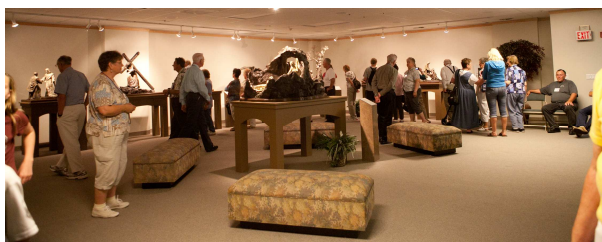


# Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Reunion August 2, 2011 - Winter Quarters

By Frances Orton

Tuesday, August 2, Gracia Jones shared her conversion story as the bus traveled. It was an enlightening and fun day. The bus group arrived at the hotel and dropped off luggage. Then the group met back on the bus to go to the Winter Quarters Visitors Center. Bob Smith (Omaha) gave a heads up about I-29 being closed due to flooding. This saved some stress as he talked the bus driver to the Visitor's Center over the phone.

The family enjoyed some time walking through a traveling display of bronze statues depicting "*The Healing Power of Jesus Christ*" in the basement of the visitor's center. This was a fabulous opportunity to share time together and feel the spirit of Christ's life viewing the sculptures by Angela Johnson.



The family met out in front of the visitor's center at 4:30 and walked to the location Winter Quarters Visitor's Center Director Elder Watson chose for the lilac bush. He wanted a spot that overlooked the temple, the cemetery, and the visitor's center. We had a little service where children and anyone else who wanted could turn a shovel full of dirt as we dug the hole for the lilac bush.



At the Winters Quarters Visitor's Center, Director Elder John Watson spoke about being grateful for the opportunity to plant this lilac bush overlooking the temple, the sacred ground of the cemetery, and the Winter Quarters Visitor's Center.



Jonathan, Jessica, Alyssa, and Christi Burke sitting with Renee and Bob Park at the cemetery





Jonathan Burke was the first one to dig the hole for the lilac



Sterling Orton tried his hand at digging



Alyssa Burke enjoyed her turn with the lilac digging

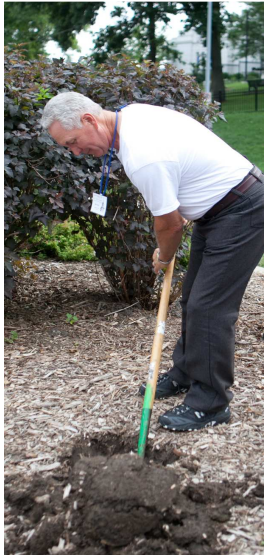


Todd Ercanbrack



Sister Terry Latey





Bob Park



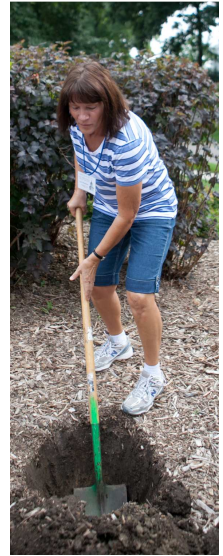
John W Smith and Renee Park



Gracia Jones



Shayla Daniels



Lois Shopland



Steve & Frances Orton



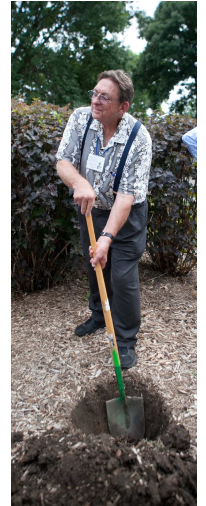
Don Lee



Kimberly and Debbie Nelson



Elwin Jones



Bowen Call



Ennyd Pomerleau



Austin Hodges, Debbie Nelson, Don Lee, Jessica Burke, and Jonathan Burke planting the lilac. Debbie brought banana to add in the soil with the lilac to add potassium. She also brought a rock from "This Is The Place Heritage Park" so the lilac would have a piece of Salt Lake to be at its side.





Bob Smith (Omaha) and John W Smith

Once the bush was planted, the group was invited back inside the Visitor's Center for a lovely dinner. Bob Smith and Ronda Evans planned a wonderful meal of pulled pork sandwiches on homemade rolls, a macaroni salad, coleslaw, and a creamed fruit salad. All the salads were made from Bob Smith's recipes. Sister Terry Latey was also a big part of this event.



So much work went into decorating each table with pioneer mementos and greenery



(Omaha) Bob Smith with longtime friend Elder John Watson stands in front of Emma's quilt which belongs to Bob.

Joy Ercanbrack asked Bob about his heirloom quilt he brought to display. She said, *"It had beautiful details and I asked him about the quilt's story. He told me the quilt belonged to Alexander (Emma's son) and was made at the mansion house by his wife, Elizabeth Agnes Kendall, because they were living there with Emma."*

*The star designs were pieced by Elizabeth and then the quilt was set on frames, perhaps in Emma's parlor, for the quilting to begin. Bob said Emma most definitely helped with the quilting. As I softly touched the fine stitches, I couldn't help but wonder if these were the very stitches my lovely Aunt Emma made. It's a beautiful heirloom for remembering Bob's great-grandparents. I'm so thankful to Bob for sharing this artifact with the family."*



Elder William Naylor, (Director) Elder John Watson & Sister Barbara Watson, and Sister Jane Hales of the Winter Quarters Visitor's Center



Front right to left: Sister Terry Latey and husband Ed Latey sitting next to Stephen & Carol Quinn's family. In the far back are Owen Daniels, and Wayne & Annette Pierce.



Bowen & Wynlee Sue Call, Donna Blamires, and Judy Rigby



Gwen Smith and Sherry Osbourne before dinner began





The family in line at the wonderful buffet



Ivor & Gracia Jones sitting next to Roma and Elwin Jones



Terry & Kelly Christenson and Michelle Christensen holding Justice Christensen



Winters Quarters Visitor's Center Director, Elder John Watson, spoke to the group and was very appreciative of our family and our heritage



Matron of the Winter Quarters Temple Sister Joan Schooff sitting by her husband, the Winter Quarters Temple President, Maury W. Schooff who said the opening prayer and blessing on the food

The mission president spoke to the family. All three men who spoke to the family treated the group with so much respect and gratitude. All felt honored and blessed to hear from them.



(Omaha) Bob Smith gave instructions and introductions before our dinner. At the end of the table facing Bob is the Mission President who gave the closing prayer.



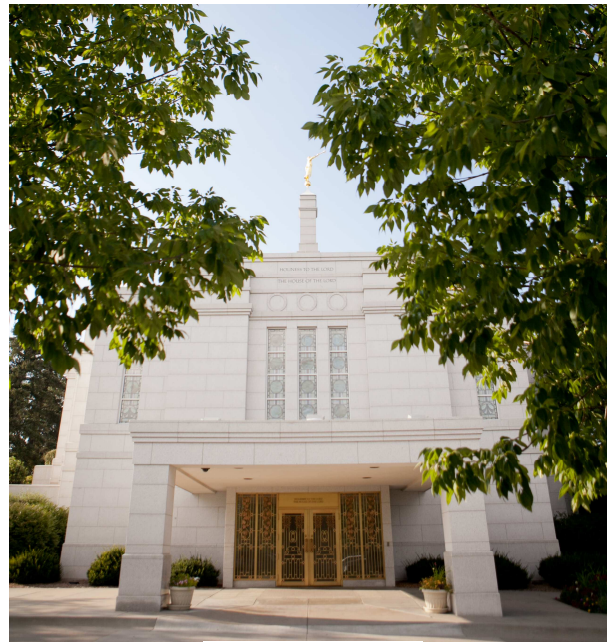
John W. Smith shared stories of Mary Fielding Smith while at Winter Quarters



Some of the family helped clean up the tables and then everyone met at the Winter Quarters Temple for a family photo. A fun moment was (Omaha) Bob Smith planned a surprise for John and Cleo Huefner who were on the bus. Bob Smith arranged to have their son Jon Huefner and his children attend this event without John and Cleo being aware.



Jon Huefner and some of his children Jessie, Megan, and Kristie



Winters Quarter's Temple



Winters Quarters Cemetery



2011 Winter Quarters Temple – Joseph Smith Sr Family Picture



After the lilac was planted, the bus group and Omaha area Smith families drove to the Kanesville Tabernacle and watched a wonderful performance of *“Come Home to Kanesville”* made possible by Terry Latey from the Kanesville, Inc. board. When the performance was over, (Omaha) Bob Smith and his group of friends arranged for bread pudding to be served to our group. What an experience visiting with the cast and wonderful people who served the Smith family.



The family walking up to the Kanesville Tabernacle



The back of the Kanesville Tabernacle



John and Cleo Huefner at the Kanesville Tabernacle



The cast of “Come Home to Kanesville” serving the family bread pudding



It was fun to visit with the cast and hear some of their stories



Enjoying the bread pudding

