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25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION
SMITH FAMILY CEMETERY

— NAUVOO, ILLINOIS — AUGUST 6, 2016 —

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Homestead showing Cemetery and stone riprap along river's edge.
Courtesy Community of Christ



Monument Committee, 1908. Joseph Smith III sitting on the grave marker for Emma Smith. Courtesy Community of Christ

"I have got twenty five dollars that no one has any right to but myself... I feel anxious to apply that money on that graveyard, after I have done that I think I can ask our Smith relatives to help mark Father's and Mother's graves if no more."

Emma Smith 1867



Photo of Emma's grave by George Anderson, 1907
Courtesy Community of Christ



David H. Smith Drawing, "The Old Homestead."
Courtesy Community of Christ

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Headstone picture taken during the Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Reunion in Nauvoo, 1979



E. Gary Smith and Daniel Larsen in 1979



Joseph I Cannot Leave You, by Theodore Gorka. This was used on the Dedication Program—August 4, 1991



Morning of the dedication—August 4, 1991

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Upper left: Karl Anderson, Patriarch Eldred G. Smith, President Wallace B. Smith, Donna Lee Frogley, Rosalee Smith Elser, Lois Smith Larsen, Dan Larsen, Elder M. Russell Ballard, Anina Luff, and Hyrum Smith. Walking with the wreath: Donna Lee Frogley, Lois Smith Larsen, and Dan Larsen. Bottom right: President Wallace B. Smith and Elder M. Russell Ballard.

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In 2009, the family worked together inside the cemetery during the Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Reunion in Nauvoo.

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Smith Family Cemetery Biographical Sketches

The following family members and friends are buried in the Smith Family Cemetery:

Joseph Smith Sr. (1771-1840): Father of Joseph Jr., Joseph Sr. was an important figure in early Latter-day Saint development. He served as a missionary of the Church and worked on building the Kirtland Temple. He was one of the eight witnesses of the Book of Mormon. He also served as the first Patriarch of the Church, a member of the Kirtland High Council, and assistant counselor to the First Presidency.

Lucy Mack Smith (1775-1856): Lucy married Joseph Sr. on January 24, 1796, and bore eleven children. Four sons (Hyrum, Joseph Jr., Samuel, and Don Carlos) are buried in the Smith Family Cemetery. Lucy and Joseph Sr. were always supportive of their sons in establishing and advancing the new faith. Lucy's biography of her son Joseph is a compelling account of many events involving the Smith family and the early Latter-day Saints.

Hyrum Smith (1800-1856): Brother of Joseph Jr., Hyrum was one of the eight witnesses of the Book of Mormon. In addition to serving several missions for the Church, he was a member of the Kirtland High Council, assistant counselor to the First Presidency, and then a counselor in the First Presidency. In 1841 he was called to be Patriarch and Assistant President of the Church. Hyrum, along with his brother Joseph Jr., was martyred by a mob in Carthage, Illinois, in June of 1844.

Hyrum Smith Jr. (1834-1841): Son of Hyrum and Jerusha Barden Smith, he probably died of a respiratory infection. When Jerusha died in Kirtland, Ohio, in 1837, Hyrum Jr. and his three sisters and a brother were raised by Mary Fielding Smith, the second wife of Hyrum Smith.

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Joseph Smith Jr. (1805-1844): The founder of the Restoration, Joseph Jr. has become recognized as a remarkable 19th century American religious leader. Through his prophetic leadership, the Church experienced tremendous growth from its small beginnings in New York to an established city in Nauvoo. Joseph's life was cut short in 1844 at the age of 38 as he was martyred along with his brother Hyrum by a mob in Carthage, Illinois.

Emma Hale Smith (1804-1879): Wife of Joseph Jr., Emma was the mother of eleven children, two of whom were adopted and five of whom lived to adulthood (Julia, Joseph Smith III, Alexander Hale, Frederick Granger Williams, and David Hyrum who was born five months after his father's death). Emma assisted as scribe in the translation of the Book of Mormon and compiled the first Church hymnbook. She was appointed the first president of the Female Relief Society in 1842. She supported her son Joseph III in the beginnings of the RLDS Church in 1860. After her husband Joseph's death, she married Major Lewis C. Bidamon in 1847 and lived in Nauvoo until her death.

Frederick G. W. Smith (1836-1862): Son of Joseph Jr. and Emma, Frederick was named after Frederick Granger Williams who published Emma's collection of hymns in Kirtland. Frederick died at the young age of 26 after a long illness.

Don Carlos Smith (1840-1841): This 14 month-old child of Joseph Jr. and Emma probably died of a respiratory infection. He was named after his uncle, Don Carlos Smith.

Stillborn son of Joseph Jr. and Emma (1842-1842): This was the fifth child of Emma and Joseph's to die. This baby died five months after the death of baby Don Carlos.

Emmeline Griswold Smith (1838-1869): The first wife of Joseph Smith III (Joseph Jr. and Emma's eldest son). Emmeline and Joseph III had three surviving daughters Carrie, Zaide and Emma.

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Evelyn Rebecca Smith (1859-1859): Daughter of Emmeline and Joseph III.

Joseph Arthur Smith (1865-1866): Son of Emmeline and Joseph III.

Samuel Harrison Smith (1808-1844): Son of Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith. He was one of the eight witnesses of the Book of Mormon. Traditionally recognized as the first missionary of the Church, Samuel served many missions. He served as a member of the Kirtland High Council, was a bishop in Nauvoo, and was in the Presiding Bishopric of the Church. Samuel died on month after his brothers Joseph Jr. and Hyrum, apparently through illness brought on by overexertion or injuries outrunning a mob on horseback near Carthage.

Mary Bailey Smith (1808-1841): Mary was the wife of Samuel Harrison Smith. Samuel and Mary met in Boston while Samuel was on a missionary journey. They were married in 1834 in Kirtland and had four children.

Lucy B. Smith (1841-1841): An infant daughter of Samuel and Mary Smith.

Don Carlos Smith (1816-1841): The youngest son of Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith, Don Carlos was a devoted missionary serving many missions for the Church. He was active in erecting the Kirtland Temple and presided over high priests in Kirtland and Nauvoo. He was a Brigadier General in the Nauvoo Legion and the editor of the *Times and Seasons* Church publication. The paper was printed in a damp basement of a building on the corner of Water and Baine Streets, and many blame his death to a respiratory infection caused by the conditions under which he worked.

Sophronia C. Smith (1838-1843): A daughter of Don Carlos and Agnes Coolbrith Smith.

Caroline Grant Smith (1814-1845): The wife of William Smith (son of Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith). William and Caroline were married February 14, 1833. They had two children: Mary Jane and Caroline.

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Lewis Crum Bidamon (1806-1891): The second husband of Emma Hale Smith, Lewis served as a Justice of the Peace in Nauvoo and was a well-liked member of the community.

Robert Blashel Thompson (1811-1841): A brother-in-law of Hyrum Smith's, he married Mercy Fielding in Kirtland on June 4, 1837. They had one child. He was called in 1840 as General Church Clerk. He also served as a scribe to Joseph Smith. An accomplished writer, Robert served as Associate Editor with Don Carlos Smith for the *Times and Seasons* Church publication, and died just a few days after him of the same respiratory infection that took Don Carlos.

Wilbur W. Gifford (1853-1853)

Celeste Gifford (1855-1856)

Edwin James Gifford (1863-1865)

Maudie A. Gifford (1871-1871)

These were children of James and Sevilla Gifford, who were close friends of Emma Hale Smith and Joseph III. Sevilla, as a young girl, helped Emma with housework and the care of the young Smith children. In 1860 James transported Emma and Joseph III across the Mississippi in a violent storm so that they could catch a train to Amboy, Illinois, where Joseph III accepted the leadership of the RLDS Church.

"I will tell you what I want: If tomorrow I shall be called to lie in yonder tomb, in the morning of the resurrection, let me strike hands with my father, and cry, 'My father,' and he will say, 'My son, my son,' as soon as the rock rends and before we come out of our graves. ...And when the voice calls for the dead to arise, suppose I am laid by the side of my father, what would be the first joy of my heart? To meet my father, my mother, my brother, my sister; and when they are by my side, I embrace them and they me." - Joseph Smith Jr.

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“We must cherish one another, watch over one another, comfort one another and gain instruction, that we may all sit down in heaven together.”

- Lucy Mack Smith

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