

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

1977 – Kirtland, Ohio

Page 36—THE HERALD, Provo, Utah, Thursday, July 28, 1977

Descendants of Joseph Smith Sr. Schedule A Reunion in Kirtland

The fourth biennial reunion of the descendants of Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith, Parents of Joseph Smith Jr., who founded the LDS Church, will be held Aug. 4-7 in Kirtland, Ohio.

Advance registrations indicate that hundreds of family members, from across the nation, are planning to attend.

It has been estimated that the progeny of Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith number more than 12,000. Descendants today trace their genealogy through one of seven of the 11 Smith children: Hyrum (1800-1844), Joseph Jr. (1805-1844), Samuel Harrison (1808-1844), William (1811-1893), Katherine (1813-1900), Don Carlos (1816-1841), and or Lucy (1821-1882).

The first reunion of members of the family in over 126 years took place in historic Nauvoo, Ill, during August of 1972. It was decided at that time to continue to meet on a biennial basis. Subsequent reunions were held in Independence, MO, in 1973 and Salt Lake City, in 1975.

Goals for the family reunions have been, in part, to compile a complete record of the family, to cultivate the type of relationships and interests necessary to have a successful family organization, and to maintain all family ties and associations. In seeking to achieve these goals, discussions have been confined to family matters while religious and doctrinal matters have been excluded.

The Joseph Smith Sr. family reunion committee, presided over by Buddy Youngreen, executive-secretary, is the agency responsible for the planning,

execution and financing of all reunions. Committee members represent descendant family organizations and geographic areas. Hyrum Smith descendant committee members include Eldred G. Smith, Joseph F. Patrick and Ralph G. Smith. Joseph Smith Jr. descendant committee members are Lynn E. Smith, Lorene Smith and Gracia Denning. Samuel Harrison Smith descendant committee members include Melvin T. Smith, Joseph Byron Smith and Allen L. Smith. Katherine Smith Salisbury descendant committee members consist of Dorothy Dean, Kenneth E. Duke and Warren L. Van Dine.

Buddy Youngreen has been sustained as executive-secretary by acclamation of the family at the reunions. He presides over the reunion committee and coordinates all reunion functions. Additionally he serves as co-chairman of the individual biennial reunions, sharing duties with alternating chairmen of the hosting, program and arrangements committee.

Acting under the auspices of the reunion committee, Lynn E. and Lorene Smith will co-chairman the 1977 Kirtland reunion hosting, program and arrangements committee. Anyone wishing further information concerning the Kirtland reunion may write to Lynn E. Smith, 1513 W. Walnut St., Independence, MO 64050.

Smith Reunion Set

Special to The Tribune

KIRTLAND, Ohio — The fourth biennial reunion of descendants of Joseph Smith Sr. (1771-1840) and Lucy Mack Smith (1775-1856), will be held here Aug. 4-7.

Hundreds of family members from throughout the nation are expected to attend the event. It is estimated there are more than 12,000 descendants.

The first family reunion in more than 126 years took place in Nauvoo, Ill., in August, 1972. Subsequent reunions were held in Independence, Mo., in 1973, and Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1975.

Lynn E. and Lorene Smith will co-chair the 1977 Kirtland Reunion Hosting, Program and Arrangements Committee. Further information about the event can be obtained from Lynn E. Smith, 1513 W. Walnut St., Independence, Mo., 64050.

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JOSEPH SMITH SR. DESCENDANTS WITNESS STIRRING PERFORMANCE AT KIRTLAND FAMILY REUNION

A one-hour characterization of Joseph Smith Jr., prophet-founder of the LDS Church, was performed by S. Bryce Chamberlain, Brigham Young University actor and faculty member, at the Joseph Smith Sr. family reunion in Kirtland, Ohio, last week. Many Southern California descendants of the Senior Smith were in attendance.

Mr. Chamberlain, who has appeared on the stage in California and Utah and in BYU films, begins his solo performance of "Joseph the Prophet" with a description of Joseph Smith's physical bearing and appearance as he applies theatrical makeup to his own face. Background continues with comments about Joseph extracted from diaries, writings, and records of those who knew him intimately.

Various explanations of the effect and purpose of the makeup are interjected as Chamberlain's appearance is slowly altered. Last minute clothing changes and a new dimension to the voice combine with a shift in narration from third person to first person as the actor is suddenly transformed into the character of Joseph.

From this point Joseph speaks to the audience in conversations with imaginary persons. He displays personal feelings of humor, sorrow, love, despair, and joy. Insights into the relationships with his family and friends are shared, and Joseph reminisces about his boyhood, ancestry, and first vision. And he expounds on new doctrines, grieves over betrayals, places authority in the Twelve, and sees that his time has come.

The actor also uses some multi-

media projections to provide scenic backgrounds for his presentation.

This was the fourth biennial reunion of the descendants of Joseph Smith Sr. (1771-1840) and Lucy Mack Smith (1775-1856). Kirtland, the location of the reunion, also was the site of the first LDS temple.

It has been estimated that the Smith progeny number more than 12,000. Descendants trace their genealogy through seven of the eleven Smith children: Hyrum, Joseph, Samuel, William, Katherine, Don Carlos, and Lucy.

Mr. Chamberlain's invitation to perform came from Lynn E. Smith of Independence, MO., a member of the family reunion committee.

Mr. Chamberlain is coordinator of personal services for Indian Education at BYU. He became associated with the theatre 25 years ago at the University of Utah, and later performed in films and on stage in California. He was associated with the Glendale Centre Theatre operated by Ruth and Nathan Hale.

It was in that theatre in 1964 that he took the part of Joseph Smith in "The Story of the Restoration," and, he said, "I have been thinking about the character of Joseph ever since."

He has performed the Joseph Smith soliloquy in education weeks in several states for four years.

Mr. Chamberlain, who holds the B.A. and M.A. degrees from BYU, assisted in the production of "The People of the Book" in 1969 by the BYU American Indian Services and Research Center in the Starlight Bowl in Burbank. Since joining the BYU faculty in 1969, he



S. BRYCE CHAMBERLAIN, well-known local actor, will give his portrayal of the Prophet Joseph Smith for descendants of Joseph Smith Sr. at the fourth annual reunion in Kirtland, Ohio.

LDS Actor Will Portray Prophet At Smith Meet

A one-hour characterization of Joseph Smith Jr., prophet-founder of the LDS Church, will be performed by S. Bryce Chamberlain, Brigham Young University actor and faculty member, at the Joseph Smith Sr. family reunion in Kirtland, Ohio, Aug. 4-6.

Mr. Chamberlain, who has appeared on the stage in California and Utah and in BYU films, begins his solo performance of "Joseph the Prophet" with a description of Joseph Smith's physical bearing and appearance as he applies theatrical makeup to his own face.

Background continues with comments about Joseph extracted from diaries, writings and records of those who knew him intimately.

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The actor also uses some multimedia projections to provide scenic backgrounds for his presentation.

This will be the fourth biennial reunion of the descendants of Joseph Smith Sr. (1771-1840) and Lucy Mack Smith (1775-1856). Kirtland, the location of the reunion, also is the site of the first LDS temple.

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Mr. Chamberlain's invitation to perform came from Lynn E. Smith of Independence, Mo., a member of the family reunion committee.

Mr. Chamberlain is coordinator of personal services for Indian Education at BYU. He became associated with the theater 25 years ago at the University of Utah, and later performed in films and on stage in California. His most famous role is in the LDS film, "Man's Search for Happiness."

He was associated with the Glendale Center Theatre operated by Ruth and Nathan Hale.

It was in that theater in 1964 that he took the part of Joseph Smith in "The Story of the Restoration," and, he said, "I have been thinking about the character of Joseph ever since."

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