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Spring 2015

Smith
Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith
FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Upcoming Historical Focus

2016
Nauvoo, IL
(25th Celebration of
the 1991 Family
Cemetery Dedication)

2018
Salt Lake City, UT

2020
Palmyra, NY
200th Anniversary of
the First Vision

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Joseph Smith
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SACRED GROUND: Smith Family Cemetery in Nauvoo, Illinois

Part I

by Julie Maddox

*"The place where a man is buried is sacred
to me."*

Joseph Smith Jr.

I feel the full emotion of that statement, sitting here on the wooden bench in the Smith Family Cemetery in Nauvoo. Resting in the shade, I can see things just as Anina Luff has described them, and "watch white butterflies dance above the blue salvia," especially picturesque at dusk as the sun sets on the Mississippi river.

Summer of 1991 found Anina Mackay Luff, great great-granddaughter of Joseph and Emma, and her son Lachlan Mackay, driving from Independence, MO, to the Family Cemetery at sunset. "The Mississippi River," she said, "was mystical, beautiful." Anina and her brother Daniel Larsen and their families were a significant part of preparations for the Aug. 4, 1991 formal cemetery dedication. They wanted a "beautiful serene place where people could sit and dream and ponder connections with loved ones passed on." And



each year since they have come to beautify and plant flowers in this sacred spot.

Here I contemplate matters of the soul and eternity. Our thoughts look to that great morning on which loved ones will rise and "strike hands" and exclaim, "my mother, my father, my brother, my sister."

I see the tombstones of Father and Mother Smith, our first parents in Nauvoo. For a brief moment I escape into reverie.... The 6'2" Joseph stands with his beloved Lucy, a mere (See Cemetery P2)

Walking in Their Shoes: JSSR 2014 Reunion, Independence, MO

by Steve & Frances Orton & Joy Ercanbrack



We extend a heartfelt thank you to the many family members who went the extra mile to help make the 2014 Reunion such a

great success! Please log on to the website to see pictures and read the full account of the reunion. (<http://reunion.josephsmithsr.org>)

The family gained a deeper respect for our ancestors who lived in the Independence, Missouri area as we toured Far West, Adam-ondi-Ahman, and the sacred Liberty Jail. We learned that God does not abandon us, just as he did not abandon Joseph and Hyrum when they were unjustly imprisoned in the Liberty Jail. Truth does prevail and the mercies of God will be revealed.

The family met in the beautiful Community of Christ Stone Church and received gracious (Walking in Their Shoes Cont. P3)

(Sacred Ground: The Smith Family Nauvoo Cemetery Continued from page 1)

4'11," at his side. During their Nauvoo years, their five living sons, and 3 daughters all married and lived here or in surrounding areas, with their young families. They gathered to support the work of the Restoration. I see Joseph and Lucy, their hearts drawn out still, desiring God's greatest blessings upon their precious and ever-expanding family.

Sons Samuel and Don Carlos rest here. Agnes Coolbrith Smith, widow to Don Carlos, writes that she has "removed her dead into Emma's garden." Also here is Robert B. Thompson, Joseph's secretary, who worked with Don Carlos in the printing basement, where the two contracted "quick consumption." A plaque marks the resting spot of 25 in total, including two of Joseph and Emma's children, close family friends, Caroline, William's wife, Emmeline, wife of Joseph III, and two of their children.

Enshrouded just a few feet away, lie the bodies of Emma and Joseph and Hyrum.

Have not Father and Mother Smith watched over this cemetery, aware of its complex history and the various journeys of their children and their children's children over the past 170 years? Because truly, this small cemetery evinces a peace that belies

its "complex history," or, perhaps--in the eyes of our parents--exemplifies a uniting and healing of their extended and beloved family.

EARLY HISTORY 1844 – 1856

As the bodies of Joseph and Hyrum were brought into Nauvoo, thousands lined the streets to receive their martyred prophets and grieve their deaths. Emma, Mary Fielding and Lucy



were engulfed in grief. From 8 am to 5pm, 28 June 1844, tens of thousands paid their respect to their beloved leaders.

A large reward was offered for the body of Joseph dead or alive, and enemies threatened to desecrate the bodies. After the public viewing, the coffins were quietly filled with sandbags and placed in a vault near the temple. Meanwhile, W. W. Phelps preached a funeral sermon. The bodies were kept in the Mansion Home until the night of June 29.

Great turbulence marked the evening of June 29, as the mob approached Nauvoo to "set fire to the city," and "burn the bodies of those martyred." A summer storm gathered over the Mississippi. At the mansion house, a "small group of trusted men removed the bodies" for a secret burial in the basement of the uncompleted Nauvoo House. The storm broke with a "crashing frightful peal of thunder," giving these few men an unsettling pause. Then when the bodies were safely buried and the dirt replaced, rain pounded the ground, dispersing not only the mob and their ammunition, but also erasing any evidence of a nighttime burial.

Records indicate that the bodies were moved perhaps twice more, once when construction began again on the Nauvoo House and once to Hibbard's grove. Finally, in utmost secrecy, Emma entrusted 3 men to bury the bodies behind the homestead near the riverbank. The springhouse was then moved and placed over the bodies, and Emma planted lilac bushes nearby.

Joseph had expressed his wish to be buried near his family, and at some point close to this time, the Homestead property became the Smith family cemetery. Family members were moved from the Nauvoo Cemeteries near the (Cemetery cont. P3)

JOSEPH SMITH SR GENEALOGICAL WEBSITE: www.josephsmithsr.com

Take advantage of the Joseph Smith Sr. Genealogical Website's many features! It can help you & us keep accurate information and extend that information more readily to your family and extended family. It can also help those who are related to many of the family's thousands of ancestors.

This site contains Joseph Sr and Lucy Mack Smith's ancestry and posterity and Emma Hale Smith's ancestry and posterity. To view the posterity information of the living, you must be a direct descendant and register on the website. That information will then be available to you. All family branches are connected into the same database which provides statistical



information, biographies, media images, geo locations synchronized with google maps, world history timelines and much more. Please login to check your family for accuracy and contact us for any errors. We would appreciate any submissions of

family stories, pictures, histories, etc.

Clicking any of the buttons takes you directly to the genealogical information of that branch of the family:

1. Joseph - ancestors of Joseph Smith Sr.
2. Lucy - ancestors of Lucy Mack Smith
3. Any of the children - descendants of that branch of the family

Be sure to register on the site to take advantage of all the genealogical features. There is no cost to use this site. The Joseph Smith Jr. and Emma Hale Smith Historical Society website is also interconnected with the genealogical information on this web site.

Walking in Their Shoes (cont. from page 1.)

welcomes and family news, history, website, iDig info and news of upcoming events. Lach Mackay read a welcome letter to the



welcomed the group and Fred Larsen gave a family message and tribute. The beautiful flowers were placed by Anina Mackay Luff

family from Cousin Wallace B. Smith who was recovering from surgery.

The highlight of the evening was hearing the memories of Anina Mackay Luff as she reflected on the early reunions and said as she looked in the eyes of newly discovered cousins, she could see the eyes of her family.

Saturday morning, Richard G. Moore shared insights on the strength of Emma Smith. We gained a great respect for Joseph Smith III from the historical sketch given by Lach Mackay. A recorded message of unity and friendship was given by Elder M. Russell Ballard.

Saturday, a wreath was placed during a family memorial at the Mound Grove Cemetery. Dan Larsen

and Christin Mackay. The setting was lovely and a spirit of peace was present.

Fred Larsen spoke to the family at a banquet at the Conference Center of the Remnant Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We gave new shoes to the women of the Mother's Refuge, a women's shelter that were temporarily staying at the Conference Center because their group home burned down. Our family also donated a check to help them with their rebuilding efforts.

Everyone at the reunion was given of new pair of shoelaces which represents a real connection to our Smith history with the challenge to remember our family ties whenever you lace up your shoes.

(Cemetery continued from p 2)

temple to the Homestead. The springhouse disappeared. After Emma's death in 1879, the location of Joseph & Hyrum was unknown to virtually anyone but Joseph III. His younger brother David Hyrum penned the popular hymn, "The Unknown Grave."

By July 30, 1844, there were 5 Smith widows. Don Carlos' wife Agnes married Mr. Pickett, a newspaper man who moved them to St. Louis. Emma lived in and was buried in Nauvoo. Mary Fielding and Samuel's widow, Levira Clark went west with the majority of the saints. Mother Smith had told the Saints she would go west, but was arthritic and walked with two canes and lived with her daughters in Illinois. She spent her last 4 years, bedridden, in Emma's care. In 1856 Lucy was buried next to her husband southwest of the Homestead.

CEMETERY PART II WILL APPEAR IN 2016

[Thousands of friends and family visit the Smith Family Cemetery in Nauvoo each year. The beautiful surroundings are a result of continuous efforts from 1867 to 1928 to 1991 to the present to "enhance, enlarge, landscape, beautify, and increase accessibility to the grave site and to provide funding for the ongoing maintenance of the area."

The next newsletter will present a brief history of the cemetery from 1867 and share personal experiences of some of those involved in this labor.]

Help Us Reach Our Cousins!

Your \$25 donation helps--

- Encourage and publicize events and other news.
- Explore projects that teach about our ancestors.
- Maintain and update our family database (www.JosephSmithSr.org).

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\$ ____ \$25 Membership
\$ ____ I Dig Nauvoo
\$ ____ Send Newsletters to Cousins
\$ ____ Smith Family Cemetery Upkeep

Please circle which grandchild of Joseph Sr. & Lucy Mack Smith you descend from:

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

SMITH FAMILY IN THE NEWS AND IN STORY

IDigNauvoo is in the news! Visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bk9_EqEhFtQ

This year IdigNauvoo volunteers are working at both the Joseph Sr. Homestead and the Samuel H. Smith home site.

Significant events at the IdigNauvoo site include the restoration of the stone steps on the east side of the Joseph Smith Sr. homestead, discovery of an 1835 half dime, and a bone bead that

is 2000 years old. Recent finds have led archaeologist Paul DeBarthe to question whether the Smith homestead could have been an 1805 trading post.

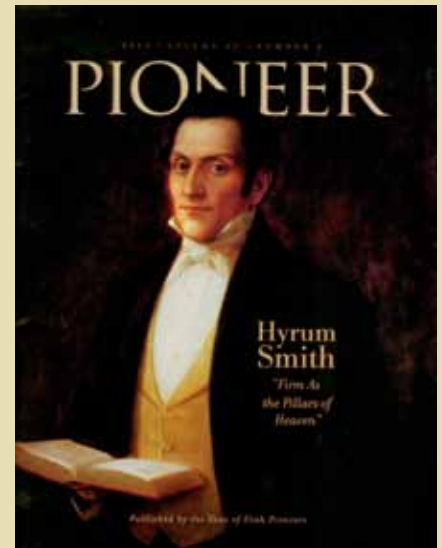
The Dig is looking for participants and volunteer host couples. Learn more about the iDigNauvoo archeological project by visiting their website www.idignauvoo.legacyshare.org.

Watch lectures on Mary Fielding Smith and "Letters from Joseph F Smith to his Sister Martha Ann" at this online site:
history.lds.org/article/men-women-faith-2014-schedule

See Reunion.JosephSmithSr.org to read Lachlan Mackay's Stories About Joseph III from the Reunion. See www.reunion.josephsmithsr.org.

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS OF OUR UPCOMING
21 SEPTEMBER 2015 WEBINAR

Joseph's Miracle Run Scholarship Presentation to Dartmouth



Many Smith family members contributed to the Sons of the Utah Pioneer tribute to Hyrum Smith. Cost is \$5 per magazine. To purchase, visit www.sup1847.com or call 801.484.4441.

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