

Saturday, August 3, 2013

Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Reunion

Talk by Dr. LeRoy Wirthlin

This Is The Place Heritage Park

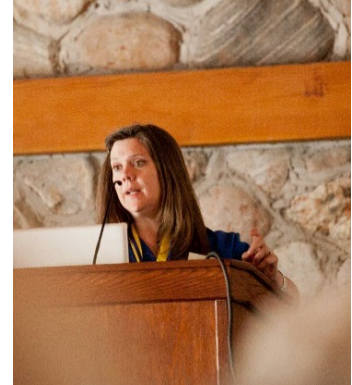
By Frances Orton



Jared Glade gave some instructions to the family



Steve Orton introduced the guests and speakers



Frances Orton addressing those present



McCall Fagan an orthopedic physician's assistant, presented a paper at a Church History Fair in American Fork titled, "The Miracle of 1813, Dr. Nathan Smith and the impact of Joseph Smith's leg operation." She talked about her experience with this research.



Dr. LeRoy Wirthlin, a surgeon at Harvard who wrote about the miracle of the surgery performed on Joseph Smith's leg – his work helped inspire the committee and the idea of Joseph's Miracle Run

Dr. LeRoy Wirthlin began by saying, *"It's a real honor to be here and discuss something that has been close to my heart for a long time. It is a real honor to talk to the Smith Family. When I was asked to do this, I wondered if I should give the short version or the long version. I thought I might as well give the long version because this is a group that would understand and appreciate the details that went into this."*

We are going to talk about the very first story we have of Nathan Smith. His mother was always asked, "Well, what was he like as a kid." She would say, "He was just a regular little guy."



Steve Orton and Dr. LeRoy Wirthlin getting the slides working



Bob Parks walked up with his grandson, Todd Ercanbrack, who was the approximate age of Joseph when he had surgery and Dr. Wirthlin asked for him to come up so he could show how the surgery would have looked



Bob Parks helped get shoes and socks off of Todd Ercanbrack so Dr. Wirthlin could give an idea of measurements, etc.





Dr. LeRoy Wirthlin was so excited to meet Nathan Smith Descendant, Dr. David Longcope during this event at This Is The Place Heritage Park



Dr. David Longcope addressed and thanked the family for honoring his ancestor



Dr. Nathan Smith who did the surgery on Joseph Smith's leg



Dr. David Longcope

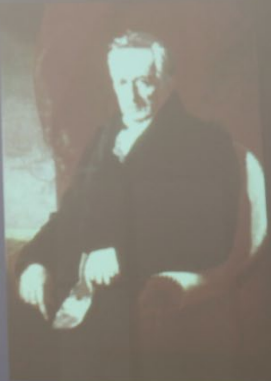


The Joseph Smith Sr. Family listening to Dr. LeRoy Wirthlin speak about his research on the surgery on Joseph's leg by Dr. Nathan Smith at This Is The Place Heritage Park

Dr. LeRoy Wirthlin's slides from his presentation on August 3, 2013:

Nathan Smith

- 1784-1787 Medical apprenticeship in Vermont
- 1787 Begins private medical practice (Country Doctor) in Cornish New Hampshire
- 1789 Attends medical lectures at Harvard Medical School and receives a Bachelor of Medicine
- 1790 Returns to practice in New Hampshire
- 1791 Marries Elizabeth Chase
- 1794 Marries Sarah Chase, they have ten children
- 1796 Studies Medicine in British Isles
- 1797 Begins medical lectures at Dartmouth College



Dartmouth Surgical and Medical Training 1812

- Students followed Professor Smith as he was called upon to care for the complicated sick in a 75 mile radius from Hannover. Thus they gained medical and surgical experience.
- These surgical adventures were conducted on horseback usually with a platoon of mounted medical students

Medical Student Round with Professor Smith

"Nineteen students with the Dr. at their head set out from Hanover about four o' clock in the afternoon, we stopt twice and arrived at Barre about four o' clock Tuesday morning, the operation was performed about twelve, we started from Barre at one and arrive at Hanover just at three, all the way on horseback, next day we had two lectures, I went to bed Wednesday night, but all hands were called up at ten to go to see a boy that had broke his leg twelve miles off. I got back about 3 o' clock in the morning..."

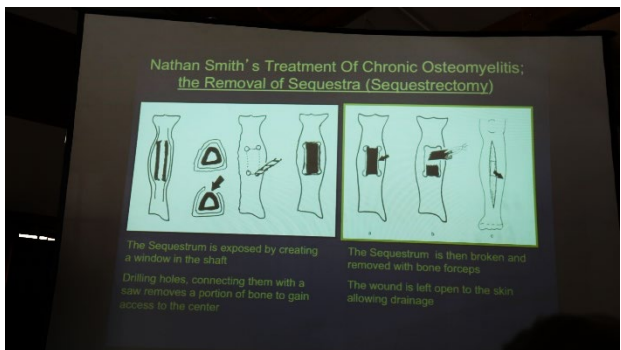
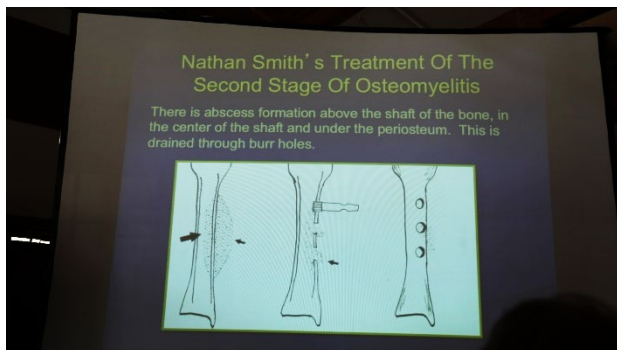
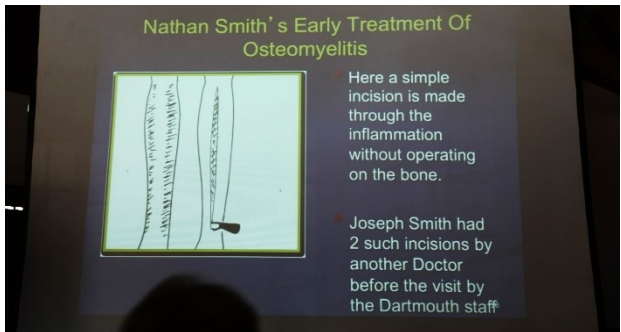
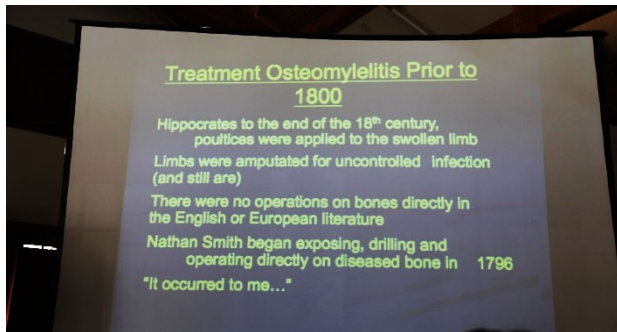
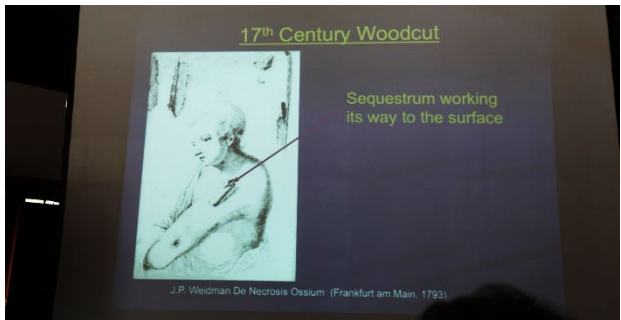
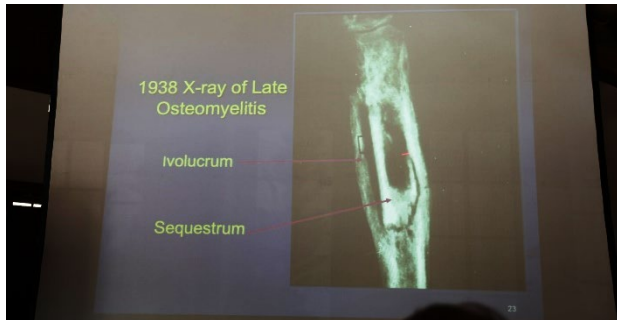
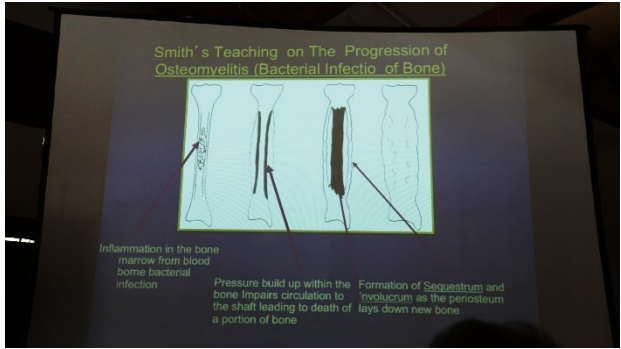
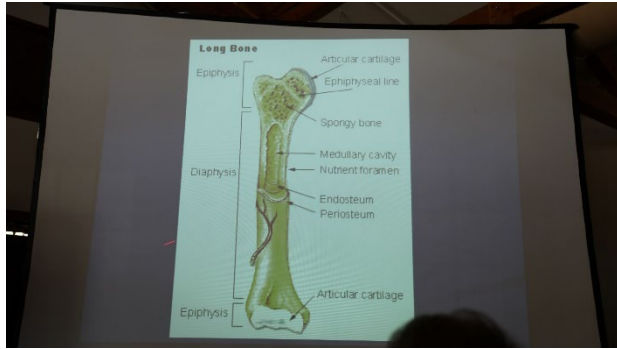
Ezekiel Dodge Cushing to his father, 30 October, 1809

Nathan Smith's Saddlebags



Nathan Smith's Surgical Contributions

- Surgical treatment of Osteomyelitis
- Improved the technique of amputations
- First surgeon to amputate through the knee
- Manual reduction of dislocated hip
- Splint and traction for fracture of the femur
- Operation for bladder stones
- Ovariectomy 1821
- Blind removal of foreign bodies from the esophagus (coins)
- Constructed a device for esophageal dilatation



The Importance of Drainage and Removal of Sequestra

"The object of the surgeon ... is to remove the sequestra"

- "If the whole of the sequestra is removed, the cure will be perfect; but if any portion of it is left, it will keep up a discharge somewhat in proportion to the quantity of dead bone left in the limb"

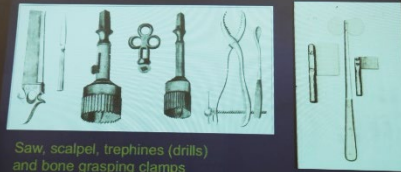
Here the Doct^r has a fullness
for their Doct^rs, myth, some water
to make the bone exfoliate as they say, they
might as well use injections for the wound
of a bullet when it is lodged to make it
exfoliate as to use one for the exfoliation
of dead bone. They are both equally force-
ful & he is.
Physicians almost universally are
culpably & shamefully ignorant of this
branch of Practice.

Dartmouth Student Notes, 1812

"...I mentioned Necrosis as a disease which frequently was the cause of amputation; true it is a lamentable fact. This is the cause of many limbs being taken off. When in all cases there is hardly a need of a single operation of this kind, when the surgeon understands the use of medicine. When a piece of the bone is dead or matter is within the bone, I have described what is to be done in a previous lecture."

J.S. Goodwin, Lecture Notes Taken at Dartmouth, delivered in Dartmouth Medical Theater 1812-1813

Surgical Instruments 1813



Saw, scalpel, trephines (drills) and bone grasping clamps

Benjamin Bell A General System of Surgery (1718)

Hey's saw

Smith's Postoperative Wound Care

- Wounds were left open
- Wounds were covered with lint dressings and changed when malodorous
- Copious discharge was irrigated with dilute solution of corrosive sublimate (mercury bichloride a strong disinfectant)
- Nothing was placed into the wounds, nor was there manipulation or probing of the bone after removal of the infected bony fragments

Student Records Orthopedic Operations

"...I have been a journey of 95 miles up Connecticut river in which I saw four operations successfully employed, three of them were the removing of a portion of the bones which had perished in the limbs...."

Ezekiel Dodge Cushing to his sister Miss Mehetabel L. Cushing, August.....

A Student Reports Surgery and Limb Salvage

"...I went to Concord with Doct. Smith and upwards of twenty of his students to see a limb taken off but when he got there, he concluded that he could cure it without taking off the limb...."

Alexander Boyd to William Boyd Jr 28 November 1810

Nathan Smith's Results

"When I first began to perform operations of this kind, I was under the apprehension lest so much bruising and handling... might be followed with bad consequences, and some of these have been the most laborious and tedious both to myself and the patient... yet I have never known any untoward circumstances to follow such operations, of which I have performed a great many."

Nathan Smith "Necrosis" Medical and Surgical Memoirs 1831 pp. 120-122

What was the Fate Of Nathan Smith's Sequestrectomy Operation?

Direct operation and opening of bone was mentioned and used by several of his students for a few years to 1830's

- Operation directly on bone for infection was not the treatment during the Civil War. Thousands of legs were amputated
- The procedure was reintroduced in late 1890's, used somewhat during the First World War and later
- With the advent of the X-ray machine, the diagnosis of bony infections and surgery became more feasible

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Centennial Review of American Surgical History 1776 -1876

- Credit was given to Nathan Smith as the first surgeon to drill bone for "abscess and inflammation"
- "...Unfortunately it (Smith's Operation) is seldom resorted to; or, if employed, the operation is performed too late to be productive of much benefit."

A Century of American Medicine, 1776-1876. Edward H. Clarke, Henry J. Bigelow, Samuel D. Gross, T. Galland Thomas, and J.S. Billings (Brinklow: Old Hickory Bookshop, 1878) pp. 150-151

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By the 1920's Care Standardized

- Multiple orthopedic surgical procedures
- Long and repeated stays at Shriner's Hospitals
- Complicated wound care
- Maggot debridement (Every Shriner's Hospital had a Maggot farm)

20th Century; Review of Results Of Surgical Treatment 1932 - 1937 (pre antibiotic era)

Overall mortality varied from 1.5 to 26% with an average of 12%.

- Of the survivors, only 50% were cured by surgery.

E.T. Crossan, "Hematogenous Osteomyelitis: Collective Review of the Literature from 1932 to 1937," Surgery Gynecology and Obstetrics 66 (1938):176

Results of Surgical Treatment 1932-1937 (Pre-antibiotic Era)

"The survey of the literature on acute hematogenous osteomyelitis from January 1932 to June 1937 established one fact, and it is the only fact established clearly, namely the disease has a poor prognosis."


E.T. Crossan, "Hematogenous Osteomyelitis: Collective Review of the Literature from 1932 to 1937," Surgery Gynecology and Obstetrics 66 (1938):176

Current Treatment of Osteomyelitis

- Usually involves six weeks of intravenous antibiotics
- Surgical exploration when indicated
- Amputation if infection not controlled

A Nathan Smith Operation with Follow-up

The Surgical Treatment of Joseph Smith



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Lucy Mack Smith's Account

"The scene Soon changed. {when we had been in this place for the space of two years} <in 1813> the typhus fever came into Lebanon and raged there horribly among the rest who were seized with this complaint were my oldest daughter Sophronia who was sick four weeks next Hyrum came from Hanover <sick>..."

Rough Draft Notes, "The History of Lucy Smith, Mother of the Prophet"

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The Dartmouth Consultation

"..When they rode up I went to the door and invited them into another room apart from the room where Joseph lay...now said I gentlemen (for there were 7 of them) what can you do to save my boy's leg"

Lucy Mack Smith rough draft, "History of Joseph Smith"

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The Initial Opinion

"We can do nothing we have cut it open to the bone 2 and find the bone so affected that it is incurable, .."

Lucy Mack Smith, rough draft, "History of Joseph Smith"

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What about this?



"Can you not try once more by cutting round the bone, and taking out the affected part... there may be a part of the bone that is sound which will heal over and thus you may save the leg?"

Lucy Mack Smith, rough draft, "History of Joseph Smith"

Joseph Remembered



"I endured the most acute suffering for a long time.- Drs. Stone <, Smith> & Perkins from - Hanover were employed <&> - 11 Drs came from Hanover to cut off my leg - I refused.- they concluded to try an experiment & take the bone from my leg.- which they did."

Joseph Smith, Dictated note to Willard Richards 1838

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Therefore when the decision to operate a third time was made, the most noted surgeon in New England, founder of Dartmouth Medical School, President of the New Hampshire Medical Society, Nathan Smith, was called on with a seventeen year experience of successfully curing chronic osteomyelitis with a surgical procedure he designed. (This experience was not to be repeated for over a hundred years).

"they agreed to <this> after a short consultation; they then went to the invalid:... the Doctor said, "My poor boy we have come again, "Yes" said Joseph... but you have not come to take off my leg, have <you Sir>"

No said the surgeon, "It is your mother's request, that we make one <more> effort; and that is what we <have now> come for

"The surgeon < > now ordered cords to be brought, and to bind < > the patient for the purpose of binding Joseph fast to the bedstead. But < > Joseph subject child objected; When the doctors insisted he must be bound < > he said decidedly "No Doctor I will not be bound I can <bear> the procedure better to be unconfined

"Then" said Dr Stone, "will you drink some brandy?"

"No" said the child, not one drop"

Lucy Mack Smith, rough draft, "History of Joseph Smith"

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My Father
Will
Sit by me



..." But Mother, I want you to leave the room: I know you cannot stand it endure to see me suffer so. Father can bear it. But you have cared so much, and watched over me so long you are almost worn out." Then looking up into my face his <eyes swimming with tear>, he said beseechingly; Now Mother, promise me you will not stay, will you? The Lord will help me, I shall get through with it, so do leave me, and go off till they get through with it."

Lucy Mack Smith, rough draft, "History of Joseph Smith"

I consented to do so; and, < > I consented: after bringing a number of <folded> sheets to {fold} <lay> under his leg, I left him went <going> some 100 <hundred> yards from the house

Lucy Mack Smith, rough draft, "History of Joseph Smith"

Mother's Description Of The Surgery

"...The surgeons began by boring into the bone, first on one side of the affected part, then on the other after which they broke it loose with a pair of forceps or pincers: thus they took away 2 large pieces of the bone..."

Lucy Mack Smith, rough draft, "History of Joseph Smith"

"When they broke off the first piece, he screamed so loud with the pain <...> that I could not repress my desire of going to him but as soon as I entered the room <...> Oh! Mother go back! go back! I do not want you to come in, I will tough it if you will go..."

Lucy Mack Smith, rough draft, "History of Joseph Smith"

"When the 3rd fracture was taken away, I burst into the room again and OH! My God what a spectacle for a Mothers eye the <wound> torn open to view My boy and the bed on which he covered with the blood which that was still gushing from the wound he was pale as a corpse and the big drops of sweat were rolling down his face"

Lucy Mack Smith, rough draft, "History of Joseph Smith"

"...I was forced from the room and detained till they finished the operation <...> after placing him on a clean bed with fresh clothing clearing the room from every appearance of blood and any apparatus used in the extraction I was permitted to enter...."

Lucy Mack Smith, Preliminary Manuscript, "History of Joseph Smith"

"He now began to recover...for he soon became strong and healthy..."

Lucy Mack Smith, rough draft, "History of Joseph Smith"

What Happened to Joseph Smith Following Surgery?

"afterward 14 Pieces of bone worked out of my leg before it healed.- during which time I was reduced very low. so that my mother could cary me any where.- after which I went on crutches till I started for York state"

Dr. Samuel Burgham & Co.	25
1770 leg. band. 3/1	
2000 Dr. Pack's & Co. Dr. King	25
1/2 his brother's advice	
Dr. Philip White of	
blarmonst Ste. Wright & Co.	10
operation of opening an Abscess	
& perforating the bone for	
my Daughter	
Howard Phelps of Lebanon	10
to call & advise	

Cheney & Pringleman	2
Dr. Wright & med. by myself	2
Dr. Smith Father	
of Joseph Smith of this	
town Dr. Wright &	
med.	2
Delward Freeman Dr.	

On 2 April 1813, a listing of fees to a "Mr Smith, Father of Joseph Smith of this town"

In Nathan Smith's daybooks of November 1812 through May 1815, 13 entries are listed to a Joseph Smith beginning in April 1813, 12 entries in April and one listing in August 29th.

- In another ledger for the same time period, there were 10 entries for visits to a Joseph Smith.
- It is possible, but not certain, that these entries were charges for charges for the care of Joseph Smith Jr.. Some mention medical students in attendance.

Comments on Cost

"when health returned to us it found us as ... in low circumstances as we had hired nurses all the time and been upon continual expense. Sickness with all its attendant expense of nurses medical attendance and other necessary articles..."

Lucy Mack Smith, Preliminary Manuscript, "History of Joseph Smith"

Reflection

"...After one whole year off affliction we were able once more to look upon our children and each other in health, and I assure you my gentle reader we realized the blessing for I believe <we> felt more to acknowledge the hand of God in preserving our lives through such a desperate siege of disease pain and trouble than if we enjoyed health and prosperity during the interim..."

What Happened To Nathan Smith?

- After taking care of Joseph Smith and many others during the 1812-1813 epidemic he moved to New Haven, Connecticut
- He and others founded Yale Medical school where he was a Professor of Surgery and Medicine for years
- He participated in the founding of two other medical schools
- Died at age 64

Welch's Tribute to Nathan Smith

"Famous in his day and generation, he is still more famous today, for he was ahead of his times, and his reputation ... has steadily increased as the medical profession has slowly caught up with him..."

William H. Welch, "The Relation of Yale to Medicine" Yale Med. Jini. 8, no. 5 (Nov. 1901): 141-42

Dartmouth Medical School Time Line 1797-1997

"Whether Nathan Smith could be credited with having saved Joseph Smith's life, certainly he saved the boy's leg. Who knows whether religious history might have turned out differently if Joseph Smith had been an amputee from early Childhood?"

"Improve, Perfect & Perpetuate" Constance Putnam and Oliver Hayward, 1926 University Press of New England, p 164



Dr. LeRoy Wirthlin collected surgical tools over the years that would have been used in Joseph Smith's time. Dr. Wirthlin allowed the family to file up past the tools to see them and ask questions.











Karl Anderson greeting his friend, Dr. LeRoy Wirthlin



The children came in to sing a song and the end of our program and show what they did during the children's activities



Don Lee and his family directed and managed the children's activities – here he is at the podium explaining what they accomplished





Bryan Davis sang a closing number that was inspiring



Left to right: Dan Larsen, Karl Anderson, Rosemarie Larsen, Joyce Anderson, not identified, woman and man on the end is Renee & Bob Park – listening to Dr. LeRoy Wirthlin