

Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Reunion

Graceland University – Lamoni, Iowa

Registration – Nauvoo, Illinois

August 4, 2016

By Frances Orton

Thursday, August 4, the train group was one hour and 30 minutes delayed. This created a few interesting problems and Frances Orton needed to text Cindi Wilson at Liberty Hall and had also stay in touch with Graceland University about the groups progress.

Then as we were departing the train, one of the family members fell coming down Amtrak's stairs. He was unable to walk. He had some concerns because he is prone to blood clots and he was struggling with pain. The Amtrak staff put him in a wheelchair and brought him to the station. There it was decided that he should be looked at by medical care. Their luggage was taken off the bus just after everyone else had loaded the buses. EMT's were called and arrangements made for someone to give them a ride to Nauvoo to meet up with the group the next day. The thinking was that they would be at the hospital throughout the day. The EMT's arrived and looked at him before our busses had left the station. The EMT's felt he could make the trip and after agreement from the injured and loading their luggage back on the bus, the group was on the way.

A picture of the first bus group in front of the second group.



The second bus trailing the first

The Smiths and their two buses pulled into Lamoni, home to Graceland University, at 11:00 am. Graceland University is a private, four-year liberal arts university sponsored by Community of Christ. The school was founded in 1895.



The University staff brought a golf cart to meet the busses and this allowed a way for the injured man to get to the Floyd M. McDowell Commons where a nice hot breakfast was served.





Outside the Floyd M. McDowell Commons at Graceland University

The breakfast was perfect with plenty of food to choose between. The variety was wonderful. Everyone was happy to get out and stretch as they filed through in a line cafeteria style for breakfast. Michelle Eastin, the Director of Operations & Catering at Sodexo Catering Services through Graceland University was great to work with. Her organization made it possible to get 112 people get through a meal quickly.



Inside the Floyd M. McDowell Commons there was plenty of room for the group to spread out and enjoy their meal



The group enjoyed assorted muffins and scones, vanilla yogurt in a bowl with fresh seasonal fruit and granola to sprinkle on top, fruit trays, pancakes with butter and syrup, creamy scrambled eggs, sausage links, and hash-brown potatoes. There was also a variety of fruit juices and milk.

Omaha and now Florida, Bob Smith, and his guests, joined the group at Graceland University. It was fun to have them join the tour group here and renew family relationships.

When the meal was finished everyone walked over to the remarkable acoustically-perfect Carol Hall inside the Shaw Center. Here the family had the opportunity to hear from Anina Luff about the Smiths who lived at Liberty Hall in Lamoni, Iowa. Lach also spoke to the group and it was inspirational.



As you walk into the Shaw Center through these glass doors and turn to your left you see the beautiful wood walls of Carol Hall.



Sitting at the top of Carol Hall looking toward the stage



Steve Orton down front as the group filed in to Carol Hall



Steve Orton welcomed the group



Everyone was tired but excited to hear more about their Smith cousins



Anina Luff brought early Smith family members lives in Lamoni alive

Anina Luff's historical piece was so fun. You can read her talk posted on the reunion website.



Lach Mackay also addressed the family

Due to the delay of the train and the wait for EMT's, the tour of Liberty Hall and Rose Hill Cemetery became a drive by visit. This was disappointing because so much work went into allowing everyone to have this experience and then key parts were missed. They heard the beautiful stories Anina gave and it would have been perfect to picture the stories just heard come to life being there.



Liberty Hall in Lamoni, Iowa



Rose Hill Cemetery in Lamoni, Iowa has a large portion of the Smith Family buried there

Anina Luff picked up these flower bouquets and placed them on a few graves of people highlighted in some of the stories.



Bertha Madison Smith

Headstone for Joseph Smith III's 2nd wife, Bertha Madison Smith. She died because of buggy accident.



Alexander Hale Smith is son of Joseph Smith

ALEXANDER HALE SMITH

b. 1838

d. 1909... plot 801

Liberty link: younger brother to Joseph Smith III

During the interim period between the murder of Joseph Smith Jr in 1844 until the beginnings of the Reorganization in 1860, the 4 sons of the Prophet were ambivalent toward the 'faith'. When Joseph III polled his brothers regarding his assuming the reins of the RLDS, only David was in favor.

Frederick and Alexander disagreed. Perhaps their father's persecution and death played too harsh a burden to carry forward.

And yet, with Frederick's untimely death in 1862, the fact that his brother had not been baptized disturbed Alexander greatly. Through prayer and revelation he became aware that in time his lost brother's baptism would be secured. Moreover, Alexander's mission in his own life was realized. He soon joined Joseph III's new church, being baptized in Nauvoo in 1862, and devoted his life to missionary work.

Rising through the RLDS hierarchy, he traveled extensively west to include California, western Canada and Mexico - preaching, establishing congregations, and overseeing priesthood leadership. Further on, there were trips to Australia, the South Seas, New York and Boston, not to fail to mention sharp dangerous debates over polygamy in Utah.

David, in a poem, called himself and his older brothers Joseph III and Alexander - the Three Pillars of the RLDS church.

A life's work included being an apostle and patriarch within the RLDS -also serving on the Board of Directors of Graceland College. Born and raised in the old Mansion House in Nauvoo, Alexander was, throughout his life, an avid outdoor sportsman, a crack shot, and a carpenter by trade. He died in Nauvoo while visiting in 1909 - 47 years devoted to the faith.



Left: Mary Audentia Smith Anderson (Joseph III's daughter) and
Right: Benjamin M. Anderson

MARY AUDENTIA SMITH ANDERSON

b. 1872 Plano, Ill

d. 1963 plot 785

Liberty link: daughter of Joseph III

Mary was Joseph and Bertha's second child who in 1881 at the age of 9 traveled west with her family to Liberty Hall in Lamoni.

Multi-talented from a young age, the list of her accomplishments is extraordinary.

At 12 Mary was the church organist. She headed the department of music at Graceland College.

She served as choir director at the Old Stone Church. With Vida Elizabeth Smith she wrote a favorite hymn, The Old, Old, Path along with composing 17 others. She wrote and edited two ambitious literary works: a 720 page genealogical study entitled, The Ancestry and Posterity of Joseph Smith Jr. and Emma Hale (1929) and more importantly, Mary edited her father's detailed autobiography, The Memoirs of President Joseph Smith III 1832-1914.

Perhaps in conjunction with her Ancestry book, Mary was an active member in many historical societies to include The Daughters of the American Revolution, The Mayflower Society, the Daughters of 1812 and others.

She married Benjamin Anderson of Lamoni in 1891. They had 7 children - 4 of whom grew to adulthood.

With the heartbreaking death of her mother in a horse and buggy accident in 1896, she and Ben plus the children moved back into Liberty Hall for a time to assist her father and help care for the family.

After the death of her father in Independence in 1915, the Andersons resided in Omaha until 1959.

Mary and Ben celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1941.



Heman C. Smith and Vida Elizabeth Smith

Vida is daughter of Alexander Hale Smith. She married Heman Smith. Her second marriage was to Jim Yates. Her daughter was Inez Smith Davis, who wrote "The Story of the Church" which is a very complex history of the restoration, one of the most valuable documented works done on the early RLDS history.

Heman Smith was a grandson of Lyman Wight. Lyman had moved to Texas and the RLDS found Heman in California and converted him to the RLDS church. He became the chief historian for the RLDS church.



David Hyrum Smith the youngest son of Joseph Smith

DAVID HYRUM SMITH

b. 1844 (Nauvoo)
d. 1904 ... plot 443

Liberty link: Youngest brother of Joseph III

He was the last child born to the Prophet Joseph Smith Jr. and his wife Emma Hale. Note the birth year - 1844. At the time of the Carthage murders, Emma was pregnant and gave birth five months later to David Hyrum; a life that both began and ended in affliction.

There is a striking photograph of David coming of age at 18. Tall, slender and handsome, he appears like a young Lord Bryon. And why not. He professed an artistic gift: a poet, writer, painter and composer, blessed with a singing voice the 'saints' affectionately called, 'the sweet singer of Israel'. Many early RLDS hymns are attributed to David. One of his paintings hangs above the mantle in Liberty Hall.

To the church as a whole, he was the 'son of promise'; charismatic, a lightning rod, carrying a deportment that reminded many of his father, the Prophet. A missionary early on, his was a ministry of kindness, wit, and humor. In 1870 he married Clara Charlotte Hartshorn. A son, Elbert, was born a year later. With his oldest brother Joseph firmly at

the helm of the Reorganization, with David ordained second counselor to the president, never, perhaps, had the future of the young church seemed brighter.

But with his blessed gifts there came a sensitive fragile nature. A second missionary trip to Utah in 1872 proved ruinous. In retrospect, with a new wife and child back in Plano, the yearlong ministry west was ill conceived. David's mission was met at times with LDS defiance and open hostility. He sought testimony of those that knew his father and the role the Prophet may have played regarding polygamy. Stress and agitation grew. There was an engagement with spiritualism and séance. He became ill with fever. The end result proved too heavy a burden. His health and heart were broken. Upon returning to Plano, the affable, energetic David who left was far removed from the troubled David that returned.

As time wore on, melancholic dementia set in followed by delusion. His once adoring congregation now stood apart concerned and somewhat fearful. There were fits of temper and violence. At last in early 1877 with the elders urging, Joseph III had David committed to a hospital for the insane in northern Illinois. Reason and rational never returned and there he remained for the final 27 years of his life.

In 1904, the Joseph III family still resided at Liberty Hall. They brought David's body to Lamoni for burial at Rose Hill.

Another problem that developed with the train delay was the need to get family members helping with the reunion registration to Nauvoo in time. Lach & Christin Mackay and John & Anina Luff came to the rescue. Lach loaded the needed luggage and registration materials in his car. Then John & Anina drove Bryan, Anne, and Frances Orton to Nauvoo allowing registration to go on as planned.

During the bus ride from Omaha to Lamoni, Frances had contacted several people (on stand-by) by text and phone when cell coverage was available to arrange pick up of the needed supplies and prepare things at the Rehearsal Hall. Kim Smith and Bryan Davis picked up the nametags and printed materials being held at the Joseph Smith Historic Sites Visitors Center. They also picked up the ordered treat for the evening reunion meeting from Nauvoo Fudge. Daniel & Kris Patrick met Elder Singer at the Nauvoo Pageant Rehearsal Hall to do a required walk-through of the building and pick up the key. The Patrick's were instrumental in setting up and preparing for

registration. Don and Laura Blanchard also kept registration on track. Having all these people in Nauvoo and ready to go made all the difference. Debbie Nelson and her daughter Courtney came with two cousins Marlene Stowe and Ann Haws-Alleman and took care of all the t-shirt sales.

Registration was able to begin at the scheduled 4:00 pm time at the Rehearsal Hall in Nauvoo. Several tables with the nametag trays were spread across the lobby so that as people entered the building they could pick up their nametags and program. Smith Family member, Mariana Allan, used her wonderful skills with the t-shirt and reunion logo design



The reunion printed the booklet below with a picture history of the cemetery. This was handed out at registration.



25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION
SMITH FAMILY CEMETERY

— NAUVOO, ILLINOIS — AUGUST 6, 2016 —

The Nauvoo Pageant Rehearsal Hall had plenty of room to house the group which grew in the last week from just under 300 to 404 people.



Steve explaining how to use their phone device or clicker to respond to some polling for future reunions



The crowd was fun to work with and interacted as requested throughout the evening

Bob Smith from Utah gave a report on iDig Nauvoo and showed pictures of some of the artifacts they recovered.

Daniel Adams spoke about the things the Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Association are working on.

Having a chance to hear from Susan Easton Black about Joseph's run for the President of the United States was an interesting perspective during the current political year.



The week before the reunion the Wolfgramm family, also known as *The Royals* in the music world, were able to arrange traveling from California and attending the reunion. They performed in our 2007 reunion up at the Lucy Mack Smith Camp. It was nice they were able to perform again this year.



The Royals singing *Did You Think to Pray*

At the end of the evening everyone who wished picked up a 1" x 3" x 1" inch deep box of Nauvoo Fudge to enjoy as a treat. They had three flavors to choose from: plain chocolate, chocolate pecan, and penuche. Such a sweet way to be greeted.



Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Reunion	
404 Attendees by State	
Arizona	2
California	39
Colorado	3
Florida	3
Iowa	5
Idaho	6
Illinois	13
Kansas	2
Michigan	9
Missouri	9
North Carolina	1
Nevada	4
Ohio	2
Oregon	16
Utah	259
Virginia	6
Not specified	25

Hyrum	Joseph	Samuel	William	Katherine	Lucy
71 Lovina	9 Joseph III	35 Samuel	Thelia	Elizabeth	1 Florence
15 John	12 Alexander		Hyrum	Lucy	Charles
42 Jerusha	David H.		William	Solomon	
10 Sarah			Edison D. C.	Don Carlos	
			Louie		
119 Joseph F					
56 Martha Ann					

404 Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Reunion Attendees in 2016

4 people – Jesse Smith – brother to Joseph Smith Sr.

379 people – Family lines reported

25 people – Family friends and incomplete posterity line reported