



LUCY MACK SMITH  
1775-1856

# JOSEPH SMITH, SR., FAMILY REUNION NEWS

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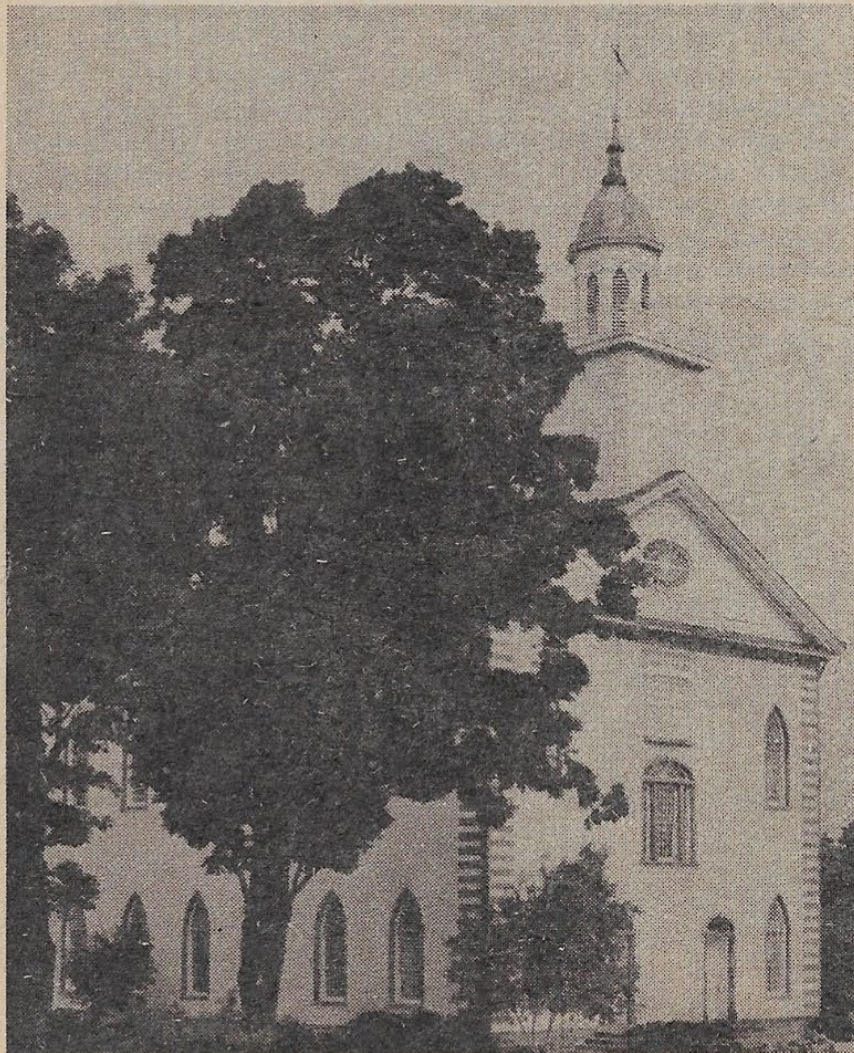
264 CARNEGIE # 151, CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA 91711

Buddy Youngreen, Executive-Secretary



JOSEPH SMITH, SR.  
1771-1840

## 1977 REUNION IN KIRTLAND, OHIO AUGUST 4, 5, 6 & 7



Kirtland Temple Dedicated March 27, 1836

By Lynn & Lorene Smith

The next Joseph Smith, Sr., Family Reunion has been scheduled for August 4-7, 1977, at Kirtland, Oh. Now is the time to record these dates on your calendar and make plans to gather with the family clan. Registration forms and information will be mailed to the family in April of 1977.

Reunions took place in Nauvoo in 1972, Independence in 1973 and Salt Lake City in 1975. Now, Kirtland calls to all the members of the Smith family to gather from the four quarters of the earth, from all walks of life, to join in family unity and appreciation of our mutual heritage in being of the seed of Lucy (Mack) and Joseph, Sr.

The construction of the building in which some of the meetings will be held, the Kirtland Temple, was begun in 1833, just three years after the church was organized. In this short span of time the greater majority of the Smith family, Joseph Sr., his children, and his brothers and

their families had moved to Kirtland to share in the task of building the church and erecting the Temple. It took another three years to complete the Temple; on March 27, 1836, the family, together with the other members of the church, shared in the worship experience of the dedication of the Temple. The years of mutual labor and endeavor, facing persecution from without, brought the Smith Family to a close-knit unity and stability that formed the central core of the strength of the Kirtland community and of the Church.

The Kirtland Temple stands today as a monument to the devotion and dedication of the members of the Smith family and the members of the early church.

Evidence of their sacrifice is visible today, in the glistening plaster walls of the building. When the plaster was being

prepared for the outer covering of the walls, the women brought their glassware to be pulverized and mixed with it so that the walls of the House of the Lord would glisten in the sunlight.

The program for the reunion is in the preparation stage. Your suggestions are invited and will be appreciated.

A pre-registration questionnaire is on page 4 of this newsletter. Even if you are not certain whether you can attend the 1977 reunion, send in your pre-registration and your suggestions for the program. We want to hear from you, even if it turns out you can't be with us.

One suggestion already under serious consideration is that more time be provided for informal visiting. To accomplish this, an arts and crafts exhibit and show might be one of the features on Friday afternoon.

Recreational activities are being planned for the youth also on Friday afternoon. More information will be forthcoming in the April newsletter.

Negotiations are under way to locate a motel where the majority of the family members can stay. Such an arrangement would facilitate inter-family visiting.

Bus transportation will be provided from the motel to the Temple area. Those who have family or friends in the area, who wish to plan home-stays, will need to provide their own transportation.

Please feel free to write to Lynn E. Smith and his wife, Lorene who are the Co-Chairmen of the 1977 Hosting Program and Arrangements Committee. We need your support and will appreciate your suggestions and ideas.

Please use the form on the back page.

## 600 ATTEND SALT LAKE REUNION RECEPTION, FELLOWSHIP, MUSIC, FILM, BANQUET, DRAMA, LUNCHEON, HISTORY, & SIGHTSEEING FEATURED

Cousins by the dozens enjoyed the time of their life in Salt Lake City last year. They met together, worked together, laughed together, wept together, and prayed together. They resolved to leave behind them forever the differences that have kept them apart and, with the spirit of mutual love and respect, experience the "joy of being together" again and again and again.

The family photograph on the right, by George Brown, was taken at the 1975 reunion picnic, held at the Mule Hollow Inn in Big Cottonwood Canyon. This picnic proved to be one of the most popular group activities, combining as it did food for the body with food for the soul.

The highly successful family reunion in Salt Lake City, Utah, was the third gathering of the descendants of Lucy Mack and Joseph Smith, Sr., in recent years. Over 600 members of the family participated in the many activities which took place August 7th-9th.

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 descen-

dant 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 Joseph Byron Smith, Allen L. Smith and Melvin T. 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 Buddy 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. The Reunion Committee pledges Lynn and Lorene their full support and best wishes in their efforts to plan a successful reunion and hereby urges every member of the family to do the same.



Family Picnic in Big Cottonwood Canyon, August 9, 1975

1977 PRE-REGISTRATION FORM ON BACK PAGE

## INEZ VISITS AMERICA



**INEZ WRIGHT BALLARD**  
First U.S.A. Trip

Last June, Inez Wright Ballard, of New South Wales, Australia, visited the United States. Arriving by plane in San Francisco, she traveled by bus to Spokane, Washington, where she was met by her cousin, Elizabeth Hahn. They went directly to Elizabeth's home in Troy, Montana, where Inez was able to rest a little before continuing on to Ronan, Montana, on Sunday.

An open house, at the home of Lorena Normandeau, brought Inez in contact with some of her American cousins for the first time. She visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Seibert, where she enjoyed a real Montana branding-day get-together, complete with singing cowboys. She toured the Flathead Indian Reservation and visited the old St. Ignatius Mission. She spent Monday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Samsel at Evaro, Montana, where more relatives dropped in to meet her.

The Montana relatives who gathered to welcome their Australian cousin at these various functions were: Lorena Normandeau, Elizabeth and Ralph K. Hahn, Alice Denning, Gracia Denning, Lori Denning, Margaret Denning, Karoline Denning, David Denning, Marjorie Horner, Jack and Bev Horner and their baby daughter, Jodie, Joy Denning, Jeff Wright, Merv and Beth Selle Bette and Bill Samsel, Rex Samsel, David Samsel, Anita and Homer Seibert, Tom Seibert, Henry Seibert, Mary Seibert, R.J. and Carla Hahn, Douglas Hahn and Louis Hahn.

After leaving Missoula by bus on Tuesday, Inez arrived in Butte, Montana where another cousin, Brainerd Horner and his wife Inez, met her for a brief greeting and picnic lunch during her bus stop.

Continuing her bus trip east to Independence, Missouri, Inez enjoyed the scenery of the country and compared the vast distances with those of her own country. Anina and Tony McKay were her hosts during her stay in Independence. They took her on a trip to Nauvoo, Ill. and Lamoni, Iowa. She saw the girlhood home of her mother and visited the graves of her grandparents and great-grandparents.

Inez was the guest of honor at two family gatherings in Independence; a barbecue at the home of Tony and Anina Mackay, attended by many of the Mackay clan, and a June 14th reception, at the home of Josephine Smith Ebeling. Relatives at the reception included: W. Wallace Smith, Lynn E. and Lorene Smith, Anina and Tony Mackay, Earlena and Scott Finken, Allegra Luff Smith, Lois Smith Larsen, Winsome Smith McDonald and Kenneth Julian Smith.

Returning west by bus, Inez arrived in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she was hosted by Alice and Donald E. Smith. Early Saturday, June 19th, Alice Smith escorted Inez on a tour of Temple Square and the

Beehive House. After lunch at the Lion House, they were joined by cousin Ralph G. Smith and together they drove up into Little Cottonwood Canyon and visited the Snowbird Resort. A highlight of their visit to the canyon resort was an aerial tram ride over the jagged peaks of the Wasatch Mountains.

Sunday morning, Buddy Younggreen and Jamie R. Mackay picked up Inez and took her to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir Broadcast. In addition to the regular broadcast program, the choir tape-recorded a special Fourth of July presentation. The finale of the patriotic medley was "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." This number brought tears to Inez's eyes and she related to Buddy and Jamie that the "Battle Hymn" had been a particular favorite of her mothers. Inez said that her mother often sang it and longed to visit her homeland once again. According to

Inez, her mother had voiced a desire that after her death she wanted her ashes scattered at sea in the hope that her remains might return to America. These memories were called to Inez's mind as she listened to the melodic strains of one of America's most famous anthems sung by one of its most famous choirs.

Following the Tabernacle Choir broadcast on June 20th, another reception was given for Inez at the home of Eldred G. Smith. Kinsmen present were Eldred G. Smith, Joseph F. and Ethel Patrick, Edith Smith Patrick, Daniel Patrick, Ralph G. and Geneva Smith, Buddy Younggreen, Mike and Darcey Kennedy, Uriah A. Kennedy, Virginia Kennedy, Brian Kennedy, Cleone Smith Isom, Ellis E. and Jan Craig, Gary E. Craig, Fred and Mary Larsen, Stephen Larsen, and Jamie R. Mackay.

Inez returned to California via automobile with Buddy Younggreen, who resides in Claremont. Enroute, they stopped at Provo, Utah, for a brief visit with Jaynanne Payne and Virginia Kennedy. Buddy and Toni Younggreen hosted Inez in California during the latter part of June. Their son Jared adopted Inez as his "Grandma Ba-nez" and all four enjoyed a day at Disneyland, a quick trip to Old Mexico and a sight-seeing tour of southern California.

After visits with California relatives, Ruth Insee Derk, Laura Smith Powers, Rae and Colin Ferrett and Ruth and Evan Brown, Inez boarded a plane at Los Angeles and flew to Honolulu, Hawaii, where she spent a few days sight-seeing before returning to Australia.

Born in Australia, Inez was the 9th child and 4th daughter in a family of ten children. Her mother, Ina Inez Smith was the 3rd child of Alexander Hale Smith. Ina married Sidney Wright in 1891 and moved to Australia, returning to visit only once, in 1915.

It was a real pleasure for the Reunion Committee to assist Inez in her travel arrangements during her stay in the United States. Upon her return home she wrote a letter from which we quote:

"How I enjoyed my dreamed visit to you all...I never expected to meet so many of my Mother's people, or see so many places I had heard her talk about. Everyone made me so welcome, and seemed so glad to meet me! ...I am back home working in the telephone exchange...but will have many wonderful memories for a long time. Many, many thanks for giving me such a lovely welcome...hope someday some of you will come this way...Lots of love from your cousin, Nez Ballard."

## WHAT THE SALT LAKE CITY REUNION MEANT TO ME

By Ruth Derk

When Buddy Younggreen asked me to write my feelings of the Smith Family Reunion in Salt Lake City last year, I thought, "He certainly asked the wrong person! One who never stops talking night or day cannot possibly cover the three most marvelous days of her life in just a few words." In attempting to do this, I sat down in my most comfortable chair and listened to the eight or nine tapes I had made of the reunion -- reliving the tour of the city and museums, the banquet, the words of my beloved grandmother, Vida Smith, "The Old, Old Path", sung by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the trip to Cottonwood Canyon (10 buses of us) to the picnic grounds beside a tree-lined stream.

### Kimball Describes Prophet's Work On Kirtland Temple

In his journal, Heber C. Kimball wrote regarding the building of the Kirtland Temple.

"The whole church united in this great undertaking, and every man lent a helping hand. Those who had not teams went to work in the stone quarry and prepared stones for drawing to the house.

"The Prophet, being our foreman, would put on his tow

Oh, I could go on and on about the fantastic festivities, but the most impressive of all to me was that hundreds of us were there celebrating in love and unity the remembrance of our freedom-loving heritage-honoring those who lived and died for what they believed and wanted to give to the world. This thought prompted me to commit myself to more intensive prayer and study. And in the words of one of our lovely speakers at the last session, Lorene Smith, "I hope that my children and grandchildren after me will have the same privilege of meeting with your children and grandchildren and never may our families be separated again."

God bless you all. See you in Kirtland in 1977!

frock and tow pantaloons and go into the quarry, the Presidency, High Priests and Elders all alike assisting. Those who had teams assisted in drawing the stone to the house. These all laboring one day in the week, brought as many stones to the house as supplied the masons through the whole week. We continued in this manner until the walls of the house were reared."

### HOSPITALITY PLUS

By Alice Smith

More than 60 members of the family enjoyed the hospitality of Salt Lake area relatives during the reunion in 1975. Everyone who participated, visitors, hosts and hostesses alike, felt greatly blessed. Sharing homes has created an on-going experience for many. Correspondence, telephone conversations and exchange visits have resulted from the housing program and served to cement new friendships.

The feelings of all were expressed in the words of Ann Smith Nebeker, as she said, "I loved the Mackays and felt I had always known Anina in a close cousin relationship."

Those supplying housing were: Edith Smith Patrick, Clifford and Aseneth Conklin, Janet and Spencer Nilson, Ruth and Silas Smith, Jr., Esther Brown, Ann and Richard Nebeker, Alice and Don Smith, Carma and family. The Reunion Committee and Dean Payne, Florence Smith, Florence and Ted Jacobsen, Norma Broadhead, Jan and Ellis Craig, Phoebe

Jenkins, Lucille Major, Jeanne and Eldred G. Smith, Amy Armundsen, Jill and Alan Harris.

Greatful guests include: David and Becky Cool and son, Janet and Robert J. Costello, Doris Fredrick, Linda and Fred Costello, Edna and Kenneth J. Smith, June Sarrett and son, Josephine Ebeling, Elizabeth Hahn, Lorena Normandeau, Anina and Tony Mackay and children, Lois and Edward Larsen, Lenore and Dan Larsen and family, Victor Fisher, Colleen and Kenneth Duke and family, Linda and Eric Smith and family, Gracia Denning and girls, Donna Smith, Rexanne Beall, Israel Smith, Coral Joy and Arthur Cooper and family, Inez and Brainerd Horner, Lorene and Lynn Smith, Robert Bettye Kuhnert, Barbara and Hugh Martin and family, Sonnie and Christopher Brooks and family, Lonita and Morris Shirts and family.

The Reunion Committee wishes to thank all who opened their homes and their hearts so that so many cousins are strangers no more.



Verla Ellis, Norma Broadhead, Lois Morris, Phoebe Jenkins, Adrine Worth, and Arvella Lewis.

## SIX SISTERS REUNITED

It was a special occasion for six daughters of Vera May Walker and Hyrum Smith. On the maternal line, Emer Harris, brother to Martin Harris, and Drucilla Doris and James Hendricks who survived the Hahn's Mill of ancestry...on the paternal



Reunion Committee Representatives (L-R): Lynn E. Smith, Buddy Younggreen and Eldred G. Smith during 1975 Reunion.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

It was a pleasure to chat on the telephone with descendants of Katherine Smith Salisbury.

Glen Groom, of Napa, California, sends greetings to all the family. His presence at the reunions has brought him so much happiness. Glen said, "It was the highlight of my life, I don't think anything could have been better."

Dorothy Dean, of Carthage, Illinois, said of the Salt Lake Reunion, "Never could anyone have such wonderful fellowship, food, and activi-

ties. My only regret is that I couldn't stay longer to see all the sights." She added that she has "...felt uplifted in every way by the reunions."

Kenneth E. Duke of Keosauqua, Iowa, and his wife Colleen, have attended all the reunions. They brought their cousin, Warren L. Van Dine, with them to the Independence reunion. When Kenneth observed Warren enjoying himself to the fullest, through the three-day session, he remarked, "That's what it's all about."



Joseph Smith, Sr., and Lucy Mack Descendants Gather In Utah.

# A DREAM FULFILLED

By Edna Smith

It's wonderful to have a dream come true as Ken's and mine did last year. We, with our daughter June Sarrett and her son, made the trip to Salt Lake City to attend the Smith Family Reunion. From our home in Independence, Missouri, we went first to Wisconsin, where we attended our church reunion, then on west to the valley in the great mountains. The scenery was magnificent. We were able to relax and enjoy it all, for our daughter drove the whole distance. It's a good thing she was at the wheel, for the last 10 miles straight down into the city of Salt Lake were rather frightening.

We had requested in our registrations that we be housed with family members who resided in that beautiful city carved out of the desert wasteland.

A short time before we were to depart for the west, we received a telephone call from Salt Lake City. The gentleman on the other end of the line said, "This is your cousin, Silas Smith, and you are to be our guests while staying in Salt Lake City." The warmth radiating from that voice, and the love both he and his wife, Ruth, expressed to us when we met them, is something which filled our being with love and gratitude.

Upon learning of Ken's handicap, and because their home would mean too many steps for Ken to climb, Silas and Ruth put us up in the beautiful Hotel Utah. What an awe inspiring experience that was for us! Our rooms on the eighth floor made it possible to look down on the Temple and Temple Square. The beauty of that sight defies expression. Every night we gazed out upon the scene and never tired of doing so.

We no sooner arrived and found our rooms, than it was time to freshen up and be ready to meet with the rest of the relatives (over 600 in all) gathering in from all over the United States. Some I had heard about all my married life (over forty years), but until now had never met.

Not only were we treated royally and made to feel right at home, but we were also

privileged to visit many places of interest to all Smiths, be they blood relatives or married into the clan as I am.

The luncheon and banquet were just great, but the brunch up in the mountain gorge to which 10 large bus loads traveled was a highlight of the reunion for me. The mountain stream cascading down over the rocks, sending

## Family Reunion '75

By Anina Mackay

When I was asked to write some of my impressions of the '75 Family Reunion, I decided to put down the first memories that came most vividly to my mind. I was pleased to find later that my husband Tony, my daughter Andrea and son Doug shared my feelings.

This is what came to mind....

.....The gratitude felt when soup and sandwiches were produced for a famished family of latecomers at a very inconvenient hour of night.

.....The feeling of welcome and warmth from our homestay family, cousins we had never even heard of before and now will never be able to forget.

.....The beauty of the sweet shy smiles of girl cousins meeting for the first time and discovering they shared the same first name, Andrea.

.....The hauntingly beautiful rendition of the "Old Old Path" given by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

.....The yelps of laughter of 11 year old boy cousins trying to master the art of getting salt water out of their eyes while "swimming" in the great Salt Lake.

.....The sorrow felt when some of the historical articles brought too close the tragedy in our past.

.....The laughter, glamour and talent that Buddy's Jackson Hole Troupe brought to us.

.....The soul lifting view of golden spires against a brilliant blue Western sky.

.....The feelings of a family relaxing together, conversing, laughing, teasing, sharing slides and pictures, children, and experiences.

There were tears in a few eyes as our plane lifted from the Salt Lake airfield.

This to me is what a family reunion is all about and our memories of Salt Lake '75 are cherished.

showers of spray over the banks, held me almost speechless.

One bus load, comprised of many Alexander Smith descendants, made a side trip up into a mountain valley to the Wilford Wood historical museum, which we'll never forget. Pages of the Book of Mormon manuscript were there, the death masks of Joseph and Hyrum, school books and many more priceless articles that all Smiths hold dear. Never have we been privileged to behold so many things which we have

heard about since childhood. Our dream was truly realized, and will remain ever vivid in memory for the rest of our lives.

We are grateful to all the dear ones who made this possible, Silas and Ruth Smith, Buddy and Toni Youngreen, our daughter June, and so many more we can't name them all. We love you all and hope to see you in Kirtland and renew our love and friendship when the Smith Clan assembles again in reunion.

## KALEIDISCOPIC

By Brainerd Horner

In trying to sort out my impressions of the August 1975 Smith Family Reunion in Salt Lake City, perhaps I might begin by saying simply, Inez and I enjoyed it.

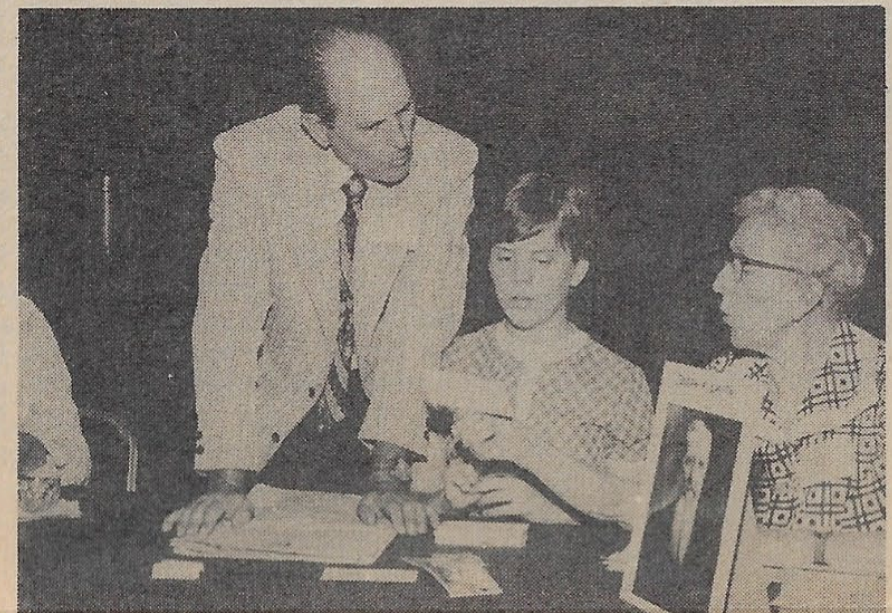
Our kindly hostess, Lucille Major, was hospitality itself. The way she whisked us expertly through city traffic, getting us where we were scheduled to be...and on time...was nothing less than marvelous.

We met a lot of very nice people, visited and viewed (all too briefly) some famed historical places. It was intensely interesting...ex-

citing...colorful...unique... simply tantalizing!

Why tantalizing? Because it was such a smorgasbord of events, people, programs, places. So much to learn about and so much to experience, all of it novel and new...all perforce packed into a short three days. Such a kaleidoscopic abundance of interesting places and people left us almost breathless!

It was a most memorable experience. We are glad we were able to attend. Our appreciation to Buddy and all those who made the occasion so enjoyable and worthwhile! Our love to all!



## FAMILY UNITY

Deep Friendship and Understanding

By Joseph F. Patrick (Shown Above)

Publishing costs would be prohibitive if I tried to tell all that the reunions of the Joseph Smith, Sr., Family have meant to my family, as a member of that "Family" and proud of that fact, these few thoughts might seem appropriate:

Beginning with our common ancestors, there is cause for feeling the urgency to see this great family ONE--without schism or animosity. In unity all family members should dedicate or rededicate their lives to honesty, reverence, patriotism and gratitude for the noble pattern bequeathed to us by all those blessed and loving ancestors.

Many of us from the west had to travel some distance to



"Pink Garter Girls" Roast Buddy

## REUNIONS ARE A JOY

By Cleone Smith Isom

The Joseph Smith, Sr., Family Reunions are a joy to me! I have attended all: Nauvoo, Independence, and Salt Lake City, and I'll be at Kirtland.

Through these reunions I have met, for the first time, descendants of Joseph, Jr., as well as cousins from Samuel H., Katherine, Jesse N. and my own great-grandfather, Hyrum.

The first two reunions, it was convenient to pool our efforts and travel together by chartered bus. Traveling so far in such close proximity was a delightful experience because we became good friends as we traveled. There were songs to sing, stories to be told and games to be shared. At each lodging there was baggage to unload and distribute and then collect and reload. This gave service experience to some of the younger passengers. Descendants from Hyrum, Samuel, and Joseph, Jr., along with a few choice guests, made up the passengers. All will retain joyous warm memories from those shared experiences.

At the first reunion in Nauvoo there was an air of tension and expectation concerning our relatives that we had never met. Anxiety was not justified for we found new friends and acquaintances. The following reunions have helped deepen friendships and emphasize the values of a common heritage. The presentations at each get-together have been enlightening and have helped establish greater understanding of relationships that would otherwise have remained unknown.

Our forefathers, Hyrum and Joseph dearly loved each other. I am sure they would be sorrowful, seeing their descendants separated for so long. I'm delighted that we are at long last getting together...getting to know, respect, and love one another. It is exciting to see cousins becoming friends instead of strangers.

Riding on the special charter bus to Nauvoo and Independence was great! The first year, on the bus to Nauvoo, Gracia Denning and her son, Paul, were the only representatives from Joseph, Jr. Samuel H., Fielding, Uncle John Smith, and Hyrum lines were all represented, most of them strangers to me and to each other. I was the only Barden descendant and only my great desire to meet my eastern Smith cousins helped me overcome my hesitancy to go.

The second year, I again left my California home to board the family bus in Salt Lake City. This time there were more cousins from more lines. Lorena Normandean and her sister, Elizabeth Hahn (Gracia Denning's mother and aunt from Montana) helped make this trip special with songs. We all enjoyed Margo Wright who sang for us both years. As the hours and miles flew by we really got acquainted... talking, singing, and just enjoying each other's company.

These reunions and especially the bus trips hold very fond memories for me to treasure. Getting to know my cousins...regardless of lineage or religion or place of residence, is a source of joy to me! I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at Kirtland.

JOSEPH SMITH, SR., FAMILY REUNION NEWS



1771-1840

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EDITOR

Buddy Youngreen

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Gracia Denning

Lorena Normandean

All descendants of the family wishing to be on the mailing list for the "NEWS" should send their name, address and family lineage data, to Buddy Youngreen, Executive-Secretary, Joseph Smith, Sr., Family Reunion, 264 Carnegie #151, Claremont, California 91711



Salt Lake Reunion members enjoy a trip to the Wilford Wood Museum.

# REUNION NOSTALGIA

By Lorena Normandeau

Fate--or the "Old Nick"--conspires against my reunion plans, but I go. Due to an accident, just prior to leaving for Independence in 1973, I was in pain throughout the entire trip. In spite of this, the reunion was worth it. It didn't seem fair when arthritis struck, putting me in pain again during the 1975 reunion in Salt Lake City. But my experience in Independence had been so wonderful, I was determined that nothing would keep me away.

We had a hilarious time on the way to Salt Lake City, with me reclining majestically on a mattress in the back of the blue van driven by my daughter, Gracia Denning. Her four daughters, Joy, Alice, Lori and Margaret, kept things lively and we enjoyed ourselves so much that when we arrived, it seemed impossible that we had traveled nearly a thousand miles.

At the reunion it seemed as

Smith. Later I was to learn that her grandfather, George A. Smith, first cousin to my great-grandfather, had shared joys and sorrows with him over a hundred years ago...and now descendants of these cousins were reunited. The emotional impact of her declaration touched me.

As I look back, many pictures flash in and out of my mind. One of the most poignant moments for me was sitting in the Tabernacle with my sister, Elizabeth, listening to that wonderful choir singing "The Old, Old Path." I know Elizabeth was remembering, as I was, the countless times our mother had sat at the piano, in the dark, playing that melody after we children were in bed. "The Old, Old Path" was special, not only because of its simple beauty, but because Aunt Vida (my mother's oldest sister) had written it. While the choir sang, our tears poured...and Esther Brown, sitting next to

some "warmth." The tours and excursions--the Wilford Wood Museum--that unforgettable picnic (what planning it all must have taken)--we felt like honored guests, wherever we turned.

I shall never forget the hospitality of the Dean Paynes--Jaynann was my untiring taxi driver. The Paynes took me to a special evening meeting and dinner in the mountains, northeast of Provo--inspiring and heart-warming. The Richard Andersons also delighted me during the days before the reunion...Carma with her art work and Richard with his scholarship.

The herculean feats accomplished by church hostess Arma Eddington were far, far above and beyond the call of duty. (That's cliché piled upon cliché, but true all the same.) Two lovely young people from BYU became my "great-grandparents:" Marlene Macfarlane and Mark



[L-R] Mrs. Glen Groom and her cousin, Miss Dorothy Dean are welcomed to the 1975 Reunion by Mrs. Joseph Byron Smith.



Edred G. Smith holds the Death Mask of his great-great-grandfather, Hyrum Smith, while Gracia Denning holds the Death Mask of her great-great-grandfather, Joseph Smith, Jr. The brothers, Hyrum and Joseph, were martyred at Carthage, Illinois, June 27, 1844.

if I knew everyone...some of the names and faces were unfamiliar--but so many of them appeared to have a "Smith" look! That may have been mostly in the eye of the beholder...but I had a kind of feeling about it, and I liked it.

The warmth of the welcome, wherever I turned, filled me with humility. I was touched by the sense of deep respect and reverence the Salt Lake City people hold for my great-grandfather, Joseph Smith, Jr., and his parents. It was a little like receiving a share in an estate, after not expecting to be named among the heirs!

Words cannot express my appreciation to my hostess, Esther Brown. With myself, my sister, Elizabeth Hahn of Troy, Montana, and our cousin, Josephine Ebeling, of Independence, Missouri, as guests, Esther's household was thoroughly disrupted. At 11 p.m. Thursday evening, she served us a delicious meal. My brother, Brainerd Horner, and his wife Inez, along with Lucille Major and her daughter Darcey, were there to enjoy it with us.

As we all sat around the table, a silent feeling of gratitude towards Esther was bursting within us. Suddenly, with tears in her eyes, Esther began to speak. In a soft and sincere voice she expressed happiness and gratitude to be privileged to have seated at her table, four great-grandchildren of the Prophet Joseph

us, came to the rescue with extra Kleenex! (Later in the reunion, we met Aunt Vida's granddaughter, Ruth Derk, daughter of another special cousin, Earlita Inslee.) Time and again we found ourselves almost overcome with nostalgia, thinking, if only Mother could have been there...on the other hand, perhaps she was.

Every day was special--even seeing some very unflattering snapshots of myself, taken thirty or more years ago. At least they were good of the children. Oh, those pictures! There was another photo of a Smith family gathering, taken in 1915 when Aunt Ina Wright was back from Australia for a visit...there were aunts, uncles, cousins, my mother, my brothers and sister, and there I was, the baby in Grandmother's lap. Other scenes in the photographic montage included Mother in her baby carriage, solemn and bald; her father, bearded and formal; his father, with his brother Hyrum; Lucy Mack Smith, her life's tragedies and triumphs written on her face--the great, great, great-grandmother of us all (well, give or take a great as appropriate). And many more...many more...all of 'em kin.

One unique experience (among others) for me was the last-minute plotting of the "roast" for Buddy Youngreen. It seemed to us that after all he had done for the family we ought to show him

Smith, who sang my due position as Joseph and Emma. Marlene is now Mrs. Jerry Harper and the mother of young Alan Macfarlane Harper. Mark, wherever you are, if you read this, please write to me!

After the reunion was all over, it still hadn't ended for me. On Sunday, suffering intensely from the pain in my back, I stayed at Esther's while she and Josephine went to church. Alone, in that lovely quiet home, I looked through a book entitled "George A. Smith Family" by Zora Smith Jarvis. Reading snatches here and there, I learned much of the Smith family history--of mine and other branches of the family. I was moved to tears again and again...reading an account of an occasion where Joseph Smith, Jr., my great-grandfather, had taken off his shoes and given them to George A., and then, barefoot, ridden off on his horse towards home... and another story of his seeing to it that several barefoot soldiers, George A. among them, were given boots. Both incidents were described in George A.'s own words, and there I was reading them 130 years later...how much those two cousins had sacrificed for one another those many years ago. I felt as if the past had come into the room and surrounded me.

Later in the day, Esther took me to the home of Virginia Parsons, a daughter of Zora

Smith Jarvis. Meeting Virginia, her husband, and a daughter, was a very special experience. I expressed a desire to buy a copy of the George A. book, but Virginia refused my check and insisted on giving it to me. I cherish the book and I was touched by her gesture. An account of how I acquired it will be written inside it's cover, so that someday, no matter which of my descendants own it, they will know its story.

Sunday evening, at the home of Jeanne and Eldred G. Smith, I viewed precious artifacts of the family...The wooden box that had belonged to Alvin, in which Joseph Smith had stored the Golden Plates, Hyrum Smith's Nauvoo Legion Sword and Family Bible, and the blood-stained, bullet-riddled clothes in which Hyrum was martyred along with my great-grandfather, in June of 1844. As some of these things were handed, gently and reverently, from person to person, I felt the overwhelming sense of continuity of family as I laid them in the hands of my own granddaughter, Joy Denning. What a marvelous way to bring home to us all the reality of the past--the certain approach of the future--the depth and breadth of human experience--and when Jeanne Smith put her arms around me to say goodbye, I felt truly blessed.

On Monday I was to meet Gracia at Dean Jessee's office, in the Church Office Building, at nine a.m. sharp. Dean Jessee is a Church Historian Staff member. In his office,

Esther and I met Jeanne and Eldred Smith, and Lynn and Lorene Smith. We were to view still more historic treasures. Gracia called to say she had been delayed, so my luggage was transferred to Dean Jessee's office and he was stuck with me all morning. Bless him! He brought me journals and letters of my ancestors (in their own handwriting and their own spelling!) which kept me busy until Gracia arrived. Dean insisted upon carrying my luggage to Gracia's van. Let this be my thanks to him, and an apology for not being able to absorb more history. Sated with

fatigue and nostalgia, I was soothed and uplifted by the very spirit of that remarkable young man.

We said goodbye to Salt Lake City rather late in the afternoon and stopped a few minutes at the Joe Patrick home in Bountiful, where we had a pleasant recap of the reunion and saw Ethel's lovely paintings. We drove out of the Salt Lake Valley through a spectacular summer storm, complete with blinding rain and all the fireworks. The elements themselves had finally stepped in and said, "Go!" and we went. Obviously, it takes an act of God to move a Smith.

## MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

By Donna Smith

When I was asked to write about my impressions of last year's reunion, frankly I didn't know where to begin...

From the moment of my arrival in Salt Lake City and the Ellis Craig home, I felt a warmth and friendliness that has stayed with me.

The opening reception brought me in contact with more family members than I ever knew existed. I sensed a common bond between all of us, which to me was quite comforting. It seemed almost as if instead of being in a room filled with comparative strangers, in a strange town, I was back home with friends.

It may sound as if my pleasant memories are somewhat associated with food, but

can I help it if the events I enjoyed most were the reception, banquet, and the sight seeing tour combined with a picnic in Cottonwood Canyon? They were all such informal, friendly gatherings.

For me, the most touching moment in the reunion had to be the final session on Saturday afternoon. Then came the good-byes to friends old and new, and all the promises to write and re-assurances that we'd be at Kirtland in two years.

A year has gone by since our last family reunion in Salt Lake City, yet it's only a year to our next one in Kirtland. I may not have kept all my promises to write, but I am definitely planning on being in Kirtland next August. How about you?

## PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

To assist us in planning the 1977 family reunion, would you please answer this questionnaire and return it to Lynn E. Smith, 1513 W. Walnut St., Independence, Missouri 64050.

1. Are you and your family planning to attend this reunion? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name \_\_\_\_\_
3. Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_
4. Attending, Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children, ages 0-12: \_\_\_\_\_  
13-19: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Survey of Interests: Can you contribute to the following:  
Arts and Crafts Display? \_\_\_\_\_ Vocal or Instrumental? \_\_\_\_\_  
Family Pictures? \_\_\_\_\_ Historical Pictures? \_\_\_\_\_  
Display of Historical Artifacts? \_\_\_\_\_  
Other? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Will you be willing to assist in directing the activities of the children?  
Youth? \_\_\_\_\_ Which Age? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Would you like to wear period costumes for the banquet? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Other suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_