

Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Reunion August 5, 2011 – Stone Quarry

By Frances Orton

At 10:00 am the family gathered at the Chapin Forest Reservation (Quarry). This was an exciting time.



R to L: Gilda Sundeen, Brenda Adams, Laura Eichorn, Crystal Wroe, and David Sundeen posed for so many people it looked like they were being followed by the paparazzi.



Laura and Gene Davis, Steve Orton, and Mary Lou Little who was preparing to offer the opening family prayer at the quarry



Listening to the announcements



Steve welcoming everyone to the quarry and asking them to listen to the bugs.



The family gathering in the new pavilion at the quarry



Frances Orton giving a few directions



Steve Orton, Karl Anderson introducing some missionaries who helped serve the family during the stay in Kirtland



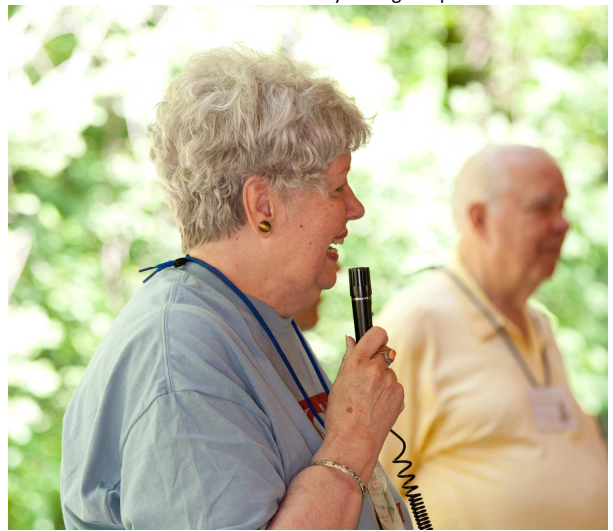
Back row l to r: Dan Larsen, Troy & Amanda Oney, and Daniel Adams taking pictures. Middle row l to r: Bob Smith (Omaha), Sherry Osbourne, Rosemarie Larsen talking with Mary Lou Little and Joyce Anderson. Front row l to r: Kaden, David, Matthew, and Tammy Alligood, and Rosemary Isom.



Vivian Adams shared all kinds of facts and stories to help everyone get to know their ancestors – this was one of the highlight events



Vivian interacted with the family during her presentation



Vivian added lots of humor and fun during her stories



The family listened intently and enjoyed the things they learned from Vivian Adams



Rosemarie & Dan Larsen, Adam Larsen, and Mike Kennedy all from the Joseph Jr. line



It was fun to cut the stone but also to watch others cut the stone



Joy Ercanbrack taught about the building of the Kirtland Temple as she pulled items from a pocket replica made like Mary Duty Smith's



Brad Bennion helping Abigail cut some stone





Joy Ercanbrack showing items pulled from the reproduced bags patterned after Mary Duty Smith's. (Bags were made by Wynlee Sue Call and Elaine Smith.)



Bob Park and Stan Rasmussen behind Evona Harris who is about to use the star drill bit



Ennyd Pomerleau chiseling some stone with Bob Park helping hold the star drill bit while Mike Abbott hammers



Jonathan Burke, Todd Ercanbrack, Sarah Harris, and Sterling Orton watching and learning how to use the star drill bit by Tom Rice the stone mason



Heather and Mike Abbott using the star drill bit with Grant Williams being helped the star drill bit by his grandfather Edward Glade



Rob Orton in the back helping some younger family members



A couple of different drill bits were available to try



It was interesting to see the rock and stone in the quarry with the chisel lines and think about our ancestors helping make these marks



Gwen Smith, Linda, Anna, and Sarah Bjork walking back from the quarry with their grandfather John W. Smith talking to Don Lee and Jerry Richards who are behind



New cousins meeting and learning about each other



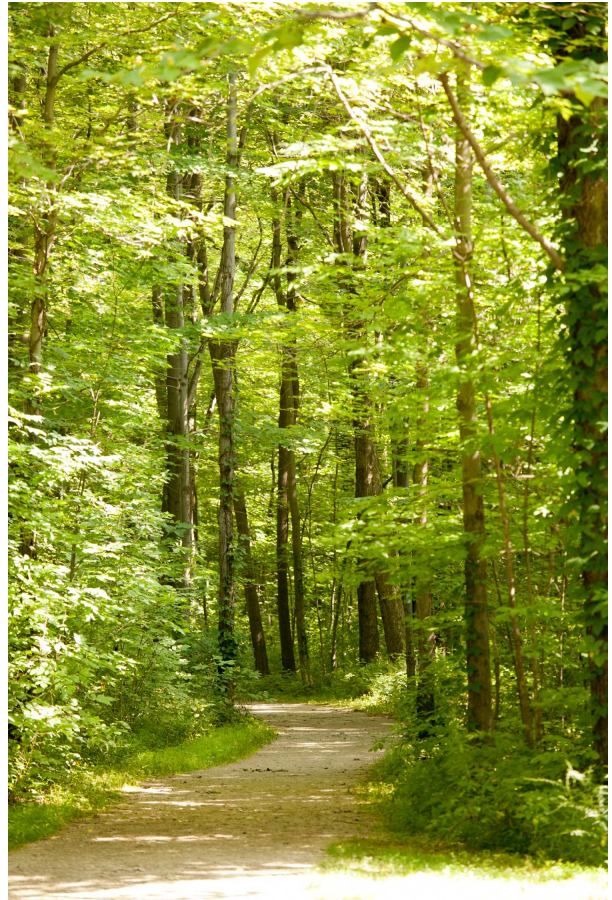
Stone Quarry



A drilled hole made by Bella and Cricket Isom with a star bit drill and hammer



Descendants of Cleone Smith Isom at the Joseph Smith Sr. Family Reunion



The walk into the quarry was serene



Grant Williams, Lauren Williams, Margaret Isom, and Erin Moore



Learning about the history of the quarry as a family



Distant cousins: Austin Hodges, Bryan Orton, Anson Patrick, and Jason Quinn



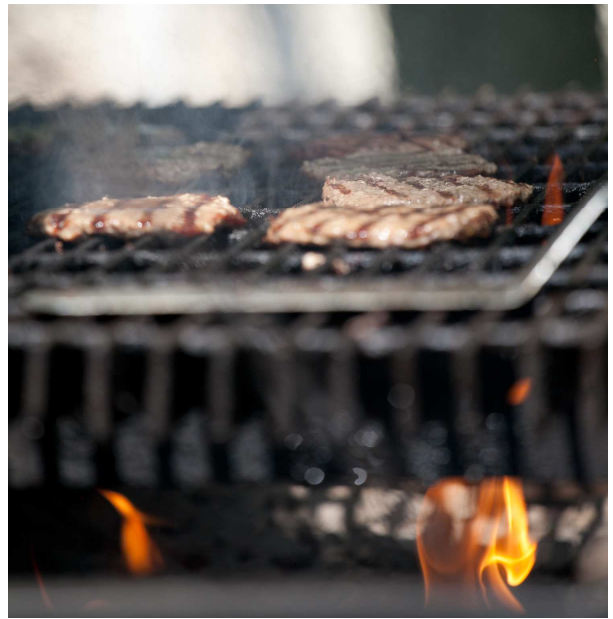
Gwen Smith and Linda Bjork's family enjoying the picnic



Jill Harris, Sister Wheeler, Joyce Anderson, and Grace Harris cutting up the tomatoes for the family



Roma and Elwin Jones



The hamburgers were prepared by Bob and Jordan Smith with the help of Bob Berryhill



Bob Berryhill serving up the hamburgers



Bob and Jordan Smith from Utah brought all kinds of hamburger toppings and condiments for the family to enjoy

The Group stops at the Morley Farm

In the afternoon the bus went to Fairport Harbor. Dan & Rosemarie Larsen, David & Gilda Sundeen, Laura Eichorn, Brenda Adams, Crystal Wroe, Mike Kennedy, Adam Larsen, and Karl Anderson travelled with the bus group. Karl related many historical events involving the Smith family in this area. On the way one stop was made at the Morley Farm.



Arriving at the Morley Farm



Karl presented some fun family stories that happened here



Karl's expounded: *"On a hill, overlooking a fertile river valley, stood a historic fourteen foot square schoolhouse. Out of divine events in this simple log structure and the faith of a pioneer farmer grew some of the Church's strongest roots. Morley's farm sits one mile east of the Whitney Store on the north side of Chillicothe Road. Isaac Morley began a communal group called the "The*

Family". Most of the Church's welfare principles were given as a result of this experiment. A home dating to the period of the Saints stand near the location of the Morley Farm."

Karl explained the significance of this area:

- Joseph and Emma Smith residence March – September 1831.
- Smith twins born and died here and the
- Murdock twins adopted.
- High Priests first ordained.
- Vision of the Father and Son.
- Prophecy of Saints going to Rocky Mountains.
- Joseph Smith worked on the JST.
- Fourth Conference of the Church.
- Revelations received: D&C 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50,52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 63, 64.



Karl asked for a volunteer and Brenda Adams came up to read some verses from the Doctrine of Covenants



Karl used an example of her sister borrowing Brenda's clothes. He also borrowed a watch from the group and he put it in his pocket. Karl explained that people while trying to live this principle of sharing property and things became unbalanced. An item would be asked for and then not returned. Things were being sold for profit that wasn't properly their own having asked for something from a neighbor and then selling it.



Amy and Sterling with Frances during the discussion at the Morley Farm



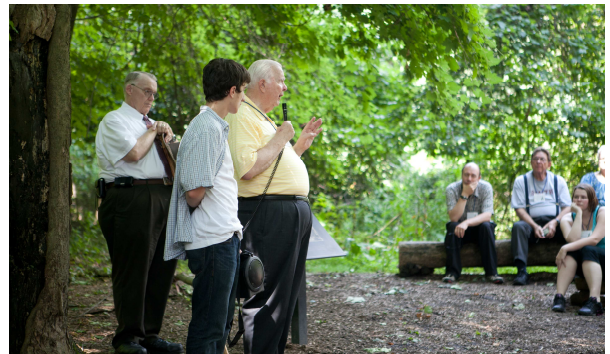
Walking up the hill from the Morley Farm



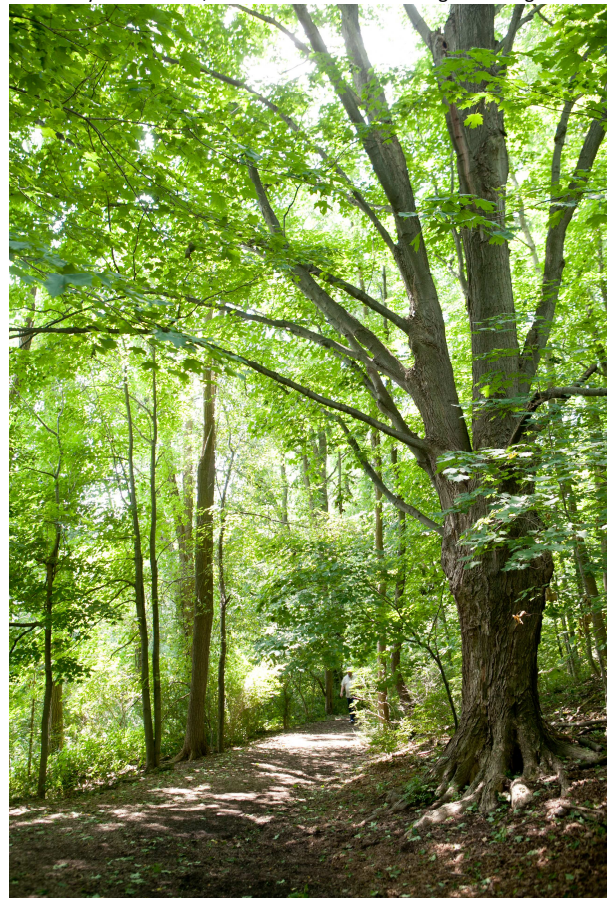
The group gathered in the grove and heard stories from Karl



L to R: Jonathan Burke, Annette Pierce, Stephen Quinn, Mary Ann Huefner, Bob & Renee Park, Joy Ercanbrack, Rob Orton, (standing Adam Larsen), Donna Blamires, Judy Rigby, Shayla Daniels, Sherry Osbourne, Bob Smith (Omaha), (standing Lois Shopland), Owen Daniels, Gracia & Ivor Jones



A missionary standing, Karl talking with the family while Austin Hodges helped hold the microphone. L to R sitting: Mike Kennedy, Bowen & Wynlee Sue Call, and Brenda Adams listening on the right.



This wooded area has been called the second sacred grove because of all the sacred events that happened here



Sterling and Steven inside the grove



Part of the group listening to Karl Anderson



Bus Driver David King, Gracia & Ivor Jones, and Gilda Sundeen



L to R: Standing in the back is Adam Larsen, Judy Rigby, Shayla Daniels, Sherry Osbourne, Bob Smith (Omaha), Gracia & Ivor Jones, and Frances Orton standing



Jessica Burke, Mary Quinn, Christy Burke, and Gilda Sundeen



Karl Anderson known as "Mr. Kirtland" sharing the history from this hillside



Ivor Jones, Jessica Burke, Mary Quinn, Christy Burke, Gilda Sundeen, and John W Smith

Family History at Fairport Harbor, Ohio



The kids had fun rolling down the long hill



The group gathering to hear from Karl Anderson



Hazel Dudley, Sherry Osbourne, Bob Smith, Wynlee Sue Call



The Fairport Lighthouse



From Karl: *“The village of Fairport Harbor is located on Lake Erie about twelve miles northeast of Kirtland. The sixty-foot historic lighthouse that towers over the hill and lake is reminiscent of the almost identical 1825 structure. Its beacon was often a welcome sight to early Church members traveling on board schooners and steamships. The restored lighthouse still stands at the north end of the business district on the northwest corner of Second and High Streets at the same spot it stood in the 1830’s. A plaque marks this location as an important LDS site.”*

Significance:

- *Immigrants arrived here and then either walked or were transported to Kirtland. A few were: the New York Saints including Lucy Mack Smith, from New York and relatives such as the Prophet’s grandmother and Brother William.*
- *Many great missionary journey’s began here. Two such journeys were the first mission of the Quorum of the Twelve in 1835 and the first mission to England in 1837 of Heber C. Kimball and Orson Hyde.*



John W. & Gwen Smith sitting, Wayne Pierce, David Sundeen, Gracia Jones, Annette Pierce, Adam Larsen, Daniel Laren, Michael Kennedy, and Carol Quinn

Karl shared a story about Lucy Mack Smith landing in Fairport. This same story was written by Jaynann Payne, "Lucy Mack Smith: Woman of Great Faith," *Ensign*, Nov 1972, 68:

Although Lucy was a loving and amiable woman, she could chastise with fire when the occasion demanded. Her great devotion to the cause of the Lord and her fine sense of justice made her an authoritative figure. Her leadership qualities were put to the test in the early spring of 1831. The Saints had been commanded to move to Kirtland from the Palmyra area. Most of Lucy's family had gone on ahead in January, and Lucy was chosen to lead a company of eighty Saints from the Waterloo Branch with only her two young sons, William and Don Carlos, to assist her.

The trip down the Erie Canal by flatboat had taken five days and was a nightmare, for most of the Saints had not provided adequate food for themselves, and the exposure to the harsh weather was hard on the women and children. When they arrived in Buffalo, some members of the Colesville Branch were also there, seeking boat passage to Kirtland. The harbor was ice-locked and the Saints were stranded.

When the Colesville brethren informed Lucy's group that they must not tell anyone that they were Latter-day Saints, for then they wouldn't find a boat or lodging, Lucy spoke up boldly: "I shall tell people precisely who I am, and if you are ashamed of Christ, you must not expect to be prospered; and I shall wonder if we do not get to Kirtland before you!"

This was a prophetic statement, for through Lucy's faith and prayers, she found passage for her group. As her beloved Saints waited upon the deck of their ship arguing and complaining loudly, William rushed up to his mother and said: "Mother, do see the confusion yonder; won't you go and put a stop to it!"

Lucy was not tall, but she straightened up regally and with fire in her icy blue eyes walked right into the noise

and confusion. Her voice rang out with authority "Brethren and sisters, we call ourselves Saints, and profess to have come out from the world for the purpose of serving God at the expense of all earthly things; and will you, at the very onset, subject the cause of Christ to ridicule by your own unwise and improper conduct? You profess to put your trust in God, then how can you feel to murmur and complain as you do! You are even more unreasonable than the children of Israel were; for here are my sisters pining for their rocking chairs, and brethren from whom I expected firmness and energy, declare that they positively believe they shall starve to death before they get to the end of their journey. And why is it so? Have any of you lacked? Have not I set food before you every day, and made you, who had not provided for yourselves, as welcome as my own children? Where is your faith? Where is your confidence in God? ... Now brethren and sisters, if you will all of you raise your desires to heaven, that the ice may be broken up, and we be set at liberty, as sure as the Lord lives, it will be done."

Only moments later, Lucy's faith was rewarded as the ice parted and they sailed into Lake Erie. The boat was so loaded that the bystanders were certain it would sink. In fact, they went to the newspaper office and published the news that the Mormon boat had sunk with all on board. When Lucy and the Saints arrived in Fairport, they were amused to read in the papers the news of their own deaths.



Ivor Jones, Laura Eichorn, John W. Smith, and Don Lee sing with the whole group, "Brightly Beams Our Father's Mercy" which was written after a ship sank off of this lake.



The family gathered to listen and experience stories of this area

Lilac at the Kirtland Cemetery and Smith Family Marker



Bob Berryhill met and helped Gilda & David Sundeen plant a memorial lilac they brought with them at the Kirtland Cemetery



Watering the lilac



Ennyd Pomerleau leading the family at the cemetery in the song, "Families Can Be Together Forever" right before the temple dedication reenactment



Kirtland Temple Dedication Reenactment



Ron Romig opening the doors to the temple as the family began to gather for the dedication reenactment



The reenactment was amazing. The spirit was so strong. The Instrumental and Vocal Music was provided by wonderful people from the Kirtland, Cleveland, and Akron area and Youngstown Stakes. The sound the choir and orchestra produced was heavenly. The choir only took one small portion of the temple but the sound that came from this group gave the feeling that heaven joined with them. Everyone present experience chills. Karl helped the family learn more about the blessings, spirit, and revelations that were poured out on the Smith's and others who attended the dedication of the House of the Lord. All the music was performed to the tunes used during the dedication. "Now Let Us Rejoice" (W. W. Phelps) was sung to the tune that we now use for "The Spirit of God." The congregation joined in on this one.

Karl Anderson said that as part of the dedicatory prayer of the Kirtland Temple on March 27, 1836 Joseph Smith Jr. blessed the presidencies of the Church and their families. As pointed out by Karl, these presidencies were sitting on the stand and included Hyrum Smith and Joseph Smith Sr.

From the Kirtland Temple Dedication Prayer:

68 O Lord, remember thy servant, Joseph Smith, Jun., and all his afflictions and persecutions—how he has covenanted with Jehovah, and vowed to thee, O Mighty God of Jacob—and the commandments which thou hast given unto him, and that he hath sincerely striven to do thy will.

69 Have mercy, O Lord, upon his wife and children, that they may be exalted in thy presence, and preserved by thy fostering hand.

70 Have mercy upon all their immediate connections, that their prejudices may be broken up and swept away as with a flood; that they may be converted and redeemed with Israel, and know that thou art God.

71 Remember, O Lord, the presidents, even all the presidents of thy church, that thy right hand may exalt them, with all their families, and their immediate connections, that their names may be perpetuated and had in everlasting remembrance from generation to generation.

The original Kirtland Temple dedicatory service lasted seven hours and no one left. About 800 Saints were turned away and went to the school house and conducted a meeting of their own.

The Sacrament was passed. Frederick G. Williams saw the Savior. Peter was seen coming in the window and he sat by Heber C. Kimball, George A. Smith, and Joseph Smith Sr. on the top row of the pulpits.

Lach Mackay arranged for family representatives to sit on the stand up in the pulpits and rows on the side in places approximately where our family members sat for this special reenactment.

At the close of the original Kirtland Temple dedicatory service testimonies were given. Lach Mackay arranged for family representatives to sit on the stand up in the pulpits and rows on the side in places approximately where our family members sat for this special reenactment. We heard written testimonies from our ancestors by family members.

Ancestor	Represented By:
Joseph Smith Sr	Dan Larsen
Lucy Mack Smith	Gilda Sundeen
Hyrum Smith	Kent Critchlow
Joseph Smith Jr	Bob Smith (Omaha)
William Smith	Brenda Adams
Samuel Smith	Jordan Smith
Don Carlos Smith	Taylor Adams
Alvin Smith	Stan Rasmussen

Other family members were representing additional ancestors who attended the dedication:

Jerusha Barden Smith	Jessica Burke
Mary Fielding	Mary Lou Little
Mary Bailey Smith	Bob Smith (Utah)
Emma Hale Smith	Rosemarie Larsen
Caroline A Grant Smith	Laura Eichorn
Sophronia Smith	Joan Richards
Calvin Stoddard	Jerry Richards
Katharine Smith	Shayla Daniels
Wilkins Jenkins Salisbury	Owen Daniels
Agnes Coolbrith Smith	Carol Dudley Quinn
Lucy Smith (who was 14)	Crystal Wroe

Testimonies of the Smith's in the Kirtland Temple

Joseph Smith Sr

Joseph Smith Sr., frequently bore his testimony in the Kirtland Temple, often in Thursday fast meetings. Father Smith was one of the first to be baptized in our dispensation. He walked thousands of miles bearing his testimony of the latter-day work. His testimony is evident in the hundreds of Patriarchal blessings given in Kirtland. Except for his formal well known witness printed in the front of the Book of Mormon that he saw and hefted the Golden Plates, we don't have a record of specific testimonies that he bore. However, an evidence of his testimony comes from a jail in Canandaigua, New York where he was incarcerated for a fourteen dollar debt. He preached to the prisoners on Sundays and later baptized two. Eli Bruce, a cell mate conversed with Father Smith and recorded his testimony in his diary. Bruce said, "I had

a long talk with the father of ... Joseph Smith who ... testified.... that he is commissioned by God to baptize and preach this new doctrine. He says that. ... soon the Divine will is to be made known to all, as written in the new Bible, or Book of Mormon.” Father Smith would certainly want us to know of his testimony and commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While living here in Kirtland, our family patriarch committed not only himself, but all of us, his children, to the work in which he believed so strongly. He stood before a church conference and declared “that he had nothing to consecrate to the Lord of the things of the Earth, yet he felt to consecrate himself and family.”¹

Lucy Mack Smith

Lucy Mack Smith was fierce in her testimony and unrelenting in support of Joseph. Mother Smith's testimony is powerfully evidenced on her journey from New York to Kirtland. A man on the shore of the Erie Canal cried to her and those on her boat, “Is the Book of Mormon true?” “That book,” Lucy replied, “was brought forth by the power of God, and translated by the gift of the Holy Ghost; and, if I could make my voice sound as loud as the trumpet of Michael, the Archangel, I would declare the truth from land to land, and from sea to sea, and the echo should reach to every isle, until every member of the family of Adam should be left without excuse. For I do testify that God has revealed himself to man again in these last days, and set his hand to gather his people.”²

Hyrum Smith

Hyrum Smith's certain and unwavering testimony is documented as early as 1830 when he, along with his father and brother Samuel were allowed to view the gold plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated. For the rest of his life he testified to the divine nature of the Book of Mormon as one of the Eight Witnesses who “had seen the plates with his eyes and handled them with his hands.” In 1831, he stood before the Ohio conference and pledged “that all he had was the Lord's and he was ready to do his will continually.”³ The Lord, Himself, and they rejoice over you.”⁴ In the dark dungeon of Liberty Jail, where Hyrum suffered exposure to cold, hunger, inhumane treatment, and the loneliness of isolation from friends, Hyrum's dedication and testimony was expressed with his eternal commitment, “thy will be done O Lord.”⁵ As a result of a lifetime of sacrifice, service and testimony, the Lord, Himself pronounced this tribute to Hyrum, “I, the Lord, love him because of the integrity of his heart, and because he loveth that which is right before me.”⁶ Hyrum's testimony was not diminished even by seemingly constant persecution, abuse and even imprisonment. Through such adversity his testimony seemed to grow stronger as evidenced by his long imprisonment in the Liberty jail after which he declared, “I was innocent of crime... I had been dragged from my family ... I had been abused and thrust into a

dungeon, and confined for months on account of my faith, and the ‘testimony of Jesus Christ.’ However I thank God that I felt a determination to die, rather than deny the things which my eyes had seen, which my hands had handled, and which I had borne testimony to ... and I can assure my beloved brethren that I was enabled to bear as strong a testimony, when nothing but death presented itself, as ever I did in my life.”⁷ In the end, Hyrum paid the ultimate price as he gave his life with his younger brother Joseph in Carthage as his final testimony

Samuel Smith

Samuel earned his testimony early in Harmony Pennsylvania where he lived with Joseph and Emma while Joseph was engaged in translating the Book of Mormon. Upon encouragement by Joseph, Samuel “retired to the woods ... (and) ... by secret and fervent prayer. ... obtained revelation for himself sufficient to convince him of the truth.”⁸ At age 22 he became one of the Eight Witnesses of the Book of Mormon and signed this witness to the world with his father and brother Hyrum: “Be it known unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, unto whom this work shall come: That Joseph Smith, Jun., the translator of (the Book of Mormon) has shown unto us the plates ... which have the appearance of gold ... we did handle with our hands; and we also saw the engravings thereon, all of which has the appearance of ancient work, and of curious workmanship. And this we bear record with words of soberness... for we have seen and hefted, and know of a surety that (Joseph Smith) has got the plates of which we have spoken. And we give our names unto the world, to witness unto the world that which we have seen. And we lie not, God bearing witness of it.” He was the first missionary formally set apart by the Prophet Joseph Smith. His often expressed testimony was declared on missions to Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. As a final testimony, Samuel sacrificed his life as an indirect result of the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum. Samuel rode to Carthage to help his brothers and was chased by a mob which shot at him, at one point sending a ball through the hat he wore. Samuel died one month later, “of a fever,” said his daughter, “occasioned by over-exertion in getting away from the mob when his brothers were killed.”⁹

Joseph Smith Jr

Joseph Smith's whole life was spent in testifying to his God given experiences and mission. Perhaps his most eloquent written testimony was that of his first vision. As Joseph looked back on the vision in the Sacred Grove, he wrote, (It is) “a fact that I had beheld a vision. I have thought since, that I felt much like Paul, when he made his defense before King Agrippa, and related the account of the vision he had when he saw a light, and heard a voice; but still there were but few who believed him; some said he was dishonest, others said he was mad; and he was ridiculed and reviled. But all this did not destroy

the reality of his vision. He had seen a vision, he knew he had, and all the persecution under heaven could not make it otherwise; and though they should persecute him unto death, yet he knew, and would know to his latest breath, that he had both seen a light and heard a voice speaking unto him, and all the world could not make him think or believe otherwise. So it was with me. I had actually seen a light, and in the midst of that light I saw two Personages, and they did in reality speak to me; and though I was hated and persecuted for saying that I had seen a vision, yet it was true; and while they were persecuting me, reviling me, and speaking all manner of evil against me for so saying, I was led to say in my heart: Why persecute me for telling the truth? I have actually seen a vision; and who am I that I can withstand God, or why does the world think to make me deny what I have actually seen? For I had seen a vision; I knew it, and I knew that God knew it, and I could not deny it, neither dared I do it; at least I knew that by so doing I would offend God, and come under condemnation.” After the tar and feathering here in Ohio, Joseph expressed his testimony with this unparalleled commitment, “God is my friend in him I shall find comfort I have given my life into his hands I am prepared to go at his Call I desire to be with Christ I Count not my life dear to me only to do his will.”¹⁰ In the eloquent words of John Taylor, Joseph, “like most of the Lord’s anointed in ancient time, has sealed his mission and his works with his own blood.”¹¹

William Smith

William, who sat here on the stand at the Temple dedication, was ordained as one of the original members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. William always defended his brother Joseph and bore witness that he was a Prophet. Throughout his life he spoke with deep feeling about Joseph’s testimony of the First Vision and the coming of the Angel Moroni. The following is a portion of a speech in which William testified of the divinity of the work. He said, “Ladies, gentlemen, brothers, sisters and friendsI hold in my hand the Book of Mormon.... The world has been filled with articles for the purpose of making it appear a falsehood.... One of the great hobbies raised upon which to fight is the angel’s visit to Joseph Smith.... God has always communed with his people, by dreams, vision, revelations, and the administering of angels.... This work came forth in fulfillment of the predictions made by the holy prophets I well remember the effect produced upon my father’s family, when he told (us) he was to receive the plates; how (we) looked forward with joy, and waited until the time should come ... When Joseph received them, he came in and said: “Father, I have got the plates.” All believed it was true, father, mother, brothers and sisters. You can tell what a child is. Parents know whether their children are truthful or not. ... Father knew his child was telling the truth. When the plates were brought in they were wrapped in a tow frock. My father then put them into a

pillow case We handled [the plates] and could tell what they were. (As near as I could tell, they weighed about sixty pounds.) They were not quite as large as this Bible. (We) could tell whether they were round or square. (We) could raise the leaves this way (raising a few leaves of the Bible before him). One could easily tell that they were not stone, hewn out to deceive, or even a block of wood. Being a mixture of gold and copper, they were much heavier than stone, and very much heavier than wood There is no money in telling this story. I expect to stand before angels and archangels and be judged for how I have told it. When Joseph received the plates he also received the Urim and Thummim.... with the plates by his side he translated the characters, which were cut into the plates with some sharp instrument, into English. And thus, letter by letter, word by word, sentence by sentence, the whole book was translated I have seen the three witnesses, and have questioned them closely. They all tell the same story Why did all those who first believed this story continue to do so until they passed into the other world? I am satisfied that all who have believed in this work and continue to the end, will have no cause to regret it. I am glad for the privilege I have in telling these things. Glad to find so many who believe with this people. May God bless you all. Amen.¹²

Don Carlos Smith

Don Carlos Smith, the youngest of the Smith sons, was barely twenty when Joseph dedicated the Kirtland Temple. The evening after the Book of Mormon plates were shown to the Eight Witnesses, Joseph Smith said that “all the witnesses, as also Don Carlos bore testimony to the truth of the latter-day dispensation.” The spirit of testimony marked Don Carlos’ entire life. In 1830, when but fourteen, he accompanied his father on a mission to St. Lawrence County, New York, and was instrumental in the conversion of his cousin George A. Smith. He also convinced a Baptist Preacher, Solomon Humphrey, of the truth of the work.¹³ When the Smith family arrived in Kirtland in February, 1831, Don Carlos was exhausted from his journey, and fell asleep in his chair during the first Sunday meeting they attended. Nonetheless, said James Henry Rollins, “after several had spoken he awoke and arose and bore as strong a testimony as I ever heard, of the truth of the work.”¹⁴ This spirit of testimony guided him throughout missions in Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia, and Ohio. He later went on missions to Tennessee and Kentucky, to raise money to buy out the claims and property of the mobbers in Daviess County, Missouri. His own journal tells of experiences in which he testified to mobs and mobbers who were violently unfriendly to the Latter Day Saint cause.¹⁵ Don Carlos was one of the twenty-four Elders to lay the corner stones of the Kirtland Temple. Don Carlos also was one of the few who Joseph selected to bear testimony at the Dedication of the Kirtland Temple. Joseph simply recorded that “President Don Carlos Smith-also bore

testimony of the truth of the work of the Lord in which we were engaged.”¹⁶

Alvin Smith

Even the testimony of Alvin, the oldest son was certified in the Kirtland Temple. Alvin died in 1823 after Moroni's first visit, but before Joseph received the Golden Plates. Alvin fully believed in Joseph's mission and on his death bed admonished Joseph with these words, "do everything that lies in your power to obtain the Record. Be faithful in receiving instruction, and in keeping every commandment that is given you."¹⁷ On January 21st 1836, Joseph saw a vision of Alvin in the Celestial Kingdom. Joseph was puzzled how Alvin could have been there because he had not been baptized before he died. The Lord then revealed a new doctrine to Joseph on the 3rd floor of this temple. Joseph said, "Thus came the voice of the Lord unto me, saying: All who have died without a knowledge of this gospel, who would have received it if they had been permitted to tarry, shall be heirs of the celestial kingdom of God. Also all that shall die henceforth without a knowledge of it, who would have received it with all their hearts, shall be heirs of that kingdom; For I, the Lord, will judge all men according to their works, according to the desire of their hearts."¹⁸

1. The Patriarch and the Martyr: Joseph Smith, Senior and Eli Bruce in the Canandaigua, New York Jail, by John E. Thompson, The Philalethes Society, April 1983, Reprinted from The Philalethes CD-Rom© by permission.
2. Lucy Mack Smith, Hist. of Joseph Smith, p. 204.
3. Quoted in Donald Q. Cannon and Lyndon W. Cook, eds., Far West Record (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1983), p. 21. acknowledged Hyrum's never failing testimony. In the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord told Hyrum, "Ye are blessed, for the testimony which ye have borne is recorded in heaven for the angels to look upon;
4. D&C 62:3
5. Hyrum Smith letter to Mary Fielding Smith, 16 March 1839.
6. D&C 124:15
7. Times and Seasons 1 (1839): 23.
8. History of the Church, YoU, p.44
9. Ruby K. Smith, Mary Bailey. Salt Lake City, UT.: Deseret Book Company, 1954, pp. 90-91
10. Dean C. Jessee, Personal Writings of Joseph Smith p. 238
11. D&C 135:3
12. William Smith "Testimony," Saint's Herald 31 (1884), p.644
13. Brigham H. Robert, History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Salt Lake City, UT. Deseret Book Company, 1967 (Reprint), Vol. 4, p. 393.
14. "A Life Sketch of James Henry Rollins (1816-1839)," Typescript, pp. 2-3, Brigham Young University, Special Collections.
15. Roberts, Op. Cit., pp. 394-398.
16. History of the Church, Vol.2, Ch.29, p.427
17. Lucy Mack Smith, History of Joseph Smith, p.87
18. D&C 137:7-9

The whole evening uplifted our spirits and gave an appreciation of the many sacrifices the Smith's faced and overcame. Many family members mentioned they felt angels and Smith family members on the other side joining us.

Derek Jennifer Brower Bruggeman sent a message via Facebook after the reunion was over that sums feelings very well:

"I just got home and thought I would take a minute to let you know how awesome and amazing our reunions are. One of the highlights was the Sacrament meeting. It seemed to me that the whole temple was filled. I kept looking to the right corner, and could almost feel the spirits of those people there. Another HUGE highlight was the Don Carlos speech on Friday night. Did it seem to you that his countenance changed just a little bit, as well as his voice? It certainly seemed that way from where we were sitting."

Joy Ercanbrack sent her memories:

"The Spirit of God like a fire is burning" these words written for the dedication of the Temple at Kirtland once again described the amazing scene as our family met for this special meeting. My favorite moment from the evening was when our cousin Dan Larsen spoke. Dan represented Father Smith and after reading the words of Joseph Smith Sr. he paused; then standing tall said, "And now, I would like to add my testimony that I Daniel Larsen know from the bottom of my heart that Joseph Smith Jr. was a prophet of God."

Joy also offered this observation, *"Another moment was witnessing the countenance of Taylor Adams brighten as he represented our uncle Don Carlos. Don Carlos was described as a tender man and I saw the image of this Smith brother in Taylor. His testimony was real."*





The family coming out of the Kirtland Temple after the reenactment

Karl wrote about the Kirtland Temple:

“The most prominent Kirtland structure is the stately ‘House of the Lord’. It stands at the top of the hill in Kirtland. The Saints, literally sacrificing all they had, completing the Temple in less than three years. It was dedicated on March 27, 1836 in the midst of a showering forth of spiritual manifestations unparalleled in our day. It became the center of life for the Saints.

It is in excellent physical condition, and is well maintained, owned and operated by the Community of Christ.”

Significance:

- *First temple in this dispensation.*
- *Unparalleled Pentecostal outpouring and endowment.*
- *School of the Prophets and Elders continues here.*
- *Translation of the book of Abraham continued.*
- *Appearances of God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.*
- *Moses, Elias, and Elijah restored Priesthood Keys.*
- *Revelations received: D&C 109, (no CofC), 110 (no RLDS), 112 (105), 137 (no CofC).*

At the end of the reenactment the family was asked to stand and move their bench and sit facing the back of the temple. A screen had been placed there the lights turned off. The family watched a recorded message from Elder M. Russell Ballard. He thanked everyone for being in attendance. He also said, *“You are getting acquainted with each other and you are learning to know who your cousins are and I think all of this effort of trying to keep the family together and to reach out to family members, wherever they may be all over the world now—has to be a great sense of pleasure and joy on the part of Father and Mother Smith.”*

As he ended he expressed these thoughts: *“I suppose that there will not be anything that will be more thrilling for anyone of us when that day comes when we pass from this world into the next to be able to hopefully be embraced by Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack and to our forefathers, our grandfathers, in my case, Hyrum and Mary Fielding, and have them say to us, ‘Thank you, thank you, for keeping the cemetery beautiful, thank you for seeking out the family members and building unity and love and strength within our family,’ because when all is said and done families can be together forever in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. And that’s one of the great quests that all of us have is to build this family unity so that we will stand together in that day when we will all be together in the presence of our wonderful great, great grandparents, and others of our family members that we love.”*