . you are the dearest family in all the world. I am thankful to those who have made it possible for these reunions to take place. It is almost as though I can hear Joseph Smith, Sr., say, 'I will gather my posterity together and bless them' and the essence of that blessing is to come to know and love one another.





**(Left - right) Dorothy Dean, Erma Smith and Joseph Byron Smith during 1973 reunion.**



**(Left - right) Warren L. Van Dine, J. Winter Smith, Lynn E. Smith, Willard R. Smith at 1972 reunion**



Recreation specialist, Alma Heaton, will take charge of children this year

## Activities for Young People Planned for 1975 Smith Reunion

Something new will be offered to the youngsters attending this year's Joseph Smith, Sr., Family Reunion in Salt Lake City. Recreation specialist, Alma Heaton, is planning activities that are geared especially for children. These special activities will offer young people a chance for getting acquainted, on their own level, while they

engage in carefully planned recreational programs that coincide with all adult meetings.

Mr. Heaton is currently an Assistant Professor of Recreation at Brigham Young University. He has traveled throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and Europe teaching and conducting recreation and dance

workshops. Professor Heaton has also been Vice President of the Utah Recreation Association.

According to Mr. Heaton, this year's agenda for the reunion includes experienced acrobatic maneuvers, climbing, amazing elastic rope, cross-country games of skill and concentration, and even a treasure hunt.

# Smith Family Library

Following the 1973 reunion in Independence, Missouri, a committee was organized to establish, and maintain, a Joseph Smith, Sr., Family Library. The library will be housed in two locations; one at the Graceland College Library in Lamoni, Iowa, and the other at the Brigham Young University Library in Provo, Utah.

The purpose of the library project is to preserve, in duplicate, the records of the Joseph Smith, Sr., Family. These records will include books, diaries, journals, booklets, newspaper and magazine articles, genealogical data, and related materials

Lynn E. Smith of Independence, Missouri, a great-grandson of Joseph Smith, Jr., and a Patriarch in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, will co-chairman this activity in connection with Eldred G. Smith of Salt Lake City, Utah, a great-great-grandson of Hyrum Smith, and the Presiding Patriarch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Paul M. Edwards, Chairman of the Division of Social Sciences at Graceland College, will serve as the liaison for the library project at Lamoni while Truman G. Madsen, Director of the Institute of Mormon Studies at B. Y. U., will func-

tion in the same capacity at the Provo Campus. Buddy Younggreen, Executive Secretary of the Joseph Smith, Sr., Family Reunion Organization and Ellis E. Craig, the new library project's Ways and Means Director, will function as acquisition coordinators for the library repositories.

Members of the family, and friends, who possess materials pertaining to the descendants of Joseph Smith, Sr., are encouraged to contact the library liaisons, Paul M. Edwards or Truman G. Madsen, in care of their respective campuses and arrange for the preserving, or copying, of these materials.