

Smith
Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith
FAMILY ORGANIZATION
Spring 2017

Adam ondi Ahman by Eliza Adams - Photography contest winner Nauvoo Reunion 2016

NAUVOO 2016: FAMILY CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CEMETERY DEDICATION

Over 400 family members gathered in Nauvoo August 4-7, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the 1991 Dedication of the Smith Family Nauvoo Cemetery. In 1991, the Joseph Jr. and Hyrum families joined together to care for and maintain the family cemetery which is owned by Community of Christ.

On behalf of Community of Christ, Lachlan Mackay, of the Council of Twelve, expressed appreciation for family “support both in the past and for now and in the future in beautifying and helping to maintain the cemetery.” He summed up the heartfelt sentiment of all, saying, “It is a privilege to assist with that.”

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the LDS Church Quorum of Twelve desired that all the family might have the opportunity “to come here and feel what we feel here. When you are close to the burial place of the Prophet Joseph, Hyrum, Emma, and Father and Mother Smith you feel their love for us.” He explained that

“the power of Elijah is so real that we will have had our hearts turned towards them and our hearts will be toward our own children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.” Elder Ballard illustrated that perfectly by bringing five of his grandchildren with him to the 2016 Smith Family Reunion in Nauvoo.



Elder Ballard, Katie Clayton, Lachlan Mackay, and Anina Luff place wreath. (photo Lindsey Orton)

Elder Ballard’s granddaughter Katie said she “was honored to be chosen to place a wreath with my grandpa at the graves of these

amazing family members. Each of their stories is full of courage, faith, and hope. I have always known that being one of their family members is a lot to live up to.”

To Amanda Oney, third great granddaughter of Joseph Smith Jr., the Smith Family Nauvoo Cemetery has just “always been a part of my life.” She has been planting flowers with her family each May as long as she can remember.

“Sometimes it takes me by surprise how many people are interested in our family. To me it’s just family.” Amanda and her husband, Troy, brought their grandson Ollie to the reunion this summer.

This newsletter shares some of the memories of the younger generations as they walked the streets of Nauvoo, pulled weeds in the cemetery, chased frogs, visited Carthage Jail, and enjoyed stories of the Smith family in Old Nauvoo.

(See *Hearts Entwined*, Page 2)

The Smith Foundation Board Urges Family to Follow Smith Ancestors

Be Faithful

“I can see Mother Smith shaking her finger and saying, ‘Keep going. Look at what we sacrificed. What are you sacrificing?’”

Read Lucy’s History

“Mother Smith was a firsthand witness. In her name, I give you a challenge to reread *The History of Joseph Smith by his mother*. It is a letter to each of us.”

Karl Anderson

Come to Know God

Elder Ballard spoke to the youth about faith and struggles in the Saturday Devotional.

“Why did Joseph, Hyrum, Lucy, Joseph Smith Sr. and the rest of the family suffer so much?”

“I have experienced some personal suffering in my own life. It’s those moments when you are faced with pain or anguish or loss ... that you come to know God.”

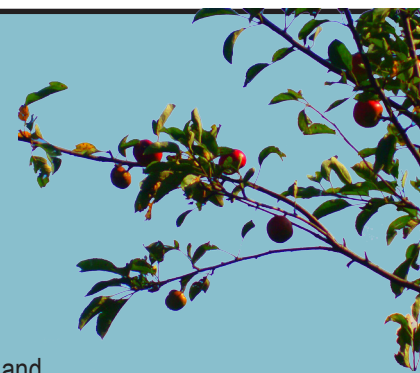
He told of Joseph and Hyrum who were so ill with cholera they feared death. Hyrum leapt to his feet and said to Joseph, “I saw mother praying for us under an apple tree.”

Elder Ballard explained that as he saw his

mother praying for them, “this gave him the strength to rise up and help Joseph rise up and carry on their sacred mission.”

“So it is with each of us,” Elder Ballard said. “We will be tested in our faith, in our trust in God, whether we will serve Him and keep His commandments, in what matters most.”

(See *Elder Ballard Prayer*, Page 2)



HEARTS ENTWINED: Cousins Celebrate 25th Anniversary

Lewis Bidamon Stone Placed Lachlan Mackay Tribute & Historical Lecture

One of the highlights of the 2016 Reunion was the placing of a stone marker to remember Lewis Bidamon, second husband of Emma Smith. "I am so thrilled that we are finally able to mark Lewis' grave," said Lachlan Mackay. "Thank you for your help, and thanks to Bob Smith!"

Mackay spoke of Lewis Bidamon's life. "He was father and parent to the children of the prophet. For David, he was the only father he ever knew.... For raising those children I will be eternally grateful."



"I have a sense that the deepest feeling in their hearts is us So let our hearts be with them and toward our own children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren." M. Russell Ballard

Family Association Activities

Daniel Adams invited the family to join fully in the Smith Family Legacy.

He explained that Lucy covenanted to follow the Lord; Joseph Sr. consecrated his family to the Lord; and the entire family joined in serving the Savior. They gave their all.

"That is what holds us together," Adams said. "We are joining to proclaim Joseph's name for good."

To join with the family, see www.JosephSmithSr.org:

- Podcasts
- I Dig Nauvoo
- Newsletters
- Joseph's Miracle Run & Scholarship
- Reunions
- Upcoming Service Projects
- Donations
- Websites
- Genealogy
- Histories

Elder Ballard Closed With a Prayer

"May the Lord bless you - whatever the burden may be that you are carrying. Whatever the challenges are within your family, your extended family, may Heavenly Father grant you the spiritual insight, the spiritual strength, and the spiritual courage to go through your trials and come away knowing that you can also say, 'I have come to know God.'"

Embracing their Grandparents

"We went over to the graves of Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith, and Benjamin, age 1, gave a big hug to Lucy's headstone. After he held on for a little while, he turned and sat down and you could tell that her arms were reaching around him." Danielle M.

"When we were at the tombstones of Father and Mother Smith, my grandma was telling us the stories of Hyrum and of the martyrdom and it brought the spirit very strong and made me feel very connected with Joseph and Hyrum." Xoe V.

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).

Donate online at JosephSmithSr.org.

Send address corrections and donations to:

Joseph Sr & Lucy Mack Smith Family Organization
c/o Frances Orton
381 W 3700 N
Provo, UT 84604

Name _____
Address _____
Email _____

Donation Amount Enclosed
\$ ____ \$25 Membership
\$ ____ I Dig Nauvoo
\$ ____ Send Newsletters to Cousins
\$ ____ 2018 Habitat for Humanity Home

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

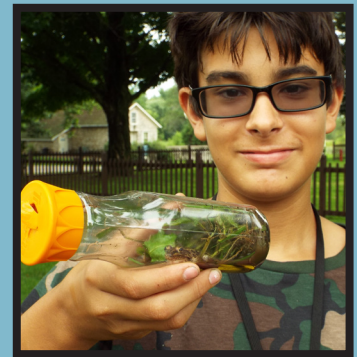


"I remember when we got to sweet Nauvoo, the air was thick with coming thunderstorms, but by the next morning the dense overcast sky had been washed clear. The morning was a soft sort of pale blue and alive with mid-western insects."

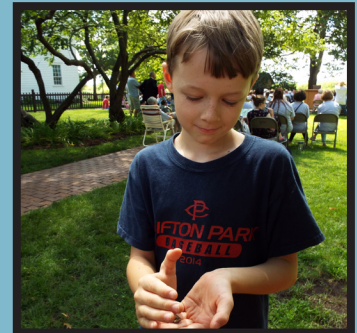
Rebecca A.

"The coolest part about Nauvoo were all the stories. I felt a greater sense of everything our ancestors had sacrificed. But most of all my heart was filled with gratitude for those who have come before me."

Amelia S.



Xanthe V. said her favorite part was "when we all went to Carthage and heard Elder Ballard speak and the other speakers. That was probably my favorite part. I felt like it invited the spirit really strong and it was nice being around family, both family we already knew and meeting new family members."



"Hearing Elder Ballard was super touching. Also at Carthage I remember the feelings I had personally. I felt that Elder Ballard wasn't just an apostle, but he felt like a family member and a bunch of us just connected with what he was saying."

Xoe V.

Dorathy D. said she felt "the connection to all those people even though I didn't know them personally - that we all had relatable experiences."



—Photo by Lindsey Orton

During the service project, many youth chased frogs, but Maddie M., age 7, traced her finger along Emmaline Griswold Smith's name as she heard stories of the grandpas and grandmas.

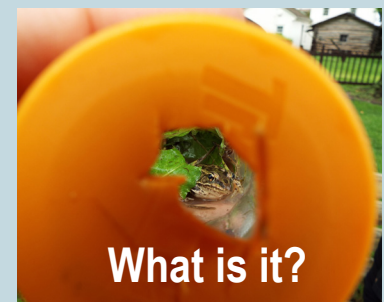


Young and older cleaning at the Smith Family Cemetery Service Project (photo Jeannine Withers)



"One of my strongest memories was that storm that happened - because our family was outside camping in a tent. The wind was blowing the rain so hard it actually came up through our tent flaps into the tent and got us all wet. We liked camping out there - except for the mosquitoes." Christopher D.

"We slept in the Nauvoo House. My dad slept in the same corner where Emma died. But that's also the place where Joseph brought Emma to heaven." Peter S.



What is it?

Join the Family

Home for Refugees 2018



To donate, visit www.JosephSmithSr.org.

Two hundred years ago, the Smith Family was driven from their home for the first time and had to rebuild in a new land—a scene that would be repeated 17 times over the next 25 years. More than anyone, the Smiths knew what it meant to be homeless and refugees.

In 2018, in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity, the Smith Family is honoring their sacrifice and endurance, by building a home for a refugee family in Salt Lake City, UT.

We hope that as we sacrifice to build a home for a modern refugee family we can honor the memory of our fathers, and pay forward the debt of any who were kind to our family in their time of need.

To Remember More...

Nauvoo Reunion pictures and presentations by Lachlan Mackay, Elder Ballard, Gracia Jones, Anina Luff, Susan Easton Black, Richard N. Holzapfel, Karl Anderson, Dan Larsen, Ivor Jones, and Mary Ellen Elgren can be found at www.JosephSmithSr.org.

Find a Piece of History
May 15-June 16, 2017



www.iDigNauvoo.com

2017 iDigNauvoo Projects:
Samuel H. Smith Site
Porter Rockwell Site

Smith
Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith
FAMILY ORGANIZATION
381 W 3700 N Provo, UT 84604
www.JosephSmithSr.org
facebook: Joseph Smith Sr and Lucy Mack Smith
Family Reunions; Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack
Smith Family Association Group
Editor: Julie Maddox jmaddox@gmail.com
Photography: Lindsey Orton, Jeannine Withers
Layout: Danielle Maddox