



Joseph Smith Sr. & Lucy Mack Smith Family Reunion



Steven and Frances Orton, Co-Presidents
Joseph Smith Sr. Family Reunion
381 W. 3700 N., Provo, Utah 84604

By Frances Orton

The family met in the Relief Society Room of the Joseph Smith Memorial Building for registration on Thursday night, August 2.

Richard Lentz, Jesse R. Bayer, and Patty Black helped and served the Smith Family in many wonderful, professional, and caring ways. All the tables were draped nicely for registration. A screen and the equipment necessary were ready, allowing the family to play a DVD from the 2005 reunion produced by Lindsey Orton.

As the video would finish throughout the night, people would come and ask to start it again. They gathered their chairs around the screen and watched and remembered the events from 2005. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed watching this, even if they didn't attend. The spirit was powerful. The family was knitting together with a united purpose of fellowshipping.

One of the reunion goals is for multi-generational family groups to attend together. This helps us understand how we all fit.



Lauren and Auburn Williams pose with their ancestor.



Edward & Carolyn Glade family

Edward & Carolyn Glade, Jayden Glade, Jared & Shauna Glade, Ashley Glade, Spencer Glade, Glade Moore, Bonnie & Lawrence Smith (Son of Uncle Grant Smith), Debbie Glade, Nathan Glade, Lauren Williams, Charity Williams, Erin Moore, Brook Williams, Melodie Moore, Auburn Williams, and Carter Moore

Nametags were printed with each attendee's name and where they were from. Each person could make connections by putting names with faces.

Those who helped with registration were: Andrea Black, Mike Kennedy's mom, Virginia Kennedy Hendrickson, Darcy Kennedy, Carol Dudley Quinn, and Debbie Nelson.

The family reunion attendee numbers steadily grew. Richard Lenz handled the changes by opening the overflow meeting area in the next couple of days.

Half of the nametags were still not given out when 8:00 p.m. came around, and registration was set to close. This meant registration would need to begin early the next day.

These scenes are of family visiting outside the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. This little social sponsored and hosted by Bob & Renee Parks and their family gave everyone time to laugh and share together.



Rowen and Zella Jeanne Jones, Charles and Carol Olsen talking with a young member of the family. Julie and Jerry Goodro are in the back.



Bob Parks helping serve ice cream.



Renee Parks helping sweeten family memories.



Joy Ercanbrack (standing on the right) put together and handled tee shirts for the family.

Joy Ercanbrack and her parents, Bob and Renee Parks, and her sister Brooke Young took charge of selling tee-shirts and youth activities. They handled an ice cream social outside on the grounds, and it was a huge success. People had a chance to gather and visit without worrying about being disruptive. Storms were raging all around the Salt Lake Valley with rain pouring down, but around the immediate downtown area of Salt Lake, it was bright, sunny, and wonderful.

Friday, August 3, registration at Joseph Smith Memorial Building began by 8:00 a.m. This was a little tricky, but somehow, it all worked out.

Both the Primary age children and the youth met in suites A, B, C, D up on the 10th floor of the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. This was very nice for the family.

The program began with the opening hymn of *Love At Home*. After Sam Isom offered the prayer, Steve conducted and made a few announcements. Steve used his humor. He included some jokes about what happens when you play some of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir records backward – you hear secret Jell-O recipes. He reminded everyone that we are a not-for-profit group about a prophet. It was explained that the goal of the reunion fees was to break even or have a little left to use in planning the next reunion. Steve then introduced President Fred Larsen of the Remnant Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the following speaker, Charles Olsen.

Fred gave an overview of his church’s history. He shared Joseph Smith’s experience and then compared his knowledge and perception. It was good for the family to understand and appreciate this church.

Charles Olsen gave a report about the last family reunion. He told events from the reunion tour in 2005. Many miracles were shared with the group. Excitement built within the family as they realized the importance and power of getting together.

The family took a small break after that.

As the group gathered again, Steve and I began a roll call for the large group. The Joseph Smith Sr. Family came from 15 states and two Canadian provinces. The family stood when their state or province was called. A roll call was performed for each family line as well.



Steve and Frances Orton during the reunion roll call

Each of the following Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family lines was represented during the reunion:

Joseph Smith Jr. (1805-1844)
Samuel H. (1808-1844)
William (1811-1893)
Katherine (1813-1900)

Reunion Attendance Numbers

552 people attended

- 70 Youth
- 93 Primary

Arizona	10
California	60
Canada	9
Idaho	3
Louisiana	2
Michigan	3
Missouri	7
Montana	6
North Carolina	3
Nebraska	1
Nevada	3
Texas	6
Utah	427
Virginia	5
Washington	2
Wyoming	5

Then we had everyone stand from the Joseph and Lucy Mack Smith’s children’s lines they came through. This year we had family from William’s, Katherine’s, Samuel’s, Hyrum’s, and Joseph’s lines. The only line with posterity not represented was Lucy’s family.

Eldred and Hortense Smith showed the family artifacts. It was fascinating to hear the stories they presented as they held up items belonging to the Smiths. This may have been the last time they were able to show these to the family now that Eldred was 100 ½. The children came down after their activities and had the opportunity of viewing these items.

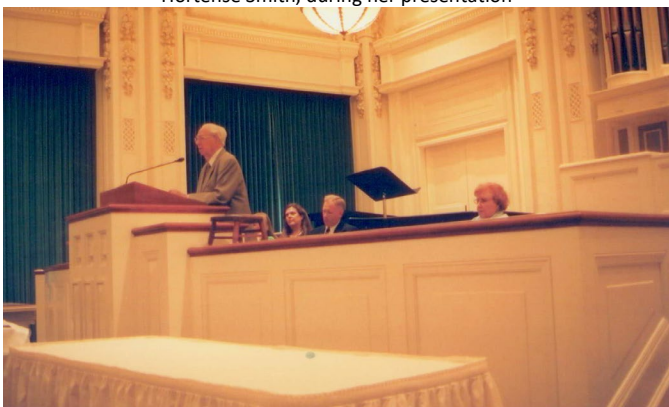


The family filled the chapel, and the overflow area of the Joseph Smith Memorial Building before all the youth were brought down to join us.

The youth joined the adults in time to hear Eldred Smith's talk. They got to see the footstool of Lucy Mack Smith, the sunglasses of Hyrum, the box that the golden plates were hidden inside. Eldred and Hortense allowed pictures to be taken without flash, of course.



Hortense Smith, during her presentation



Eldred G. Smith addressing the family



The shirt Hyrum wore when he was martyred



The vest Hyrum was wearing at the time of his death.



Hyrum's pants with the bullet holes visible



The box that used to belong to Alvin and was later given to Hyrum that the plates were hidden inside



Lucy Mack Smith stool and bell



Hyrum's pocket watch



Everyone had a chance to come down to the front and look at the clothes Hyrum was wearing when he was shot and killed. The spirit and appreciation the family felt witnessing these items up close were evident.

Friday, August 3, Primary Activities

Julie Maddox and many of her family planned and took charge of the Primary Activities. The Primary kids were able to use wood and elastic guns made by Julie's father, Carlos Adams, to kill gummy bears for food. The children also participated in stick-pulling games and activities from that era.

Friday, August 3, Youth Activities

The youth had their own speaker on Friday. Scott Anderson spoke in a way that helped the youth see how important they are. He compared the Smiths, especially the brothers' loyalty, to football and life today. Everyone was captivated.

Joy Ercanbrack's notes from the Friday morning youth speaker:

Scott Anderson began the youth session by sharing his testimony and enthusiasm for the Smith Family. He challenged the youth with this question: Can we learn what the Smiths knew about being a close family? Following are other great thoughts that he cleverly mixed with the Smith family story.



Learning about your family history helps you find yourself.

The Smith brothers were physically strong and very tall for their time: Alvin was 6'4", Hyrum 6'3", and Joseph 6'2". You can imagine how the crowds on the street parted when they came to town! The brothers shared an amazing bond—they admired the strengths of one another and deeply cared for and respected the women in their family. The Smith men knew there was more to manhood than just muscle. The first thing about being a man is showing deep respect for women.

Don't let fear chase you away from things that matter to you. Remember Joseph in the sacred grove when Satan tried to prevent him from praying? Face your fears with courage like your Uncle Joseph.

Sometimes you'll wonder how you measure up before the Lord. Joseph asked this same question at age seventeen. His prayer prompted the first visit of Moroni. The Smith family is forgiving and caring. After he had been dragged from bed, Joseph's Sunday sermon was about love after he had been dragged from bed, then tarred and feathered.

Don't ever listen to anyone who would speak negatively of your Aunt Emma. Do not believe it. Emma's strength and commitment to Joseph, the Smith family, and the gospel were proven many times. She was a beautiful, courageous, and a compassionate lady who loved her family and loved the Lord.

Hyrum is the one person Joseph never had to reprove ever. They are an example of what it means to be united in brotherhood.

Somehow your time here at the reunion is more about you than about your past! Remember the qualities that are inherent in your family. Live with courage, commitment, strength, ability to face fear, unity, and love.

Joy also included notes from other activities. Joy baked Emma Smith's cookie recipe and served them to the youth. The youth group discussed what makes a good recipe for a family reunion.

These are some of the youth's recipes for a happy family or great reunion. The youth decorated each recipe poster, and their creativity with the ingredients and directions is evident. It was impressive how the youth included the ideas of everyone in their group. Can you guess which recipe had all boys in the "kitchen?"

The youth were up to this while the adults were in meetings. The youth are an incredible part of this family. In one workshop, they created these family recipes.

Smith Family Recipe

8 playful fathers
8 loving mothers
23 annoying brothers
15 screaming sisters
a lot of courage
100% love
Lots of family teasing
250% gospel

Put ingredients in a blender. Mix well with heritage. Makes one big happy family smoothie!

Family Smile

2 Tbsp. crazy
1 cup accepting
1 pinch outgoing
3 cups caring
5 cups funny
a dash of helpful
¾ cup courage
¼ cups happiness

Take the accepting add the outgoing, caring, and crazy. Mix well. Comedy is the key to happiness; being helpful keeps us together, and our history of being courageous speaks for itself. Adding the family together makes for a great adventure!

Happy Family

1. 5 strong men
2. a little bit of "Joy."
3. a family (naturally)
4. some grub
5. Mix it.
6. Deep fry it forever and take it out before it has burned.
7. Salt it up
8. and dip it in chocolate
9. then feast.

Our Recipe

Ingredients:

4 cups of humor
10 gallons of Love
Million sprinkles of forgiveness
1 tsp. of confusion
3 quarts of trust

Directions:

- 1st Place all ingredients in a humble bowl made of graham crackers
- 2nd Keep wire whisking till your hand feels like it will fall off
- 3rd. Freeze it in the freezer
- 4th Put in microwave on high for 47 years
- 5th Repeat step 3 and 4 until 94 years have gone by
- 6th Serve to grandchildren.

Recipe for: What makes our family AWESOME

Courage
Fun
Honesty
Happiness
Commitment
Love
Bravery
Unity
Responsibility

Mix in a pot. Boil on high heat. Serve everyone.

Our youth recipes for a happy family reunion included ingredients like:

Strong men, wives, and awesome youth
Happiness
Humor
½ tsp chaos or craziness
Forgiveness
Family history
Courage,
The gospel (I think that measurement was 250%)
Gallons of love.

Some of the directions were to:

Blend and boil
Dip in chocolate
Serve everyone

What these recipes show are the values of the Smith family youth. It's evident by the quantity that love is our priority. Joy informed the youth that she feels love whenever she works on family history or something for the reunion. Joy

said, "Oh, how Grandpa Joseph, Grandma Lucy, Alvin, Hyrum, Sophronia, Joseph, Samuel, Ephraim, William Catharine, Carlos, and Lucy love us! We are family!"

Friday Night, August 3

Heber Valley Camp Lucy Mack Smith Campground



Frances and Steve Orton at the camp



Bill Fife and some of his family



Sterling Orton helping prepare to plant trees



Some of the family digging the holes for the blue spruce trees to honor our ancestors



Suzanne Lindsay and her family by one of the newly planted trees





Hyrum Smith and his son Ian planting a tree



Darcy Kennedy behind the tree and Michael Kennedy Jr. with the shovel





Michael Kennedy Jr. with a newly planted tree



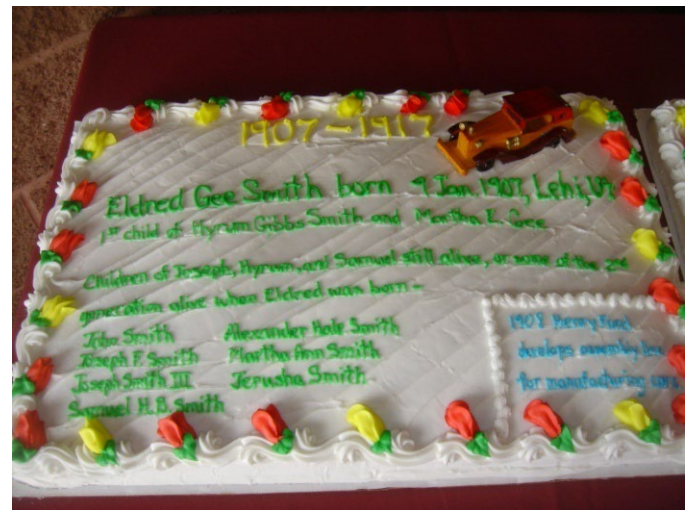
Samuel Smith Family - Stanlee and Patricia Smith from St. Louis, Missouri, were working magic with the Dutch oven as part of the BBQ along with Doug Smith and Bob Smith.



Far left: David and Gilda Sundeen watching the family gather for the BBQ



One sheet cake for every decade of Eldred's life was created for the family to share. His life history fit on ten cakes.





Hortense and Eldred Smith talking with their nephew Hyrum Smith of Arizona



It was Erin Moore's 7th birthday. Steve had the whole family sing to her.



The Jared Glade family on the left and Charity Williams and her family on the right



Gifted Hands, a poem by Hortense Smith, was read about Eldred.

❖ **A copy of Hortense's poem is at the end of the report.**





A retired English professor, Richard H. Cracroft, gave a 100th Birthday Tribute to Eldred G. Smith.



A tribute to the eleven children of Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith was given by various family members while a picture for each one was held up. Portions of their patriarchal blessings were read for each of the living children. Then a rock engraved with the name and their birth and death year was placed by the planted tree.



- Unnamed Son (ca. 1797)*
- Alvin (1798-1823)*
- Hyrum (1800-1844)*
- Sophronia (1803-1876)*
- Joseph Smith Jr. (1805-1844)*
- Samuel H. (1808-1844)*
- Ephraim (1810)*
- William (1811-1893)*
- Katherine (1813-1900)*
- Don Carlos (1816-1841)*
- Lucy (1821-1882)*







The family listening as a tribute was offered for each Smith child. Then the engraved rock was carried and laid in place by the tree.



Joy Stoddard gave the tribute for Alvin and the babies. Sterling Orton held the picture of the babies, and Amy Orton held the picture of Alvin.



Michael Kennedy Jr. holding the rock, Bob Smith reading the tribute, and holding Joseph Jr.'s picture.



The Wolfgramms

Eve (11), Heinrich (9), Isabella (7), Tihane (6)

Their family group performed on Nickelodeon this year. Their father, Haini Wolfgramm, is one of the Jets.

Saturday, August 4



Susan Arrington Madsen on the right

Susan Arrington Madsen spoke to the family about writing personal histories. Susan co-authored a book titled *Mother's of the Prophets*.



Betty Rabe talking with Katherine Thompson Nelson, who just sang a number she was inspired to write after reading a letter Joseph wrote to Emma from Liberty Jail.

Saturday Primary Activities

The kids had the most wonderful time walking on stilts, making muslin dolls and pinwheels, having puppet shows, and dancing.



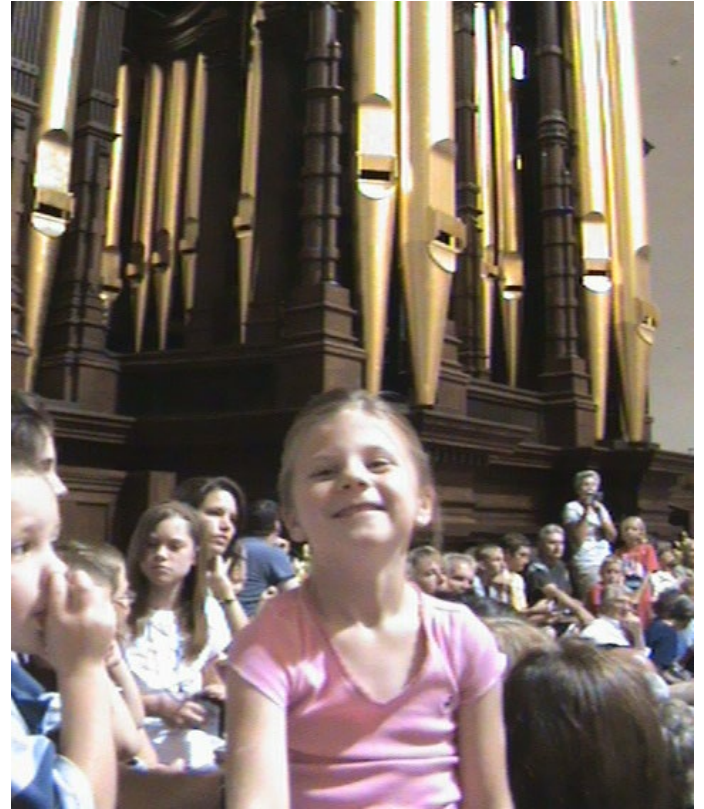


The group resting in the choir seats before everyone had to stand and squish together.



At this point, the Primary children met up with their families, and the group filed out of the chapel together and walked to the theater, which holds 507 people. The family filled the theater before the 10:30 a.m. starting time of the movie, *Joseph Smith: Prophet of the Restoration*, and seeing the sacrifices made impacted everyone. The spirit was so strong, and the feeling of love was very evident.

When the movie ended, the family was required to walk together, following Richard Lenz to the Tabernacle. The group was seated down front in the Tabernacle for the organ recital. The family traveled together and attended the concert to maintain security, use the choir seats, and be finished in time for the next organ concert. The group was amiable with this idea.



Gracey Gardner waiting for the group picture



On the right side is Bob & Renee Park with some of their grandchildren.

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Before the family left the choir seats, they sang impromptu the song *As I Have Loved You*. This was a fantastic moment.

The group walked over to the church office building together for security reasons. No one was allowed up to the 26th floor unless they had a star sticker on their nametag. The Smith family filled all 300 chairs set up on the 26th floor. Elder Ballard was also able to join us.



Elder Ballard with the family at the luncheon



Michael Kennedy figuring out the difference between the Springville Bob Smith and the Omaha Bob Smith.





Gwen and John Smith, Bob Smith,

During dinner, Scott and Sherry Harward, members of the family, sang some background music for all to enjoy. They set a tone for the event.



Bob Smith speaking to the family at the luncheon

When all the activities ended for the day, many family members met in other places to continue their visits.

Sunday, August 5

It had been arranged to have the family park under the church office building. The group met outside the Tabernacle by 8:00 a.m. Richard Lenz filed us into the Tabernacle together to all sit together.



A painting of Joseph and Hyrum by Corbett was displayed throughout the luncheon. Gracia Jones spoke to us about Joseph Sr. and Lucy. She was wearing Lucy Mack Smith's shawl.



Frances and Steve Orton with Richard Lenz, waiting outside the Tabernacle



Michael Kennedy Sr. addressing the family



Fred Larsen (President of the Remnant Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints), Steve and Frances Orton, Mary Larsen



Lindsey Orton played the music inside the Assembly Hall.



Smith Family waiting for Music and Spoken Word



The family began to gather inside the Assembly Hall before the closing family devotional started.



Here the choir is performing a few additional numbers for the Smith Family. It was so amazing to have them honor us in this way.

This concluding meeting was very spiritual. Our opening two vocal numbers by cousins: *Sarah Wolfgramm, Christy Pethel, and Jacque Watene (Also known as Homestead)* set the tone for the meeting. They began with a beautiful song that was not well known, and they ended with *In This Very Room*. Their harmony was unbelievable. We all felt like Christ is the very room with us. The thought made my mind wonder just how many of our ancestors were also in this very room. I am sure we had a full house on both sides of the veil.



Sarah Wolfgramm, Christy Pethel, Jacque Watene, and Sarah Wolfgramm



Frances Orton during the last 2007 Joseph Smith Sr. Family Reunion in the Assembly Hall on Temple Square



Elder Ballard with Frances & Steve Orton during the 2007 Joseph Smith Sr Family Reunion



Steve Orton in the Assembly Hall addressing the family during the closing session of the reunion

Steve and I said a few words. Then the room was silent and the spirit strong as the time was turned over to Elder M. Russell Ballard. He focused on the strength of the family ancestors. He pointed out that it was not an accident that Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack found each other. Divine intervention and direction brought these two strong religious families together. He talked about Samuel, the grandfather of Joseph Sr., and father to Asael. He shared the religious persecution their family experienced even before the restoration of the gospel. This persecution developed the character and ability to listen to the spirit in both families.



Ivor and Gracia Jones, Elder M. Russell Ballard, Frances and Steve Orton in the Assembly Hall before the family devotional began.



Elder Ballard - 2007 Joseph Smith Sr. Family Reunion in the Assembly Hall

Notes from Elder Ballard's Reunion Talk by Joy Ercanbrack Sunday, August 5, 2007

We have the responsibility to seek earnestly to know what is true.

Our most significant evidence to know if the church is true is the Book of Mormon.

Testimony of truth comes from the Holy Ghost. He confirms the truth. He is the comforter. He brings to remembrance the things we've been studying. Listen for promptings. That is the way the Lord speaks to us.

You're entitled to know what is true and what is false. Seek to know.

The Lord will speak to you and inspire you on how to do the work of researching the family. Follow the promptings. This is a great responsibility to find and know our ancestors. In the spirit world, you'll be embraced by them for the work.

As a family, you will share with [other Smith descendants] with gentleness, humility, and love.

As an Apostle of the Lord, Jesus Christ, I invoke a blessing upon you: That you may have rekindled in your hearts and minds the great blessing of who you are and the remarkable family you are a part of.

Elder Ballard ended his talk by saying he had a desire to pronounce a blessing upon the family. From the notes taken by Dianne Ingram, Elder Ballard said, *"I bless you to know who you are and the important line you come from. As heirs of Joseph Smith Sr., I bless you in your homes that you may find peace and also peace in your work. I pray that the Lord*

will watch over you in your daily endeavors and that you may not get confused about what really matters. I bless that you will rekindle in your hearts how marvelous it is to be a member of this great family. I bless you to know how important the work is and that you must carry on in what our ancestors established. I bless that all the righteous desires of your heart may be fulfilled. May you serve and dedicate your lives and commit yourselves to our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. May we praise the Lord and be grateful for all that He is. This is my prayer and blessing I leave with you. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

Many things were promised, and a feeling of peace washed overall in attendance.

Everyone was in awe as Elder Ballard ended. We had just been taught by an apostle of the Lord and by the Holy Spirit. We all grew and became better people.

Eldred's grandson, Dwayne Vance, wrote a song called Brotherly Love which he arranged to have performed by Heather Hobb, Shay Taylor, accompanied by: John Butler.



Heather Hobb and Shay Taylor

The reunion ended with the traditional song; *God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again*. Ivor Jones gave the closing prayer.

GIFTED HANDS

BY
HORTENSE C. SMITH

*Hands are the perfect servants
of the spirit and mind of man.
They ask, ponder, promise, invoke,
dismiss, threaten, entreat.
They touch, aid, assist, comfort,
lift, relieve, support.
They bestow, devote, transmit, pass on,
assent, donate, convey.
They express joy, fear, grief, anger, doubt
faith, persistence, supplication.
In fine, they are a visible expression
of the inner person,
revealing Spirit and Character.*

A TRIBUTE TO THE EXCEPTIONAL HANDS OF PATRIARCH ELDRRED G. SMITH

GENTLE

In a sacred sealing room, they have comforted
a crying baby when none else could;
Have wiped tears from a distraught son,
daughter and grandchild;
Have caressed and soothed troubled feelings.

MAGNETIC

Small great- and great-great-grandchildren
automatically seek his tender touch and comfort.
Many other little children have spontaneously
crossed a room, seeking this same warm embrace.

HELPING
Always and ever first to assist
whenever and wherever there is a need.

INQUISITIVE
They reflect an inquisitive mind that explores
—in detail—any mechanism,
situation, or incident.
They have turned pages of the Holy Scriptures
for endless hours in prayerful study.



INDUSTRIOUS

In their youth, they delivered
200-pound blocks of ice;
Have driven thousands of miles with family
to establish a new home or enjoy special sites;
Have laid all the tile on the floor and roof of the
Indian Hills Ward meetinghouse;
Have restored priceless furniture to perfection
—both antique and contemporary;
Have scraped, cleaned, and painted
the entire ceiling of the Salt Lake Tabernacle.

CREATIVE
They are genius at working with delicate
and complex mechanisms;
They cannot resist examination to discover how
they are put together and how they operate.
Fixing clocks has been a main focus:
A gigantic 17th-century grandfather clock;
The music box clock in the foyer
of the LDS Church Office Building;
Hundreds of other clocks for friends and
neighbors, which hadn't kept time for years.
They have fashioned six complete
grandfather clocks for his children.

MINISTERING

These hands have been the medium for:
Thousands of comfort and healing blessings;
Ordination of hundreds to priesthood offices;
and innumerable eternal sealings;
Bestowal of sacred patriarchal blessings
on more than eighteen thousand
sons and daughters of God!
No other hands on earth have served thus!

*Truly, Patriarch Eldred G. Smith's
gifted hands — sanctified by God —
reveal a choice and exceptional
inner and outer man
— a dedicated, obedient, faithful,
servant of his fellowman and of God,
testifying of the greatness and goodness of
God, the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ.*