

Memorial from/to Joseph Smith, Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith
August 5, 2022 in Nauvoo

Presented by Gary and Elizabeth Smith

Joseph, Sr.: HELLO! I am your forefather, Joseph Smith, Sr.

Lucy: And I am your foremother, Lucy Mack Smith

Thank you for inviting us to this reunion. It is good to drop in and see what has happened since we left. We are pleased to see you all look well fed and clothed, and that the horses are out of sight back in the barns.

I married my husband on January 24, 1797 in Tunbridge, Vermont. We had 11 children. Our first child died in childbirth. Alvin was next, who died when 27 years old. Hyrum was next, then Sophronia, Joseph, Jr., Samuel, Ephraim (who died at childbirth), William, Katherine, Don Carlos, and Lucy. 7 of our 11 children have progeny living today. You are quite an attractive group.

I was at various times a teacher, a farmer, and a cooper. My father, Asael, and I were Universalists and not interested in joining an organized religion; rather waiting for “the ancient order, as established by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His Apostles.”

I felt the need to belong to a religious organization. At our Tunbridge farm I had a vision that took place on the meadow before our house in which I saw my husband as a glorious undulating tree standing before a stream. This confirmed my admiration and love for him, even when he refused to go to church with me.

Some years later, in 1811, I had the first of several dream-visions. Lucy later recorded them. The religious divide between us ended when our son, Joseph, Jr., provided our ultimate reunification in 1830. I remember working in the fields with Alvin and Joseph when Joseph told me he had been visited by an angel, and had been conversing with him all night the night before. Although this was quite a surprise to me, I advised him to do all that he had been instructed to do by the angel. Did you know that the Book of Mormon mentions me! In 2 Nephi Lehi tells his son, Joseph, about some of the prophecies that Joseph of Egypt made about a Joseph that was named after his father, Joseph. In 1833 my son ordained me to be the first Patriarch of this dispensation.

I was blessed too by this calling of my husband. I often went with Joseph to blessing meetings, when he gave blessings to several in the room, and I sometimes participated by laying my hands, with my husband, on the heads of those being blessed.

We followed our new religion to Ohio, and then to Missouri, and back to Illinois.

Those times were difficult, and we endured many hardships. I led a group of 70 Saints from New York to Kirtland in icy winter. The Lord parted the ice for us on Lake Erie—just as he parted the sea for Moses--and we were able to sail through when no one else could. The Lord hears the prayers of faithful women—and men. We opened our home and our hearts to many of our new faith that were in need. It was not an easy life, but the love of family kept us going.

Before I passed to my next life experience in 1840, I gave blessings to my children. I hope that many of you are doing the same when the time is right. No, there was no daguerreotype made of me during my lifetime, but there were some made of other family members. Check with Dan Larson and Lach Mackay about this.

I wrote a book about our family. I assume you all have read it, or soon will. We are here now because there was to be a memorial for us, the founders of this family. We feel that the honor should go instead to you, our posterity, for how you have remembered our sacrifices and throughout the generations. We have at least 31,000 total descendants, with 27,000 still living. About 250 of them are present at this reunion.

You have all worked hard to keep the family together, and to keep track of each other. You have put family ahead of religious differences, while nurturing the religious heritage we all share. You have kept records, not only of family members, but of achievements as well as challenges that have been overcome. We look forward to seeing you all soon at another glorious family reunion! There will be no mosquitoes there.

Thank you for remembering us today. We do check up on you all from time to time. We love you.



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