

# Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Reunion Youth Activities – August 3, 2013 This Is The Place Heritage Park in Salt Lake City

By Joy Ercanbrack

At 3:00 pm. Saturday afternoon, 67 youth (plus 9 adults) of the Smith family gathered at The Bowery with for a short meeting; then divided into groups to participate in workshops and a family project. We first learned of the story of George A. Smith, a cousin to the Smith family. At sixteen, George Smith was the youngest to march with Zion's Camp. His story is included in the children's activity booklet. From George's history we learn that when you surround yourself with great people, those character traits begin to develop within you.

Our project was making two large wreaths in honor of the Smith Family. Holly McMahon, a Hyrum descendant, owns a flower shop and taught the youth about flower arranging and why flowers are used in memorial. The first wreath was filled with white carnations and greenery. Eleven red roses were added to represent all of the children born to Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack. We learned their names of shared positive stories for each one. The wreath was displayed on an easel for the evening meeting when Elder Ballard spoke. Janet Frogley also took the wreath to the conference center the following morning to be on display as the Smith's gathered to attend Music and the Spoken Word.

The second wreath, mixed with sunflowers, wildflowers, and berries, was made in honor of Mary Fielding Smith whose home is at This is the Place Heritage Park. We learned about the Smith children who came to Utah in a covered wagon in Mary's loving care. Debbie Nelson shared her admiration for our great-grandma as she told the youth about caring for the lilac bush at Mary's small home.

As we study our family history, we also come to know many who were dedicated friends to the Prophet Joseph and his family. Jason Young, a Smith family in-law and new LDS Stake President, met with the youth at the entrance to This is the Place

Heritage Park for a second workshop where they could view the statue of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young. Brigham Young loved Joseph as a friend, but more importantly, he also revered and followed him as a prophet. Jason shared stories of others who defended the Smith family including William Huntington. He challenged the youth to consider their friendships and taught skills for both finding and becoming a true friend.

"Smiths, the next generation" is the term I gave to the youth who attended our activities. I asked them to stand in the evening meeting so that we could all cheer for them. Elder Ballard referred to them in his talk when he said that our family needed them to carry on in the great work of gathering that has started with the reunion.



Jason Young speaking to the youth at The Bowery



Joy Ercanbrack addressing the youth



Joy Ercanbrack sharing stories





This wreath placed on the door at Mary Fielding Smith's home at This Is The Place Heritage Park was put together by the family youth while they listened to stories of the Smith Family.



Mary Fielding Smith's home at This Is The Place Heritage Park



Elder M. Russell Ballard speaking to the family



The flowers on display during the family fireside with Elder Ballard



The family was asked to meet and enter at door eight of the Conference Center before Music and the Spoken Word - the wreath made by the youth was displayed