

Newspaper Clippings and Articles
of the
**Joseph Smith Sr. and
Lucy Mack Smith Family Reunion
and
Joseph's Miracle Run**

2013 – Salt Lake City, Utah

Record-breaking reunion planned for Joseph Smith Sr. family

BY JOE WALKER
DESERET NEWS

SALT LAKE CITY — A possible world-record-breaking gathering of the descendants of Joseph and Lucy Mack Smith will celebrate what they are calling “the first miracle of the Restoration” during the Smith Family Reunion at This is the Place Heritage Park on Aug. 3.

Joseph and Lucy Mack Smith were the parents of Joseph Smith Jr., founder and first prophet of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Jared Glade, a Smith descendant and family genealogist, says there are more than 40,000 family members now, with many of them living in Utah.

“The trouble is,” Glade said, “we only have accurate information on about 10 percent of our family. That’s important because there are some huge family events that are happening that only come around once in a lifetime, and our family needs to know about them so they can participate.”

Included among those

events is the upcoming reunion Aug. 3.

“We’ve had some big reunions in the past,” said Frances Orton, president of the Smith Family Association. “But this year the reunion is in Utah, and with so many Utah descendants, we think it could be huge.”

So huge that reunion organizers have applied to Guinness World Records officials for certification as the world’s largest family reunion.

“That’s another reason we’re so excited,” Orton said. “But we really need the family to know about it and respond.”

In conjunction with the reunion, family representatives have organized Joseph’s Miracle Run, a 5K run that will also be held at This is the Place Heritage Park on Aug. 3. The run is dedicated to the memory of what Smith descendant Dan Adams calls “the first miracle of the Restoration.”

“Although we don’t know a specific date, we assume it was right around this time that 7-year-old Joseph Smith Jr.’s leg — and, most likely,



“This year the reunion is in Utah, and with so many Utah descendants, we think it could be huge.”

— Frances Orton
President of the Smith
Family Association

his life — was saved through a chain of circumstances and events that can only be seen as miraculous,” Adams said.

In a moving video on a website dedicated to Joseph’s Miracle Run, venerable LDS historian Dr. Richard L. Bushman explains that the incident occurred at a time when there was a typhoid epidemic in the eastern United States.

“The Smith family was hit

very hard,” Bushman said. “They thought they were going to lose their daughter (Sophronia), but she was revived, Joseph (Jr.) became very ill. He also revived. But as happens with typhoid, you can have afterwards a salmonella organism which can infect in very serious ways.”

The salmonella infection settled in young Joseph’s left shin. Over time the salmonella infection became so severe that doctors recommended his left leg be amputated. Otherwise, they said, the infection will likely spread throughout the boy’s body and result in his death.

One of the nearby physicians who ministered to young Joseph was Dr. Nathan Smith, who Bushman said “was working on the foundation of the Dartmouth medical school and would later move to the Yale medical school.” Dr. Smith convinced the Smith family to allow him to perform a surgery that he was confident would save the boy’s leg.

“So far as we can tell,” Bushman said, “(Dr. Smith) invented (the surgery) because

it was not even known until the end of the century and not used commonly until World War I. Until that time, bone infection led almost inevitably to amputation, or an infection that would kill you.”

So the surgery, miraculously cutting-edge for its time, was performed.

“This little boy lay there in his father’s arms — his mother had been sent out into the field,” Bushman said. “With no anesthesia his leg was opened up, his bone was exposed, three pairs of holes were bored into his little shin bone ... and they pulled off that exterior bone to show the infection underneath and to clean that out, and then sew him back up.”

Afterward, Bushman continued, “there were 14 pieces of bone scraps that came working their way to the surface ... It was a horrible experience for the young man.”

Horrible though it may have been, including three years of painful recovery, many Smith family members, including Elder M. Russell Ballard of the LDS Church’s Quorum

of the Twelve Apostles, are convinced that it was nonetheless miraculous.

“This surgery was truly miraculous,” said Elder Ballard, a direct descendant of young Joseph’s elder brother, Hyrum, in a letter inviting Smith family members to participate in the 5K. “The surgery on young Joseph’s leg saved his life and gave him the fortitude to endure the unbelievably difficult trials and challenges of the Restoration. That work would have been insurmountable had Joseph lost his leg.”

Elder Ballard will be present at Joseph’s Miracle Run to give medals to all who participate. Proceeds from the run will go to provide a “gift of gratitude” to assist an aspiring medical student at Dartmouth’s Geisel School of Medicine in Joseph Smith’s name and in memory of Dr. Smith.

For more information on the race please go to www.JosephsMiracleRun.com. For more information on the reunion please go to josephsmithsr.org.

EMAIL: jwalker@desnews.com

1+2-7 news
1+8

Utah Valley's Newspaper

Daily Herald

Thursday
JULY 25, 2013

LOCAL NEWS
FOR 138 YEARS

YOUR TOWN • YOUR NEIGHBORS • YOUR NEWSPAPER — **ONLINE:** heraldextra.com

FREE TICKETS
FROM THE TICKET
heraldextra.com/2tickets



2,000 STRONG
Stripling Warriors march in Fiesta Days parade | Page B1

200 years of miracles

Joseph Smith run brings a deep connection to history for resident

Genelle Pugmire
DAILY HERALD

HIGHLAND — Every other day, 10 year-old Nathaniel White takes time away from his computer games,

movies and other electronic devices, to take on his new role as coach for his mother — Ruth White plans to run while pushing her son in his wheelchair. White considers this one of the most important runs of

her life — a run that connects 200 years of miracles.

On Aug. 3 descendants of the Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith family will hold Joseph's Miracle Run Bicentennial 5K at This is the Place Heritage Park. This year marks the 200th anniversary of young 7-year-old Joseph Smith Jr.'s successful experimental leg surgery performed by Dr. Nathan

Smith, founder of Dartmouth Medical School. He also co-founded Yale Medical School and the New Haven Children's Hospital, where Ruth White was sent during her complicated pregnancy with Nathaniel.

"I felt a personal connection to Dr. Nathan Smith," Ruth White said. "He was in the right place at the right time

See **RUN**, A2



SPENSER HEAPS/Daily Herald
Ruth White and her son, Nathaniel, stand outside their home in Highland on Friday.

Run

Continued from A1

for Joseph. We were in the right place with Nathaniel. For us there is a spiritual connection with Dr. Smith and our family.”

The White family, who are direct descendants from Hyrum Smith, Joseph Jr.’s brother, aren’t the only ones with that spiritual connect. In the last two centuries, thousands of young LDS children have heard the story of the young boy Joseph, who would become the first prophet of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They have been taught about the miracle of Dr. Smith, but many may not know much of Dr. Smith, or what makes Joseph Sr.’s descendants connect across time.

Joseph’s miracle

A typhoid epidemic had cut a swath of disease and death across New England in 1812–13. All seven of Joseph Smith, Sr.’s children fell ill with it. Joseph Jr. suffered the greatest. A large sore was detected between Joseph’s breast and shoulder. When the doctor lanced it, it was recorded that “a full quart of matter” was discharge from it. Immediately, Joseph felt pain drive down his side and rest in the bone marrow in his leg. The bacteria had invaded the leg and Joseph could barely handle the pain.

After three weeks of unbelievable pain, a swollen leg and fever, the attending doctor made an incision in the leg hoping to provide some relief. This did not happen. Instead of healing, it got worse. The fever and bacteria became osteomyelitis, an infection of the bone.

A group of surgeons were summoned from Dartmouth Medical College just a few miles from the Smith family home. Dr. Nathaniel Smith was one of the surgeons. After examining the leg, it was determined amputation would be the only recourse. Joseph Jr. and his mother refused the amputation. However, there was one possibility. Dr. Nathaniel Smith, a young doctor, had developed an experimental surgery where he would cut through new bone growth and extract the infected bone. It was decided to try the procedure. During the surgery,

nine large pieces of bone were extracted.

According to Ruth White, as she tells the family story, “after his surgery, the more painful part was the recovery, when shards of bone would work itself out of the leg,” White said. White noted there were 14 other pieces of infected bone that were worked out of the leg by members of the family taking turns massaging young Joseph’s leg. He was on crutches and could barely walk for nearly three years.

The removal of diseased bone rather than amputation was unheard of. It wasn’t until after World War I, more than a century later, that Dr. Smith’s surgical method was adopted as a medical procedure. The Smith family descendants consider this the first miracle of the Restoration.

Nathaniel’s miracle

“It is somehow very appropriate that Nathaniel and I join forces for the 5K to raise money for a scholarship as a gift of thanks for Dartmouth Medical School on behalf of Dr. Nathaniel Smith,” Ruth White said. “Not only did Dr. Nathan Smith found Dartmouth Medical School, but he also co-founded Yale Medical School, where Nathaniel’s life was saved when he was born there.”

In some written thoughts on her blog, Ruth White adds, “Nathaniel has been through so much physical adversity since his birth. It is definitely more difficult to run behind a wheelchair and I wonder if I can really do this for the race. He so wants to run. As we push forward together, I reflect on the greater journey of the miracle of Nathaniel’s life, the tenuous circumstances around his birth, a tracheotomy, ventilators, numerous surgeries, and in many ways, I connect personally with Joseph Smith’s story.”

As Ruth and Nathaniel White plod along the pavement, she thinks back to a recent surgery on Nathaniel’s jaw, which left screws in the bone.

“As parents, it was our responsibility to turn the screws which separated the bone fragments, forcing new bone growth,” she said. She remembers in her blog, “Nathaniel screams as I rotate the device, which turns the

screw in his jaw. He clenches, writhes, then sobs. But this is just one turn on the left side of his jaw. I must repeat it for the other side.”

Ruth White had to do this every day, twice a day for a month. “My mind turns to young Joseph’s surgery and while his agony was assuredly more intense, there is a certain similarity in the scenario.”

She adds in her notes, “Joseph, who willingly submits to the physical ordeal of surgery without anesthesia, as long as his father held him — and my son willingly submitting to the agony inflicted at the hands of his parents — that shared experience is heartbreaking. Nathaniel’s screams are searing. I can’t stop my ears because I must turn the screw, but in my mind I run to the same field beyond the cabin where Mother Smith had run to stop her ears from the same searing screams. We meet here. She knows the pain of my child’s piercing scream.”

The Miracle Run

Cars pass, drivers wave, cyclists give thumbs up and pedestrians cheer as Ruth and Nathaniel White continue their training for the Aug. 3 event.

They like approximately 40,000 descendants of Joseph and Lucy Mack Smith understand the passion behind the run to honor Dr. Nathaniel Smith. According to Ruth White, the Guinness Book of World Records will be there to record the world’s largest family reunion. While only a tenth of the descendants may be there, it doesn’t diminish the devotion they have for the good doctor.

“We are very excited about this run,” said Frances Orton, president of the family organization. “As part of this opening 5K run, the organization is seeking to raise enough funds to provide a gift of gratitude to assist an aspiring medical student at Dartmouth’s Geisel School of Medicine in Joseph’s name. The annual scholarship will be a reminder of the charitable contributions of Dr. Nathaniel Smith.”

Members of the public are invited to join in the 5K, contribute to the scholarship fund, and enjoy the festivities at This is the Place Heritage Park. Admission is free. To register, volunteer or donate visit www.JosephsMiracleRun.com.

SPONSORED BY THE
Daily Herald | www.heraldextra.com

JOIN US FOR THE
**1st Annual
Joseph's
Miracle
Run**



1813-2013

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOSEPH'S LEG SURGERY

5K & Children's 1K

7:00 AM at

**This is the Place Heritage Park
2601 E. Sunnyside Ave.
Salt Lake City, UT**

T-shirt & Medal to Every Participant
Registration Closes July 29
\$25.00

josephsmiraclerun.com

Dear Friends,

We invite you to join with us in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the first miracle in the life of Joseph Smith. The surgery on young Joseph's leg saved his life and gave him the fortitude to endure the unbelievably difficult trials and challenges of the restoration. That work would have been insurmountable had Joseph lost his leg.

This surgery was truly miraculous; knowing the dire condition of the disease-infested bone, the surgeons' recommended immediate amputation. But his mother Lucy prevailed on Dr. Nathan Smith—who as it just happened, was the only surgeon in America who could have performed that surgery—to try one last attempt to save Joseph's leg. Considered a highly risky experiment 200 years ago, this surgery wasn't accepted as standard practice until 100 years later; truly amazing.

Those legs that bore up the restoration endowed thousands with the strength to also endure hardships and walk the great distance to this valley.

Now millions are bearing this ministry to the inhabitants of the earth. Since the days of Joseph, it has always been the same; we reach out individually by walking, running and lifting each other.

This is why we're celebrating that miracle with the Joseph's Miracle Run; to remember Joseph and the great legacy he began. Joseph's Miracle Run is a 5K run that will be held August 3, 2013 at This is the Place Heritage Park in Salt Lake City UT.

Please join us in supporting this remarkable event. We expect thousands to participate; and like Joseph, we won't be able to do it all without your help. Come run, volunteer, or lend whatever help you can to make this one of the most memorable celebrations of Joseph's life and sacrifice.

Yours truly, *Frances Orton*

Frances Orton, President, Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Association

Proceeds go directly to a medical student scholarship at Dartmouth University to honor Dr. Nathan Smith

B
SUNDAY
AUGUST 4, 2013
DESERET
NEWS

MANAGING EDITOR, RICK HALL 801-237-2110



COMMUNITIES BENEFIT WHEN MUSEUMS
PRESERVE, SHARE PIONEER HERITAGE

B4

FOOTPRINTS DISCOVERED IN DAGGETT
SEARCH FOR MISSING 14-YEAR-OLD BOY

B7

local

Bicentennial of Joseph Smith's leg surgery



LUCY SCHOUTEN, DESERET NEWS

Todd and Ruth White, with their son Nathaniel, finish running Saturday.

■ **BY LUCY SCHOUTEN**
DESERET NEWS

The "Joseph's Miracle Run" 5K race, sponsored by the Smith Foundation, celebrated the 200th anniversary of the surgery to save Joseph Smith's leg on Aug. 3, 1813.

The race was held at This Is The Place Heritage Park as part of the Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith

reunion held Thursday through today. Of the roughly 500 participants in the 5K race and the children's race immediately afterward, 300 were Smith descendants.

Francis Orton, a foundation member and race organizer, said the race was planned a year and a half in advance. When the group realized that 2013 would be the 200th anniversary of Joseph Smith's boyhood surgery

by renowned Dr. Nathan Smith, they saw an opportunity to "publish Joseph's name for good," she said.

The race proceeds and donations will go toward a \$10,000 scholarship at Dartmouth Medical School, which was founded by Dr. Nathan Smith. The hope is for the race to be an annual event to create a per-

RUN B6



LUCY SCHOUTEN, DESERET NEWS

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve distributes medals to those who finished "Joseph's Miracle Run."

RUN

FROM B1

petual scholarship.

"We'd like to make it an annual event for at least the next few years," said Daniel Adams, a Hyrum Smith descendant and member of the foundation who helped organize the race. "It took (Joseph's leg) three years to heal so he could walk well again."

Adams views the surgery itself as miraculous because it was a cutting-edge operation that would not become an accepted medical practice until after World War I. The trial also developed the love and courage of the Smith family.

"Hyrum would squeeze (Joseph's) leg and massage it for hours every day just so that he could handle the pain," Adams said, describing Joseph's lengthy recovery process. "This is why Joseph and Hyrum are so close, and so Hyrum will never leave Joseph, even in Carthage Jail."

One Hyrum descendant felt a special connection to the events. Ruth White's son, Nathaniel, was born at the medical school at Yale, which Nathan Smith co-founded. Her son was born with many birth defects and now uses a wheelchair.

"As soon as I heard about (the race) I felt the connection right off," she said.

White got an especially

loud cheer as she crossed the 5K finish line, pushing her 10-year-old in a jogging stroller.

"He was the only one who volunteered to train with me," White said with a laugh. "Having him with me just made it more meaningful."

Also helping at the race were 35 missionaries who arrived at 5 a.m. Saturday morning to set up and then guide the runners. Two senior missionaries were stationed at the finish line, and Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints awarded each finisher a medal after the race. Elder Ballard is a Smith descendant.

Emily Birmingham, 83, and Marilyn Critchlow, both Smith descendants, walked the end of the race course to make sure all the grandkids finished the race successfully. Critchlow traveled from Romania for the event, and she spoke enthusiastically about the good turnout and the excitement of getting the family together.

"This is such a great activity," Critchlow said. "It was worth it (to travel from Romania) just to hear the opening prayer at a race and the bagpipes."

"And to have my 25 children and grandchildren in the race," added Birmingham as they neared the finish line.

EMAIL: lucy@deseretnews.com.

UTAH

HIKER FOUND DEAD » A 73-year-old Missouri man who was reported missing on Friday was found dead in Horseshoe Canyon Saturday morning. Officials were unsure about the cause of death. » **B4**

REUNION » Sheridan Orton holds Scott Orton — an eighth generation descendant of Joseph Smith Sr., the father of the LDS Church founder. Over 700 descendants gathered for a portrait at the This Is the Place memorial. » **B6**



Smith descendants descend on Utah

Family reunion » Hundreds of cousins related to LDS founder's parents gather every other year.

By **BRIAN MAFFLY**
The Salt Lake Tribune

Cramming several hundred people into a group photograph is no mean feat, but it's a little easier when they are all cousins.

Descendants of Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith, the parents of the LDS Church founder, gathered for their biennial family reunion at Salt Lake City's This Is the Place Heritage Park this week for picnics, activities, conferences and catching up. On Saturday, at least 700 snuggled up close, kids in front, under the towering monument commemorating the Mormons' 1847 arrival in the Salt Lake Valley.

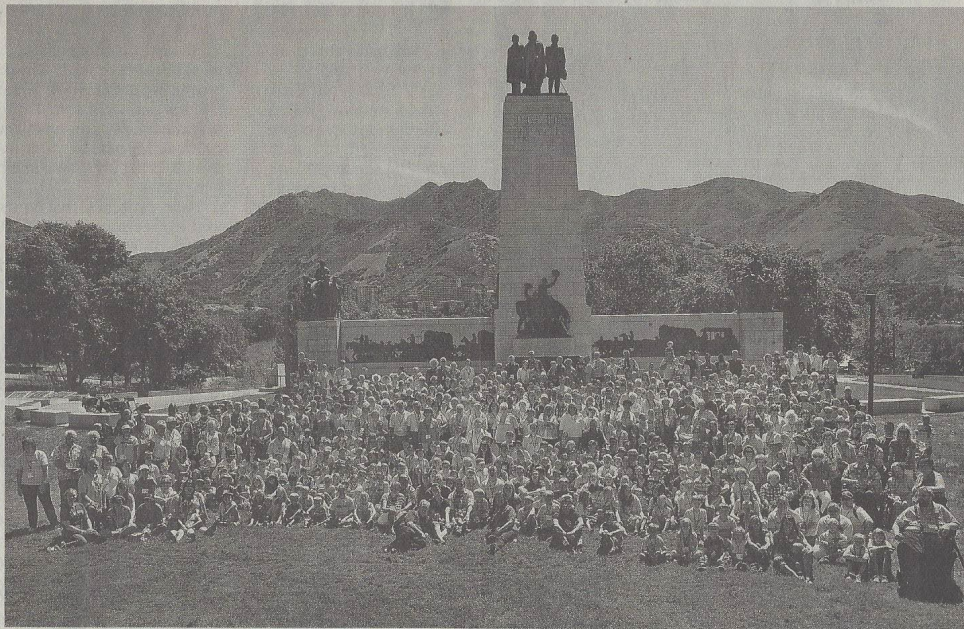
"It's the people. It's the family," said Gayle A. Miller, of East Millcreek, who has been traveling to the reunions for years. "It's the relationships

you make and keep with each other. I've seen people who remember me from years ago."

Smith reunions are usually held in places like Nauvoo, Ill., Kirtland, Ohio, and other towns important in the history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"It's a real sacred and unique event," said Derek Beck, of Kuna, Idaho, attending his first reunion with his four young children. "It gives us an opportunity to discuss the Smith family and what they have gone through and what they did to help the work of the church in these latter days."

Like many attendees, Beck descended from Joseph Jr.'s other brother and early church leader Hyrum, whose own



Descendants of Joseph Smith Sr., the father of the LDS church founder, met Saturday at This Is the Place Heritage Park on Saturday and posed for a family photo.

son Joseph F. Smith fathered 43 children. The two brothers died in 1844 at the hands of an anti-Mormon mob in Carthage, Ill. The murders helped spur the church's migration west and eventual settlement in Utah under Brigham Young's leadership.

Joseph Jr. had appointed his father the church's presiding patriarch not long before his 1840 death in a log cabin built for him and Lucy in Nauvoo, Ill. Lucy did not join the westward exodus and remained in Nauvoo until her death in 1856. The cabin site is the subject of a new archaeological excavation, called IDig-Nauvoo. Researchers hope to learn more about the couple

who played a key role in the birth of the LDS faith.

This year's gathering of almost 900 is the biggest since the Smith reunions began in 1972.

"We're hoping for a world record, but that would take 2,600. Eventually we'll get there," said Frances Orton, the reunion coordinator who lives in Provo. Setting the record is an easy possibility since the Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Association regularly communicates with 5,000 Smith descendants around the nation. The Smiths, who had 11 children, farmed in New York and Vermont during a period in American history marked

by fervent religious revival.

Association officials believe there are 40,000 to 50,000 living descendants, and the association actively seeks them out.

"As we find them, our function is to help them understand what our family values are," said Jared Glade, a volunteer from Syracuse who

handles the organization's websites. "They are intangible things, like caring about your family. One term they use is religiosity. It's more than faith. Faith put into action."

Activities Saturday included "Joseph's Miracle Run" to raise money to endow a medical scholarship at Dartmouth College. The 1K kids' run

“

We're hoping for a world record, but that would take 2,600. Eventually we'll get there."

FRANCES ORTON

Family reunion coordinator for the family of Joseph Smith Sr., father of LDS Church founder Joseph Smith Jr. This year's gathering included almost 900 people.

commemorates the 200th anniversary of Joseph Jr.'s recovery from a serious infection, thanks to Nathan Smith, the doctor who founded Dartmouth's medical school.

"It's our way to give back to him and to honor his generosity and being ahead of his time," Glade said. At age 7, Joseph contracted typhoid fever that attacked his leg, and Dr. Smith treated the infection by surgically exposing the bone. Nathan Smith was not related to Joseph Sr. but one of his descendants, a Colorado physician, did attend the reunion.

The biennial gathering has been held in odd-numbered years, but it switches

to even-numbered years in 2014, when it will be held in Independence, Mo. The reason for the switch is to time the 2020 gathering in Palmyra, N.Y., with the bicentennial of Joseph Jr.'s visions that gave rise to the LDS movement, according to Orton.

bmaffly@sltrib.com

B**MONDAY**
AUGUST 5, 2013**DESERET NEWS**UTAHNS RALLY AGAINST GOVERNMENT
SPYING ON '1984 DAY'

B2

NOMINEES ANNOUNCED FOR 1ST
DISTRICT COURT VACANCY

B2

local

Smith descendants gather for reunion

BY LUCY SCHOUTEN
DESERET NEWS

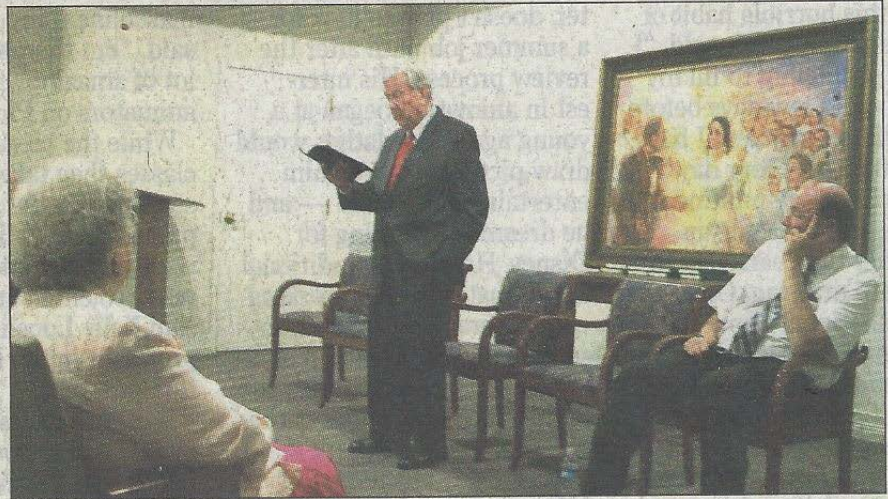
SALT LAKE CITY — Descendants of Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith met in greater force than ever before to both renew family ties and remember history at a reunion over the weekend.

Roughly 1,100 Smith descendants from Hyrum, Joseph Jr. and Samuel Smith's lines came to This Is The Place Heritage Park for the reunion.

"We need to work together as a family to gather our family," said Michael Kennedy, a Joseph Smith Jr. descendant who has dedicated his life to finding his fellow Joseph Smith Jr. descendants, who are scattered worldwide.

About 200 of the Smith descendants came just to participate in "Joseph's Miracle Run," a 5K race on Saturday that celebrated the 1813 experimental surgery that saved young Joseph's leg.

This topic was further explored later that day by Roy Wirthlin,



LUCY SCHOUTEN, DESERET NEWS

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve speaks at a fire-side as part of the Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith reunion.

who presented some of his newly discovered research on the work of the doctor who performed the surgery, Nathan Smith.

The honored guest at the reunion was David Longcope, who is a seventh generation doctor in an unbroken line from Joseph Smith's surgeon. He and his family par-

ticipated in the race and especially enjoyed Wirthlin's lecture. They were presented with the family history work of Nathan Smith as a gift from the family.

While the adults learned more about the courage and love of the

REUNION B3

REUNION

FROM B1

Smith family from Wirthlin, their children were experiencing "Zion's Camp."

The children made swords, learned a pioneer song and tried walking on wooden crutches like Joseph Smith would have needed after his surgery.

Don Lee, a descendant of Hyrum Smith, was the proud maker of the crutches. His wife, Gwen Lee explained, "It just seems like if children have a very firm foundation and know that in their blood they carry this faith in God they can have the courage to go forth and be modern pioneers."

Meanwhile, the teenagers made a small wreath with 11 red roses, one for each of Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith's children

The wreath adorned the pulpit where, that evening, Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve spoke to the gathered family. Elder Ballard is a Hyrum descendant, and when he thanked the reunion's organizers for their hard work, he remarked, "[Organizing]

the Smiths is kind of like herding cats sometimes."

He shared his testimony with the family and told them that they could best honor the legacy of the remarkable Smith family by being good missionaries.

"We owe our forefathers our loyalty and our willingness to do whatever is necessary in the building up of the kingdom of God," he said.

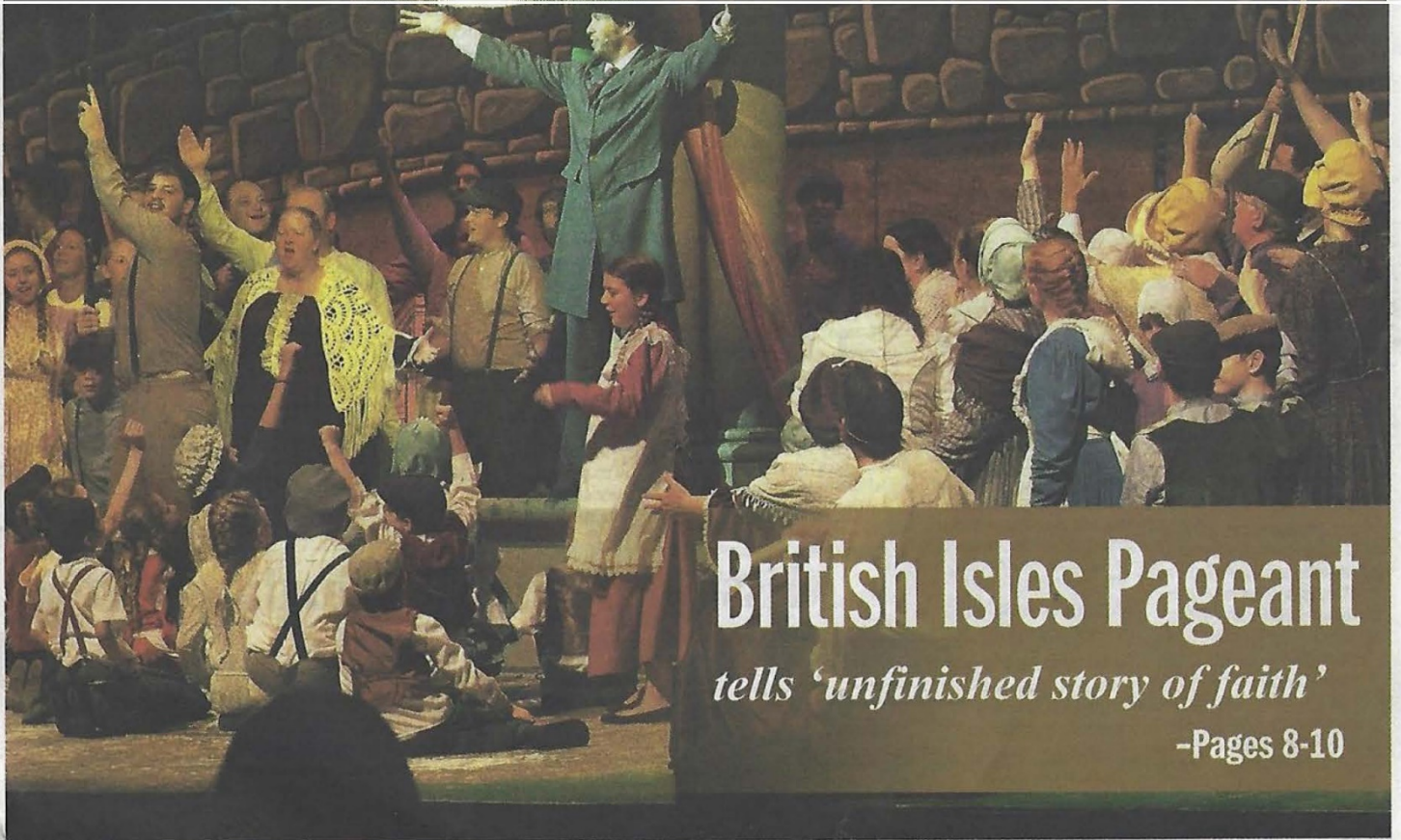
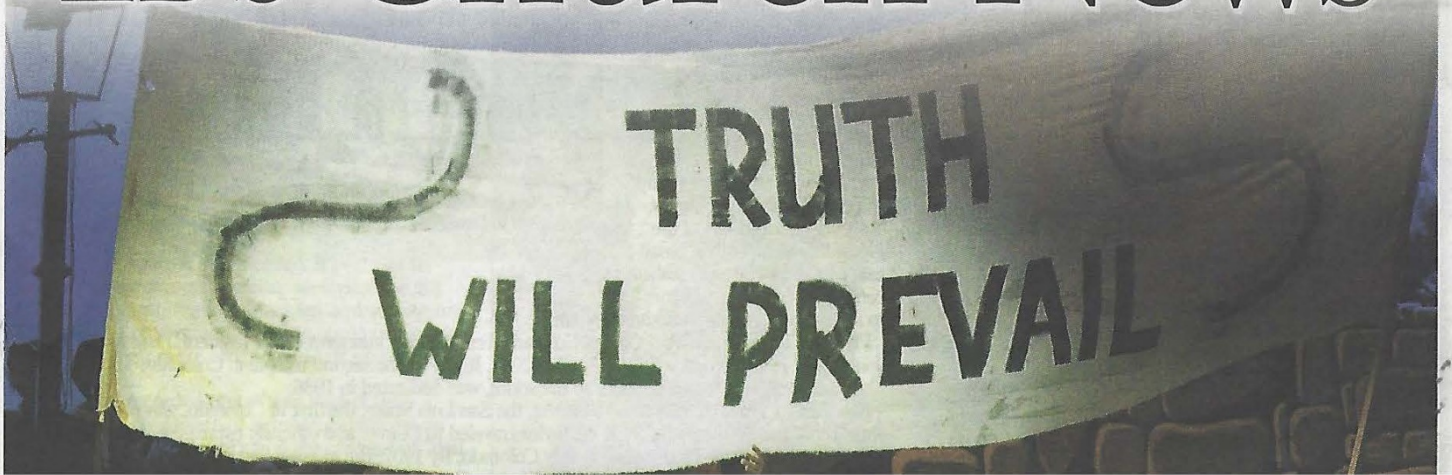
The Smith descendants were recognized on Sunday morning at the live broadcast of "Music and the Spoken Word" at the Conference Center.

Other music over the weekend included a concert on Friday evening where Nathan Osmond, among others, performed. The emcee for the evening was Rick Macy, who has portrayed Joseph Smith Sr. in several films.

Referring to the blend of faith-based history and family time that characterized the reunion, Nathan Adams, a reunion organizer, said, "Only in the Smith family do you get to do things like this."

EMAIL: lucy@deseretnews.com

LDS Church News



British Isles Pageant

tells 'unfinished story of faith'

-Pages 8-10

FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 11, 2013

Family of Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith gather for reunion — PAGE 5

Smith family reunion

gathers scattered family, builds testimonies

5K run, music and apostle's words to Smith descendants

By Lucy Schouten Church News staff writer

Members of the Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith family met in greater force than ever before in a reunion to remember their family history, which includes much of the early history of the Church.

Roughly 1,100 descendants from Hyrum Smith, Joseph Smith Jr. and Samuel Smith met Aug. 1-4 for a family reunion at This Is The Place Heritage Park at the mouth of Salt Lake City's Emigration Canyon.

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve, a descendant of Hyrum Smith, attended to "say hello to cousins and try to encourage them in their work."

"We've connected cousins across the country and the world."

— Gracia Jones, first Joseph Smith Jr. descendant baptized in the 20th century

The reunion included "Joseph's Miracle Run," a 5K race on Aug. 3 that celebrated the 1813 experimental surgery that saved young Joseph's leg. Elder Ballard distributed medals to finishers.

Later that day, Roy Wirthlin, a retired vascular surgeon, presented newly discovered research on the surgery. He spoke of the medical skill of the famous doctor Nathan Smith, who performed this surgery 100 years before it would become standard practice. He also showed as-yet unpublished writings about the courage of the family, especially Lucy Mack Smith, in accepting the experimental surgery.

A descendant of Nathan Smith and seventh-gen-



Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve distributes medals to the finishers of Joseph's Miracle Run at a Smith family reunion.

Photos by Lucy Schouten

eration doctor, David Longcope, was invited to the reunion. He and his family ran in the 5K race, and Frances Orton of the Smith family presented him with the family history records of Nathan Smith, who is not related to the Joseph Smith Sr. family.

Young Smith family descendants also experienced "Zion's Camp." The children made swords, learned a pioneer song and tried walking on wooden crutches like Joseph Smith would have needed after his leg surgery.

Don Lee, a descendant of Hyrum Smith, was the proud maker of the crutches. His wife, Gwen Lee, explained, "It just seems like if children have a very firm foundation and know that in their blood they carry this faith in God, they can have the courage to go forth and be modern pioneers."

Meanwhile, teenagers made a small wreath with 11 red roses, one for each of Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith's children. It decorated the pulpit where musical tributes to the Smith family and a devotional address from Elder Ballard occurred that evening.

The next morning, Smith descendants were recognized at the live broadcast of "Music and the Spoken Word" in the Conference Center.

Other music during the weekend included an evening concert on Aug. 2, where Nathan Osmond, among others, performed. The emcee for the evening was Rick Macy, who has portrayed Joseph Smith Sr. in several films.

The reunion concluded at a meeting with Elder Ballard for descendants of Joseph Smith Jr., many of whom are not Church members.

Elder Ballard said work is being done to help the family gain a testimony of the Book of Mormon and of the gospel that their forefather restored.

"[The world] ought to come to know Joseph, ought to come to know what was restored," Elder Ballard commented to the *Church News*. "We ought

to be heralding his name, and you can't really talk about Joseph fulfilling his mission without talking about this family, not only Hyrum but all of his siblings, and particularly his mother and father who made it possible for him to do what he did."

"The world needs to know," he added. "That's why we have to be anxiously engaged."

Michael Kennedy, a Joseph Smith Jr. descendant, said, "We need to work together as a family to gather our family." He explained that there are only 2,318 known descendants of Joseph Smith Jr., compared to 24,509 descendants of Hyrum Smith.

Only 200 of the Prophet's descendants have been baptized, since families traditionally shunned those who tried to investigate another religion.

Bob Smith, a descendant from the Midwest, was no exception. His heart was softened when he attended a 2005 bicentennial celebration of Joseph's birth. He was deeply moved when he and the other descendants were given a standing ovation from a crowd in

Continued on page 10



Janet, Nathan and Sarah Maxfield, Hyrum Smith descendants, attend "Music and the Spoken Word" as part of the Smith reunion.



Robert Lee, a Hyrum Smith descendant, teaches children at the Smith reunion a song of Zion's Camp, part of their heritage.

Church News • WEEK OF AUGUST 11, 2013 — 5

Smith descendants gather for a reunion

Continued from page 5

the BYU Marriott Center in Provo, Utah.

This powerful experience at the 2005 reunion and the personal friendship of Hyrum descendant John Smith and his wife, Gwen, allowed him to investigate the Church. One challenge remained for Bob Smith — he needed to understand why his great-great-grandmother Emma Smith remained in Nauvoo while the Church went West. His search ended when he heard the voice of his ancestor reassuring him

that he could join the Church.

"He heard [Emma Smith's] voice telling him to 'follow your heart,' that she 'was just too tired' to go West," John Smith explained.

When Bob Smith was baptized, John and Gwen Smith attended his baptism. It was the first time descendants of the two brothers had participated in an ordinance together.

Gracia Jones, the first Joseph Smith Jr. descendant baptized in the 20th century, has worked to contact her extended family who, because of persecution, fear and confusion, were scattered as far as Australia.

"We have traveled in our van hundreds of thousands of miles, and we have been in the homes of nearly 500 families," Sister Jones said. "We've con-

nected cousins across the country and the world."

Brother Kennedy said that 35 percent of the descendants who are now members have been baptized since 2005. That year, following programs for the bicentennial of Joseph Smith's birth, President Gordon B. Hinckley asked Elder Ballard to give a dedicatory prayer to begin gathering the Joseph Smith Jr. family.

Brother Kennedy quoted Doctrine and Covenants 109:68-70, saying that Joseph Smith was aware of the struggles his family would have, but that the "prejudices within his family" would have to be removed before they could be redeemed.

Brother Kennedy told his family, "He expects us to 'roar as a lion ... that Jesus is the Christ.'"

lucy@deseretnews.com

SPONSORED BY THE
Daily Herald | www.heraldextra.com

JOIN US FOR THE
**1st Annual
Joseph's
Miracle
Run**

1813-2013

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOSEPH'S LEG SURGERY

5K & Children's 1K

7:00 AM at

**This is the Place Heritage Park
2601 E. Sunnyside Ave.
Salt Lake City, UT**

T-shirt & Medal to Every Participant
Registration Closes July 29
\$25.00

josephsmiraclerun.com



Dear Friends,

We invite you to join with us in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the first miracle in the life of Joseph Smith. The surgery on young Joseph's leg saved his life and gave him the fortitude to endure the unbelievably difficult trials and challenges of the restoration. That work would have been insurmountable had Joseph lost his leg.

This surgery was truly miraculous; knowing the dire condition of the disease-infested bone, the surgeons' recommended immediate amputation. But his mother Lucy prevailed on Dr. Nathan Smith—who as it just happened, was the only surgeon in America who could have performed that surgery—to try one last attempt to save Joseph's leg. Considered a highly risky experiment 200 years ago, this surgery wasn't accepted as standard practice until 100 years later; truly amazing.

Those legs that bore up the restoration endured thousands with the strength to also endure hardships and walk the great distance to this valley.

Now millions are bearing this ministry to the inhabitants of the earth. Since the days of Joseph, it has always been the same; we reach out individually by walking, running and lifting each other.

This is why we're celebrating that miracle with the Joseph's Miracle Run; to remember Joseph and the great legacy he began. Joseph's Miracle Run is a 5K run that will be held August 3, 2013 at This is the Place Heritage Park in Salt Lake City UT.

Please join us in supporting this remarkable event. We expect thousands to participate; and like Joseph, we won't be able to do it all without your help. Come run, volunteer, or lend whatever help you can to make this one of the most memorable celebrations of Joseph's life and sacrifice.

Yours truly, *Frances Orton*

Frances Orton, President, Joseph Smith Sr.
and Lucy Mack Smith Family Association

Proceeds go directly to a medical student scholarship
at Dartmouth University to honor Dr. Nathan Smith