

Father and Mother Smith's Graves Identified- Opportunities for Headstone Donation Begun

At last, after years of uncertainty, the resting places of both Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith have been located and verified. The story is a veritable, high-tech Scotland Yard clue chase. The Saints Herald in 1960 published an account of the location of the Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith graves. It was the account by the family cemetery sextant, who was shown the sites by the original grave digger who had buried Emmeline, the wife of Joseph the 3rd, in 1869. He had inadvertently disturbed Mother Smith's grave, and with the help of Emma, made identification.

We published this account in our newsletter with a request that anyone in the family with corroborating journal accounts to please inform us. Not long after, another sent us an account that contradicted the sextant's account, made by Joseph and Lucy's grandson. It was then decided to continue the sleuthing by using modern technology. It took some time for all the puzzle pieces to fit but now they do. After some search and proper timing, a ground penetrating radar scan was arranged. Here are some excerpts from the final scan report.

“The x-ray images arise from variations in the soils caused by pit excavation and refilling. The overall

uniformity of the soils *in this cemetery* indicates considerable coffin decay... The considerable mixing of soils makes the identification of child burials particularly difficult, because of the smaller size...”

The diagram below shows four marked graves, including Emmeline's that will serve as reference since the x-ray verified their currently marked positions. The investigative mystery was discovering whether there were graves either to the east or to the west of Emmeline's as per the contradicting accounts. (Drum roll please) Now quoting again: "The area just west of Emmeline is vacant. ...Mother Smith could then be to the east of Emmeline. The scan indicates that we do have a grave image in this eastern area that is close to Emmeline and matches the Saint's Herald account by the cemetery sextant. There is also a grave image just to side of the Lucy image that must be Father Smith's.

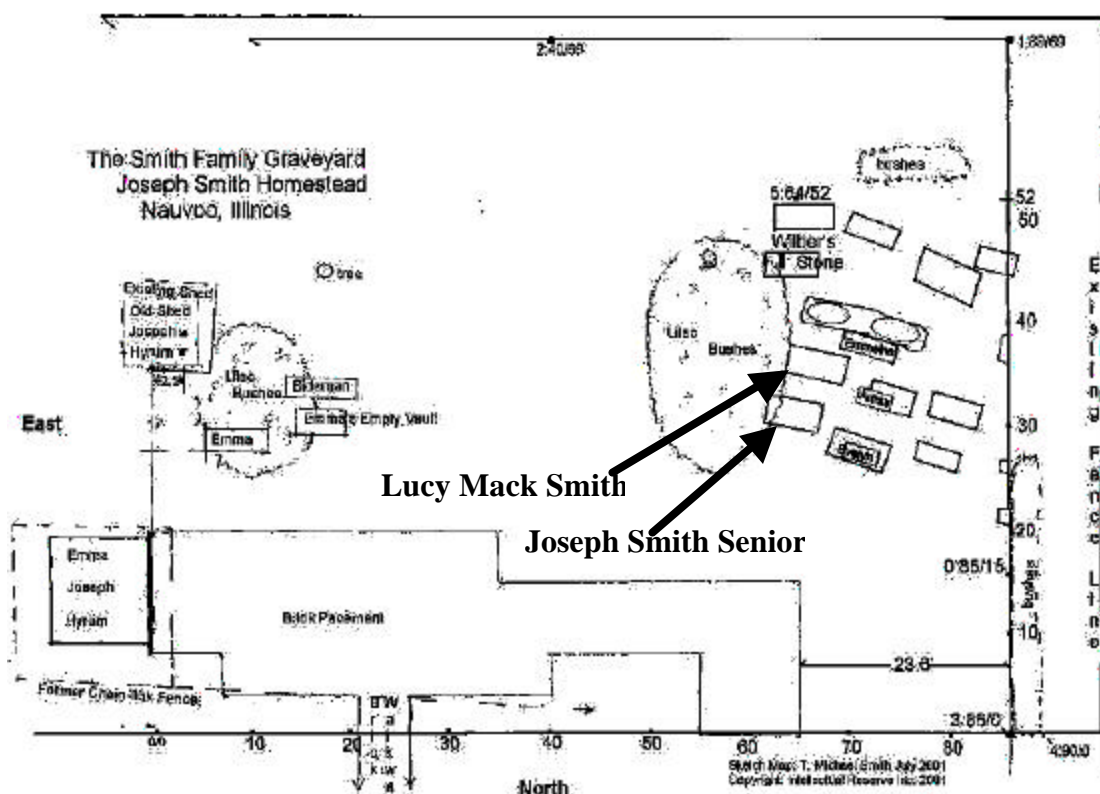
Now that we know where they are, the Family invites each family member to participate in memorializing our namesakes with appropriate markers. See below...

Help Us Mark Our Ancestors Graves

Your financial help is needed to place headstones on Father and Mother Smith's graves. Their graves

have never been marked. Your contributions will also place a memorial stone in the cemetery by the Kirtland Temple for Father Smith's mother, Mary Duty, Jerusha Smith, Joseph and Emma's twins and Mary, a daughter of Hyrum and Jerusha.

We estimate the cost will be \$25,000. Some large contributions will be needed to meet this goal. However, the board feels that each family member needs the opportunity to participate, no matter what the amount. We owe it to



our ancestors to mark their graves or memorialize them near where they are buried.

When our ancestors left Kirtland, graves markers were destroyed. In Nauvoo, graves were not marked because of fear of what enemies might do. We now have an opportunity to appropriately honor our ancestors by marking their graves and memorializing them. Joseph Smith once said, "the place that a man is buried is sacred to me." Late in life, Emma expressed her desire to reach out to all of the Smith descendants to mark these graves.

It is now up to each of us. Will you please send a generous donation as soon as you can to make this happen before the temple dedication in Nauvoo in June? We would like to mark these graves by that time so that each visitor to Nauvoo this summer might be able to stand at this sacred site. We will also look forward to gathering as a family at the completion of the project in Nauvoo. Please attach the form at the end of the newsletter with your contribution

Summer Reunion in Salt Lake: A Masterpiece

Blue skies and warm desert days of the Salt Lake Valley greeted family members as they gathered for three days of renewing and forming family bonds. Some grandchild organizations met on Thursday prior to the registration evening. We hope more will follow this example, as did the Martha Ann Smith Harris Family.

The first-evening-registration-gathering allowed us to chat with friends we hadn't seen for two years or



more. We also had the opportunity to browse and or buy the newly created artwork from sculptors, artists and authors who have focused on the Smith family history. Richard Dutcher, the film-maker of God's Army, Brigham City, and the new Life of Joseph Smith, was seen in the crowd. He was getting to know the family whose ancestors will be featured in the movie.



In the Joseph Smith Memorial Building we were entertained and instructed about our great heritage. We saw newly discovered



pictures; delighted at a powerful portrayal of Joseph and Emma; were awed at seeing some of the original Book of Mormon manuscripts and books that belonged to the Smiths; viewed our growing suite of family

web-pages. The little children were taken to "Father Smith's Pioneer School and Store" where



they played and learned in true pioneer fashion. The teens laughed and cried through stories from the lives of their ancestral heroes the first day. They then saw the Joseph and Hyrum personal property and martyrdom clothes up close and personal by our own Patriarch, Eldred G. Smith.

A special showing of the new big screen film delighted the family, "Testaments, of one fold and one Shepherd." An afternoon of touring the pioneer sites of Salt Lake and a wonderful mountain barbeque and cowboy songfest in the canyon completed Friday. Saturday concluded with a sumptuous, formal banquet and entertainment on the twenty-fifth floor of the high-rise building. Sunday morning, we concluded with a devotional, listening first to the Tabernacle Choir broadcast in person, then a powerfully moving oratorio written to



memorialize Joseph. Elder Ballard concluded our reunion with a charge to the family to remember the values and live the legacy of these inspired ancestors.

The Samuel Smith Family Seeks To Honor Him

The Samuel Family announced a project to fund a statue of Samuel. If family members wish to help, contact Robert Smith at "Bob_Smith@byu.edu" or call (801) 489-7589. Further fund raising efforts by the Foundation to assist the Samuel Family will come after the Father and Mother Smith headstone project is completed: June 2002

The Hyrum Smith Birthday Transcript Available

Though the video is sold out the talks and program are available to those that have web access. You may download this valuable history and some of the music at www.hyrumsmith.org



Please Clip and Send

Please help us save costs by using your own envelope!

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____, State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Please list family organizations to which you belong, if any:

Umbrella: Joseph Sr.-Lucy Mack Smith Foundation: \$15.00

Key Ancestor: _____

Grandfather: _____

Please circle which child you descend from:

Hyrum	Joseph	Samuel	William	Katherine	Lucy
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Please circle which grandchild you descend from

Lovina	Joseph III	Samuel	Thelia	Elizabeth	Florence
John	Alexander		Hyrum W.	Lucy	Charles
Jerusha	David H		William E	Solomon	
Sarah			Edison DC	Don Carlos	
Joseph F.			Louie		
Martha Ann					

Foundation Dues \$15.00-Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Memorial Headstone Donation \$ _____

TOTAL DONATION: \$ _____

Please check one:

Newsletter by Email _____ Newsletter by US post _____

We would love to save the hundreds of dollars it costs to mail our newsletters. The news is also available on www.josephsmithsr.com

NOTE: Hyrum Smith Birthday program available: www.hyrumsmith.org

INVITATION TO ALL !

This is just a last note to invite all to please send an annual contribution. **Our newsletter outreach in search of all our family members depends on you.** If you aren't certain when you last paid the suggested \$15.00, **please note your mailing label for the date .**

Name
Address
City, Zip

CONTRIBUTE BY: date

Please help us save cost by using your own envelope and cut-out form section - send to Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Foundation % Spence Nilson 180 E. 2100 S. # 202 SLC, UT 84115 (please do not send dues to the newsletter return address)

If you know of living Smith descendants that don't receive the newsletter, please send their addresses by copying the form from the section of the newsletter and sending them to the return address on the newsletter or emailing to crfrogley@josephsmithsr.org , or , soon you may go to the web page and enter information in yourself: www.josephsmithsr.com. Thank you.

IS YOUR FAMILY BRANCH REPRESENTED?

HYRUM-			LIVING
-Lovina:	Bill Woodland.	208-233-4099	4,484
-John	Sam Isolm	801-771-6911	2,000
-Joseph F.	Mary Donoho	801-546-4707	5,000
-Jerusha	Ben Donoho	801-546-4707	
-Martha Ann	Carole King	435 673-4303	2,768
-Sarah	LaRene Gaunt	801-572-0169	1,000
JOSEPH Jr-	Michael Kennedy	801-756-1091	800
SAMUEL	Robert Smith	801-489-7589	450
WILLIAM	Gracia Jones	435-673-2165	ukwn
CATHERINE	Marge Porter-Pieper	801-876-3265	ukwn
LUCY	Wilburta Moore	801-595-8131	ukwn

JOSEPH Sr-LUCY MACK SMITH FOUNDATION
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