



LUCY MACK SMITH  
1775-1856

# JOSEPH SMITH SR. FAMILY REUNION NEWS

April 15, 1997

Volume 12, Number 1

Buddy Youngreen, President  
Joseph Smith Sr. Family Organization  
703 No. 945 West, Orem, Utah 84057



JOSEPH SMITH, SR.  
1771-1840

## 14TH BIENNIAL REUNION IN KIRTLAND, AUGUST 7-10, 1997 FAMILY TO TOUR LDS AND UNITED STATES HISTORICAL SITES

Kirtland, Ohio, will be the scene for the gathering of hundreds of descendants of Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith as they conduct the fourteenth gathering of this family organization in recent years. This reunion marks the third time historic Kirtland has been selected to host the Smith family since the first significant meeting of the family in Nauvoo, Illinois, in 1972. Prior to 1972 the family had not assembled for a reunion in one hundred and twenty-six years.

The reunion will officially get underway Thursday, August 7, from 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM with registration finalization and a get-acquainted reception in the cultural hall of the LDS Stake Center.

On Friday, August 8, from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM another reunion session will take place in the chapel of the Stake Center. Welcoming speeches, announcements, and informative presentations will prepare the family to tour the city where their progenitors lived from 1831 until 1838. During the afternoon, participants will be free to visit the RLDS Kirtland Temple Historic Center, the LDS Whitney Home and Store Visitors Center, Isaac Morley Farm, Hyrum Smith Home, Sidney Rigdon Home, Samuel Smith

Home, Orson Hyde Home, Joseph Smith Sr./Jr. Home, Temple Stone Quarry, and old Mormon Cemetery.

Friday evening from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM the next reunion session will take place in the Kirtland Temple. Special music and oral presentations will be featured. The gathering of the Smith Family in the Temple has always highlighted the Kirtland reunions.

Saturday morning, August 9, the 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM session will be held in the nearby Hiram Ward Meetinghouse where special entertainment will serve as a prelude to touring the John Johnson Home where Joseph Jr. and Emma Smith lived, 1831-1832, and the Lorenzo Snow Home and Pioneer Cemetery in close by Mantua Township.

Not far from Hiram/Mantua is the Amish community of Middlefield. A family banquet will be held there from 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM in Mary Yoder's Amish Kitchen, Bakery and Gift Shop. Family members remember from past experience that Mary Yoder's is where the food is delicious and the service great!

Sunday morning, August 10, the concluding session of the reunion will take place back in the Kirtland Temple. A family portrait, memorial service,

and wreath placing ceremony in the adjoining cemetery will officially bring the 1997 reunion to a close.

Costs for 1997 reunion are being kept to a minimum. Registration is \$15.00 per person or \$45.00 per family; family meaning spouse and dependent children only. Banquet tickets and reunion T-shirt expenses are optional but anyone attending any of the reunion sessions must be registered.

With the exception of those participating in the reunion bus tour, as outlined in this newsletter, all reunion participants will need to arrange their own housing and meals. The Kirtland, Ohio, Chamber of Commerce telephone number is (206) 822-7066. They will be able to supply local motel, campground and food service information.

In order to attend this 1997 reunion, mail the enclosed registration form by July 7, 1997, to:

Buddy Youngreen, President  
703 North 945 West  
Orem, Utah 84057

Make all checks payable to Joseph Smith Sr. Family Reunion. For registration confirmation enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.



1995 FAMILY REUNION PORTRAIT IN THE JOSEPH SMITH MEMORIAL BUILDING AT SALT LAKE CITY

# SMITH FAMILY CHRONICLES

## FAITHFUL FATHERS

**Joseph Smith III (1832-1914)**

**Joseph F. Smith (1838-1918)**

*Joseph Smith III and Joseph F. Smith, grandsons of Joseph Smith Sr., were first cousins and each served as president of his respective church.*

*The Prophet, Joseph Smith Jr. (1805-1844), was the father of Joseph Smith III. Joseph Jr.'s brother, Patriarch Hyrum Smith (1800-1844), was the father of Joseph F. Smith.*

*Joseph F. Smith was President of the LDS Church for seventeen years and member of the LDS Quorum of Twelve Apostles for thirty-four years. His firstborn child was a girl, Mercy Josephine (1867-1870), whom Joseph F. affectionately called "Jode," "Jodo," and "Dodo." with his daughter's untimely passing, shortly before her third birthday, this faithful father recorded the agony of his heart in a diary (preserved in the LDS Church Archives):*

**6 June 1870 (Monday)**

I said to her in the morning, "You did not sleep good all night, my Jode." She



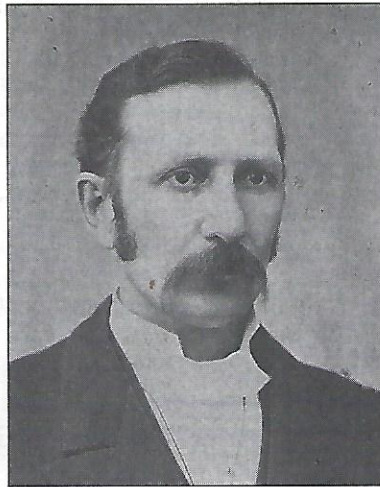
**JOSEPH F. SMITH  
MID 19TH CENTURY**

replied, "I'll sleep today Papa." Oh how these little words shot through my heart. I knew, yet I would not fully believe that she meant the sleep of death. And she did sleep! Oh my "Jode," my heart is nearly broken for the loss of you. You came to me when my heart was wrung in a time of deep trouble, sorrow, and affliction. Like a golden sunbeam of joy, thou wert a green oasis in my hitherto desert life. My

firstborn, lovely, beautiful as a rose, bright, intelligent beyond thy age and possessed of noble mien and heart. Thou art the priceless jewel and the brightest gem of earth nearest to my heart. Thou didst live in my thoughts and dwell ever in my heart's purest and best love. Oh thou wert the joy and the light of my heart and home. "Jode," my babe, I loved thee! My ambition was to see thee shine pure and bright amid earth's noblest and best. I loved thy innocent prattle and thy little footsteps echoed in my heart. Thy voice was as the music of an holy angel and thy cunning little ways more pleasant and endearing than the voice of love. Thy bright black eyes were as jet and more lovely than the Summer's eve, speaking the intelligent language of thy soul more fluently than thy forward little tongue. Oh thou wert lovely, sweet all in all to me. Thou wert a heavenly gift directly to my heart of hearts. I loved thee more than tongue can tell, more than the soul can speak through mortal agency. Thou didst make me a better man. For thy sake I loved humanity, earth, and heaven more. Thou did draw me nearer unto God and purify my heart. For thy sake, I besought God with greater faith and fervor on behalf of all children and my sympathy was aroused more keenly for those bereaved. Thy bright spirit lightened all my cares and made all earth to me seem good. Oh my darling, how I miss thee.

**7 June 1870 (Tuesday)**

... and now my own sweet Josephine is to be laid away.



**JOSEPH F. SMITH  
LATE 19TH CENTURY**

**8 June 1870 (Wednesday)**

I wrote the following to put on "Jode's" gravestone, "In memory of Mercy Josephine, daughter of Joseph F. Smith, born Aug. 14, 1867, died June 6, 1870. I'll sleep today Papa," and another treasure was laid up in heaven.

**9 June 1870 (Thursday)**

I'll come to thee, my joy, my comfort, and to thy grandfather and grandmother, to

enjoy thy smiles and love and happy home forever. Oh but for my wives and the little one left, and the commission I bear to man, I'd seek thee now. But, I must finish my noble work on earth and then how gladly will I go.

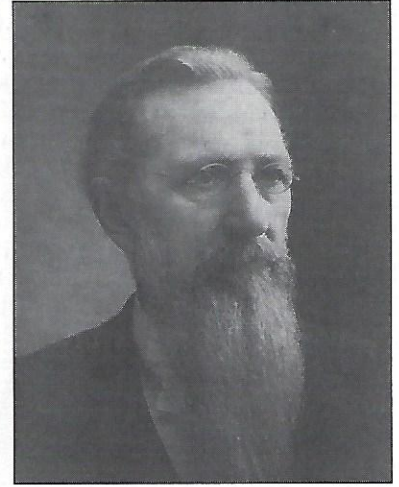
*Joseph Smith III was President of the RLDS Church for over fifty-four years. He was also a faithful father. While responding to correspondence from a member of his Church, regarding the loss of a son, Joseph III recorded his own poignant family losses in a letter (housed in the RLDS Archives):*

**3 September 1910 (Saturday)**

Dear Brother:

Your letter ... laden with grief reached me yesterday. I hasten to reply. But what can I say, that will break the cloud of sorrow hanging over you. How can I answer your question of agony, "Why, oh why is this?" You were about your Master's business and death, leaving a shining mark, struck down your oldest son in the beginning of his days of usefulness and honor. I repeat you question, "Why, oh why should this happen?"

Let me tell you a little story. In 1866, I moved to Plano, Illinois, in answer to direction of General Conference, to take active charge of the Herald, the official paper of the church. I took with me my dearly beloved wife, Emma Griswold, who carried in her arms our first born son, whom I had fondly named Joseph Arthur. My wife was a frail woman: the boy was a lusty hearty, robust lad. About the time he was a year old, my wife had a severe fit of



**JOSEPH F. SMITH  
EARLY 20TH CENTURY**

homesickness, and I sent her to Nauvoo, in care of a sister, a widowed woman, whose home was at Montrose, on the opposite side of the river from Nauvoo, who promised to see that my wife reached her mother's house in Nauvoo. I did not accompany her for the reason that I had an appointment at Canton, Illinois, which was to last several days.

When I bade her good-bye at the train,



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(805) 647-0523



**Celebrate  
THE SMITH REUNION  
and  
LDS PIONEER  
SESQUICENTENNIAL  
JULY 26 - AUG. 13, 1997**

**JOSEPH SMITH SR. FAMILY REUNION  
AND LDS PIONEER SES. BUS TOUR**

**July 26 — August 13, 1997**

**COST:** \$1395/per person based on dbl. occupancy

**TOUR DIRECTOR:** Buddy Younggreen (telephone 801 226-6561)

**VISIT:** Independence, Liberty Jail, Richmond, Far West, Adam-ondi-Ahman, Branson, Mo., horse farms of Kentucky, Gettysburg battleground, Harmony, Pa., New York City, a Broadway musical, Boston, Plymouth Rock and the Mayflower, Lexington, Concord, Sharon, Vt., birthplace of Joseph Smith, Palmyra, the Sacred Grove, Hill Cumorah, Fayette, Niagara Falls, Smith Reunion in Kirtland, Hiram, Middlefield (the heart of Amish Country), Winter Quarters, Council Bluffs, Ia., Florence, Ne., Chimney Rock, Rebecca Winters' Grave, Register Cliff, Independence Rock, Devil's Gate, and much more as we participate in the heritage tour of a lifetime.

**TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:**

- \* Round trip air conditioned bus transportation.
- \* 18 nights, clean and comfortable hotel accommodations
- \* 24 meals paid or provided by the tour
- \* All entrance fees, which includes the Broadway musical
- \* Dinner show in Branson
- \* Guidebook/Journal
- \* Services of experienced guides and drivers

**ITINERARY:**

**Saturday, July 26-Day 1** Leave Salt Lake City 9:00 AM. Leave Provo at 10:00 AM. Get acquainted as we travel through Utah and Colorado. Stay in Denver overnight.

**Sunday, July 27-Day 2** Travel today through Kansas into Missouri to Independence (Jackson County), the site of the New Jerusalem. The RLDS Temple and Auditorium are on the agenda, along with the LDS Visitors Center. There are many other things Buddy will share and teach us as we visit this sacred area.

**Monday, July 28-Day 3** After a great breakfast this morning, we will visit significant sites such as Liberty Jail, Richmond, Far West, and Adam-ondi-Ahman. All of these locations have a special spirit about them and you will be thrilled as you walk this sacred ground.

**Tuesday, July 29-Day 4** Travel today through southern Missouri then on to Branson for dinner show and overnight stay.

**Wednesday, July 30-Day 5** Drive across Missouri and Illinois into Kentucky, visiting horse farms, and seeing where the Missouri, Mississippi, and Ohio Rivers converge, before spending an evening in Louisville.

**Thursday, July 31-Day 6** We travel through Kentucky into Pennsylvania and have a two hour tour of the Gettysburg battlefield where Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous address.

**Friday, August 1-Day 7** After staying overnight in the Gettysburg area, we journey to Scranton today, stopping for some "Shoofly Pie" along the way. We also visit Harmony, the former home of Joseph Jr. and Emma Smith where much of the Book of Mormon was translated and the Aaronic Priesthood was restored.

**Saturday, August 2-Day 8** We leave Scranton early this morning to give us the time we need in the Big Apple!! We will visit the Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, shop at Macy's and attend a Broadway musical tonight.

**Sunday, August 3-Day 9** Today we travel to Sharon, Vt., birthplace of the Prophet Joseph Smith. We will also visit Tunbridge, Hyrum Smith's birthplace, and see the old Mack Store where Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack met.

**Monday, August 4-Day 10** This morning we travel to the Boston area to visit Lexington, Concord, Plymouth Rock, the Mayflower, and other sites as time and traffic permit. Our overnight stay is in Middleboro, Ma., near Plymouth Rock.

**Tuesday, August 5-Day 11** Travel to Fayette, Manchester, and Palmyra, New York. We will visit the Whitmer Cabin, Hill Cumorah, Smith Farmhouse, Sacred Grove, Grandin Printing Building and other sites.

**Wednesday, August 6-Day 12** Today we will be sightseeing at beautiful Niagara Falls and stay overnight in Canada.

**Thursday-Saturday, August 7-9, Days 13, 14, & 15** A travel day from Niagara Falls will bring us to Kirtland, Ohio, where we will participate in the Smith Reunion and visit the Temple, Whitney Store, RLDS and LDS Visitors Centers, John Johnson Farmhouse, and the other local inspiring places.

**Sunday, August 10-Day 16** Following a memorial service in the Kirtland Temple, and a wreath placing ceremony at the adjacent cemetery, we journey to Joliet, Illinois, for an overnight stay.

**Monday-Wednesday, August 11-13, Days 17, 18, & 19** We follow the Mormon Trail home from Illinois through Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Utah, seeing the major points of interest along the way.

**Reservations and Deposits:** A \$100.00 deposit will hold your reservation until July 7, when the tour must be paid for in full (unless special advance arrangements have been made).

\$50.00 of the \$100.00 per person deposit is nonrefundable because Broadway play tickets must be purchased far in advance of the tour. Broadway play tickets are purchased on a no refund basis.

This tour is a package deal. There will be no discounts in the event any participant opts to miss an event or accept other overnight accommodations along the way with friends, etc.

No regular refunds will be given after July 7, Verifiable emergency refunds will be given until July 24. No refunds whatsoever after July 24.

**Luggage:** One large suitcase will be allowed each person. A small overnight case is also allowed, but it will be your responsibility to take care of it.

**Insurance:** You are covered by the carrier's insurance while aboard the bus.

**Seating on the Bus:** Our seating is rotated in fairness to everyone moving clockwise each day. Our trips are planned in the best interest of our passengers and it is our aim to give the best to our patrons.

**Responsibility:** HERITAGE TOURS and/or its agents act only as agents for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by bus, motor car, or boat, and assume no responsibility for acts of the carrier or third persons. We cannot accept responsibility for sickness, weather, or other causes. We reserve the right to make such alterations in the itinerary as we deem necessary and desirable.

The right is reserved to decline, accept, or retain any person as a member of our tour, or to cancel our tour if circumstances require it.

**DETACH THIS RESERVATION FORM AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR DEPOSIT TO:  
BUDDY YOUNGREN, H.T. TOUR DIRECTOR, 703 N. 945 West, Orem, UT 84057.**

NAME(S) : \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS (street): \_\_\_\_\_

(city): \_\_\_\_\_ (state): \_\_\_\_\_ (zip): \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER IN PARTY: \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS (due to health or other): \_\_\_\_\_

DEPOSIT AMOUNT PAID (make checks out to HERITAGE TOURS): \_\_\_\_\_

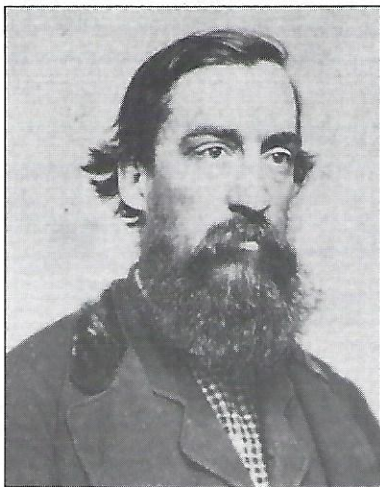
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

(Continued from page 2)

## SMITH FAMILY CHRONICLES

putting her child in her arms as she entered the car door, there came over my heart and brain a wave of sadness, and a premonition of great and impending loss took firm hold upon my spirit. I knew as well as I could know what had not yet taken place, that I would lose either the mother or the child. If either was taken the other would survive; but which O Lord, which, the mother or the son. I went my way to my appointment, and on Saturday, before my Sunday services were due, I received a telegram telling me that the child was sick and to hasten to Nauvoo. Railroad connections were poor then. I could not reach home before Monday. I held my Sunday services with that telegraphic message and its possible weight of loss over my heart. On Monday morning before I could leave Canton, I received the message that the boy was dead, and when on Tuesday I reached my mother's house, I found my wife prostrated with grief and sickness, and my boy lying in his narrow bed, "pale and motionless." My cry was, like yours, "Why, oh why?"

A little over two years after that, I carried the body of the mother to my old home at Nauvoo, and buried it beside my firstborn son, and a bright spirited girl baby who had preceded him.



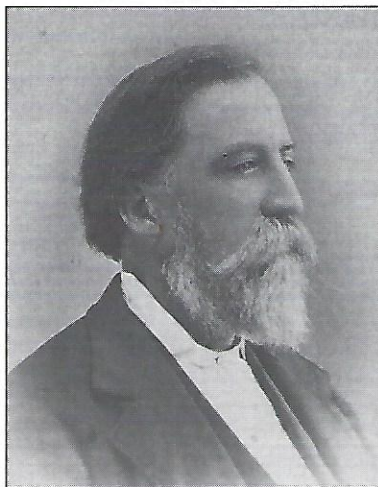
JOSEPH SMITH III  
MID 19TH CENTURY

In 1885, I returned from a missionary effort in Utah, spent Christmas at Blue Rapids, Kansas, with the saints there, and reached my home some two days later. I found my firstborn son, of my second marriage, David Carlos, in his sixteenth year, sick, unable to lie down, and suffering the extremest agony, from acute

rheumatism, resulting from an enlargement of outer integument of heart. On the sixth of January, following, in the worst snow storm of the winter we buried this my second firstborn son, one of the few first bodies laid to rest in Rosehill Cemetery, Lamoni, Iowa. Again my cry, like yours, "My Lord, why, oh why?" This son was born when I was away from home attending conference of the church, leaving the care of my wife to others in the hands of God. In 1884 I was about the Master's business in the Western part of Iowa, when I received a message from home, that my little daughter, Bertha Azuba, was very ill, and if I desired to see her alive, I must return at once. I made my excuses to the saints, as well as I could, and reached home only to find my bright spirited companion, my child woman, lying beneath her shroud; and on her sixth birthday, laid her body away to await the final summons that bids the dead to live again. Again my cry, My Lord, why, oh why?

This questioning of my heart and brain were never answered. Can I, my dear brother, can I answer you agonized cry? Years only and the administration of the Spirit of the Master gave me comfort and consolation.

On Oct. 19, 1896, my second wife, the mother of my second firstborn son, who was a hearty, healthy, robust woman when we were married, and by whose bedside I was sitting in quiet conversation, turned over upon her right side with her face toward me, and without a quiver of an eyelid or the tremble of her lip, as if she

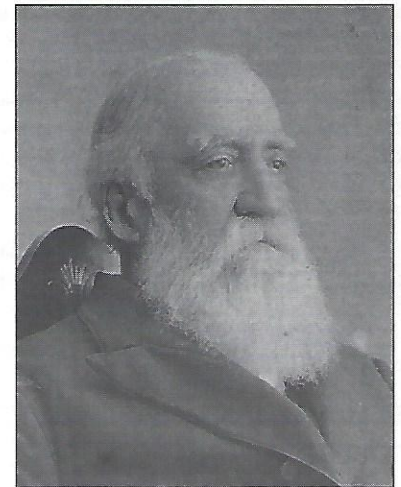


JOSEPH SMITH III  
LATE 19TH CENTURY

were falling quietly to sleep, left me without a moments warning and her body lies beside that of her firstborn son in the silent sleep of death. Why, oh why, I do not know; but when the affliction of dementia feel upon my youngest brother, David Hyrum, at Plano, Illinois, and I was forced to take him to the asylum for the

insane, I passed through the depths of agony of spirit and sorrow of mind and heart in the depths of despair. More than an hour of complete darkness covered my soul, but out of it I came with the peace of the Spirit abiding upon me, and the vow in my heart, unconsciously wording itself, "My faith shall not again fail me, I will trust thee though thou slay me." I bore with me from that year the consciousness that my brother, David, would not again stand by my side, redeemed from the grasp of the darkness which had fallen upon his mind. Five years ago this last August, we laid him to rest in the same consecrated spot where those I have lost at Lamoni lay.

On the fifteenth of August, one year ago this last month, the body of my brother, Alexander Hale, was laid to rest in the same place. He had passed three score years and ten, and I am left the only surviving one of my father's family. I do not know why, I do not care to ask. He that had ordered the ways of my being has extended my days. How can I comfort you and your wife? God knows that I would if I could, but of what avail is my wish. I can only pray that the same God who has watched over me and his work, while I have been connected with it, will be with and comfort you by His Spirit, as only he can. ... how can I comfort you other than by telling you my story, and expressing my deep sympathy with you in your sorrow and your grief, commend us both alike to the loving mercy of Him who doeth all things well... Are you and I among those of whom it is written, "Whom the Lord loveth, he chasteneth?"



JOSEPH SMITH III  
EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Sorrow and grief are chastening and bring sanctification of spirit, if they are permitted to have their proper affect upon our minds and heart. I greet you as a suffering soldier for the ranks of the cause

Your brother,

JOSEPH SMITH

# 1997 REGISTRATION FORM



1771-1840

## JOSEPH SMITH SR. FAMILY REUNION August 7-10, 1997 KIRTLAND, OHIO

To secure reservations, send this form off by Monday, July 7. Include a check made out to JOSEPH SMITH SR. FAMILY REUNION for fees and options.  
Mail to:

Buddy Youngreen, President  
703 North 945 West  
Orem, Utah 84057

### LINEAGE

Name of Family Member Related to Joseph Smith Sr.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Blood Lineage of Family Member Traced Back to Joseph Smith Sr.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(State) (Zip) (Phone Number)

### REUNION FEES

INDIVIDUAL .....	\$15.00	X	_____	=	_____
			NUMBER		TOTAL
FAMILY (Parents and dependent children only) .....	\$45.00 per family	X	_____	=	_____
			NUMBER		TOTAL
					<b>TOTAL \$</b> _____

### BANQUET TICKETS (optional)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 7 PM./\$15.00 Per Plate

			_____	=	_____
			NUMBER		TOTAL

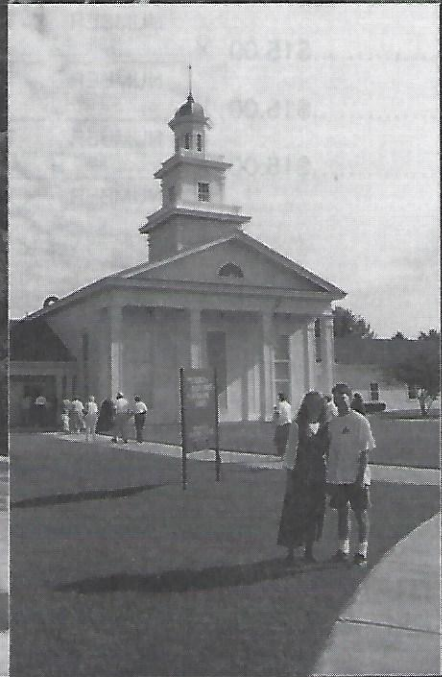
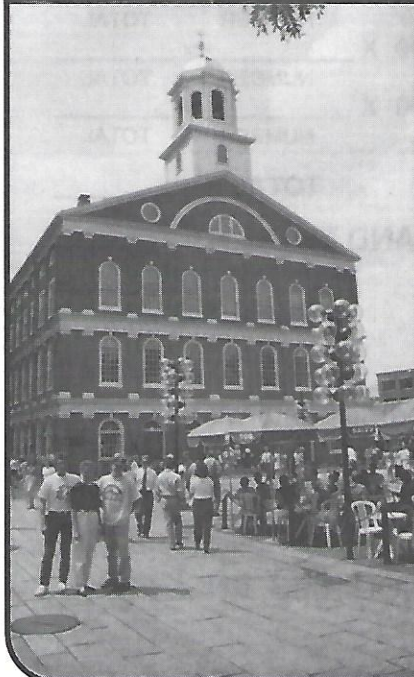
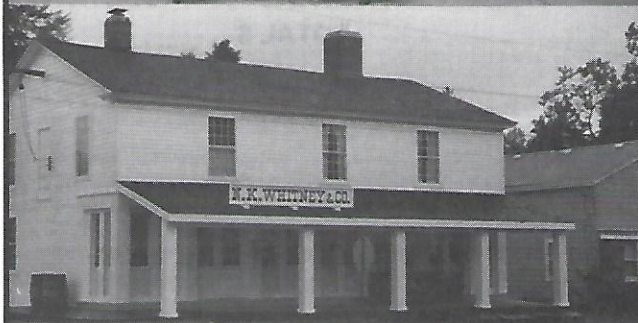
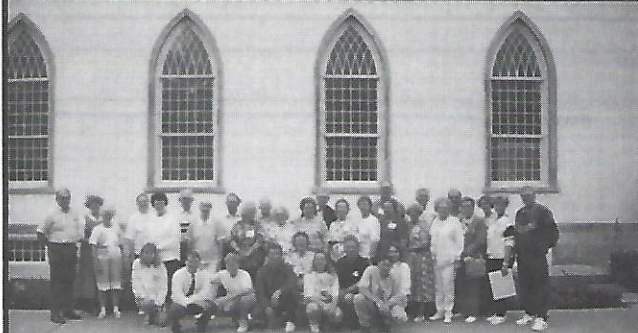
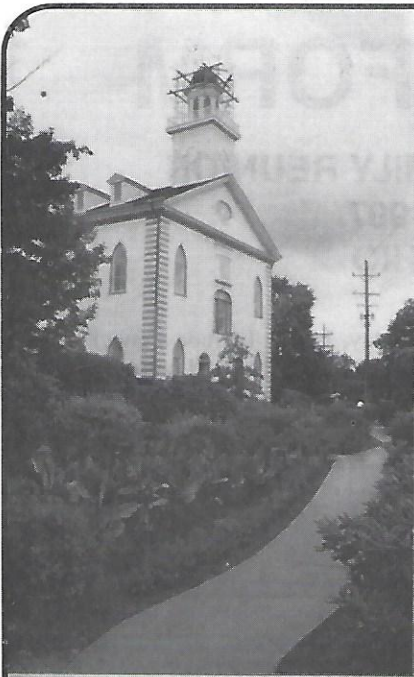
**REUNION T-SHIRTS (optional)** add \$3.00 shipping and handling fee per shirt if shirts are not to be picked up during reunion

EXTRA LARGE .....	\$15.00	X	_____	=	_____	14-16 (CHILD) .....	\$12.00	X	_____	=	_____
			NUMBER		TOTAL				NUMBER		TOTAL
LARGE .....	\$15.00	X	_____	=	_____	10-12 (CHILD) .....	\$12.00	X	_____	=	_____
			NUMBER		TOTAL				NUMBER		TOTAL
MEDIUM .....	\$15.00	X	_____	=	_____	6- 8 (CHILD) .....	\$12.00	X	_____	=	_____
			NUMBER		TOTAL				NUMBER		TOTAL
SMALL.....	\$15.00	X	_____	=	_____						
			NUMBER		TOTAL						
											<b>TOTAL \$</b> _____
											<b>GRAND TOTAL \$</b> _____

### EXPRESS BUS

An express bus from Salt Lake City/Provo will be made available if enough participants wish to travel directly to the Kirtland Reunion and back. This express bus would depart Tuesday morning, August 5, and return Tuesday evening, August 12. Cost will include round trip transportation, seven evenings of motel accommodations/double occupancy, based on how many actually sign up.

FOR REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION, AND/OR EXPRESS BUS COST INQUIRIES, ENCLOSE A STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.



THE  
 1997  
 SMITH  
 REUNION  
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