

Smith Family Memorial Events
Topsfield, MA
May 13, 14 & 15, 2022



Report compiled by Frances Orton

The Dedication and Community Celebration Dinner was held at the Topsfield Fairgrounds, 207 Boston Street. The dinner was in the Coolidge Hall located on the fairgrounds. This was a catered event with a generous benefactor paying \$100 per plate for the evening. Almost 200 people were in attendance.



Coolidge Hall

Rick Cochran described the evening: “Professional musicians performed, some thank you’s to the community, a presentation of family history being presented by three Topsfield community members, a video presentation was shared, a very special solo by a professional Steinway Master Artist and vocalist (Isaac James) who they flew in from Florida. He performed a song entitled "I Went Home." This song told the story of Joseph Smith going home and telling his mother what he experienced in the grove of trees.”

Rick continued, “This song was a perfect selection recognizing the goodness of the Smith family who established a foundation of faith for Joseph Smith, Jr. Then concluding speaker was President Ballard.”

The meeting was under the direction of the Ensign Peak Foundation with help from Rick Cochran and the Topsfield Smith Memorial Dedication Committee.

Before the dinner began, we had a chance to have various family members sign the thank you we will be giving to the Congregational Church on Sunday.



Not identified, David & Micah Maddox, not identified, Daniel & Rosemarie Larsen, Daniel Adams, and Linda Nebeker Erikson signing the framed thank you

The Program was under the direction of Ensign Peak Foundation:



Kim Wilson, chairman of the board of Ensign Peak Foundation, speaks at a dinner program highlighting the efforts to erect a new monument to the ancestors of Joseph Smith Jr. in Topsfield, Massachusetts, on Friday, May 13, 2022. Intellectual Reserve. All Rights Reserved.

Deseret News: “Kim Wilson, chairman of the board of Ensign Peak Foundation, which funded the project, spoke of Joseph Smith’s relatives, his own Mayflower relatives and other “courageous people” who sought religious freedom and made unthinkable sacrifices to settle the United States.”

Kim continued, “Fast forward 400 years. We look back upon their sacrifices, their nobility, their good intentions, their pivotal lives, and we do it from the prospect of the power of very favored and blessed circumstances. All of us have people like that.”

“A person does not need to be a descendant of the Pilgrims or the Smith family to celebrate their ancestry,” he said. “We are all descended from noble, noble people who lived difficult lives, made difficult choices and paid a heavy price. And we stand on their shoulders,” he said. “All what we experience today is because of those sacrifices.”



Brigette Dumont singing, America the Beautiful with Isaac James at the piano

Deseret News: “This dinner was attended by community leaders and Smith family descendants, many of whom traveled to New England for the Saturday, May 14, monument dedication.



Rick Cochran

Deseret News: Rick Cochran, project manager for the monument built in Topsfield, Massachusetts, said he hopes the three-year project to construct and then dedicate the historic marker will lengthen and extend Joseph’s history to the generations who came before him.”

[A video was shown and it can be viewed here: <https://www.thechurchnews.com/church-news-videos/2022-05-14/joseph-smith-family-foundation-in-topsfield-massachusetts-russell-ballard-253951>]



TOPSFIELD COMMUNITY APPRECIATION DINNER
In connection with the dedication of the

Smith Family Memorial

MAY 13, 2022

Welcome

KIM WILSON
Chairman of the Board, Ensign Peak Foundation

“America the Beautiful”

BRIGETTE DUMONT
Isaac James, piano

Invocation

AMY BRUCH
Associate Pastor, Congressional Church of Topsfield

Remarks

RICK COCHRAN
Special Liaison and Project Manager

Video Presentation

CHURCH NEWS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF
LATTER-DAY SAINTS AND THE DESERET NEWS
With Sarah Jane Weaver, Editor, Deseret News and Heidi
Swinton, Board Member, Ensign Peak Foundation

Find Relatives Near Me

JARED CRISLIP
Communications Director, Massachusetts Boston Mission, the
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Dinner

Plated salad of mixed greens with red wine poached pear,
candied pecans, and goat cheese with a citrus vinaigrette.

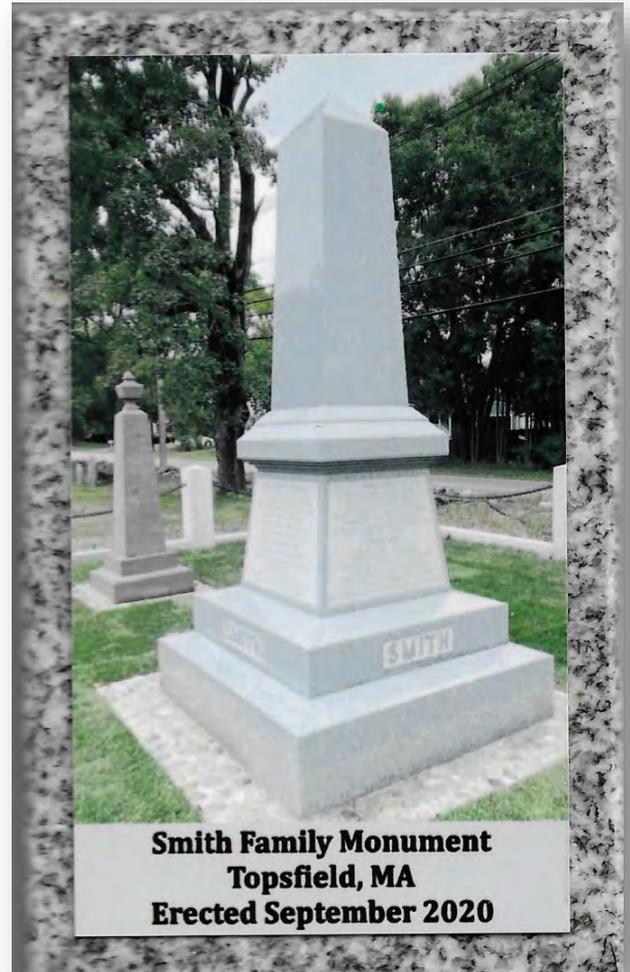
Assorted rolls and herb butter.

Duet plate of grilled filet mignon with cabernet sauce and baked
stuffed shrimp, asparagus with lemon thyme butter, and creamy
mashed red bliss potatoes.

New York style cheesecake with strawberry puree.



Assigned seats with placement cards were at each table along with historical pictorial centerpieces



**Smith Family Monument
Topsfield, MA
Erected September 2020**

This was the granite stone gift

Musical Presentations

PIANO

Isaac James and Joanna Hamblin

"BARBARA ANN"

Arranged by Roger Quilter
Isaac James, baritone and piano

"THE FLOWER DUET"

By Léo Delibes from Lakmé
Brigette Dumont, soprano, Joanna Hamblin, soprano
Isaac James, piano

Find Relatives Near Me

JARED CRISLIP

Presentation of Ancestry Books

KRISTIN LAJUENESSE

Communications Director, Northern New England, the Church of
Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

"I Went Home"

RICK COCHRAN, Introduction
ISAAC JAMES, baritone and piano

Presentation

FRANCES ORTON

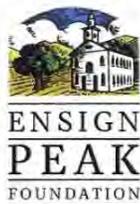
Chairman, Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family
Association

Remarks & Introduction

KIM WILSON

Closing Remarks

PRESIDENT M. RUSSELL BALLARD
Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, the
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



The Ensign Peak Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to identify, preserve, and commemorate sites, events, and people of significance in Latter-day Saint history throughout the world.



Isaac James sang a number and was accompanied by Joanna Hamblin



The Flower Duet by Leo Delibes from Lakmé was sung by Brigette Dumont, soprano, Joanna Hamblin, soprano with Isaac James on the piano



Kristin Lajuennesse, Communications Director, Northern New England, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints presented Ancestry Books to several of the community leaders – this was a highlight and touching moment



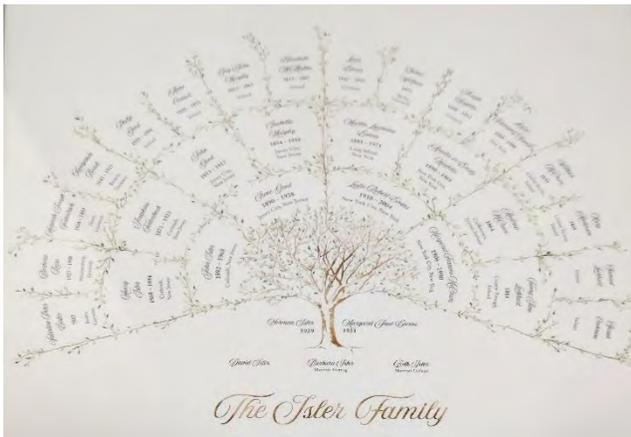
Kristin Lajuene, presenting histories to community leaders
– photo by Frances Orton



Histories were given to some community leaders – photo: Frances Orton



From Left to right: Norm Isler -Topsfield Historical Society Emeritus president, Kevin Harutunian - town administrator, Linda Miller - lead researcher and Area Temple and Family History consultant, Martha Methot - famiky history researcher, and Neal Hovey, Topsfield Chief of Police



Kristen LaJeunesse, Director of Communication, Northern New England for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day

Saints wrote: “During the celebration Kevin Harutunian, Neal Hovey, and Norm Isler were honored for their cooperation and collaboration in the installation and dedication of the monument. As a token of friendship, members of the Church compiled a family pedigree chart and collected personal family histories and presented these to Kevin, Neal, and Norm.”



Kim Wilson introduced the rest of the evenings program – photo by Frances Orton

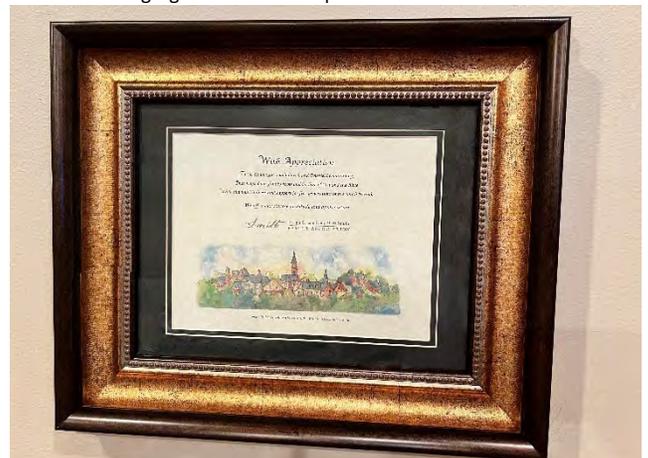
Frances Orton was asked to give a couple of announcements first:

For the Smiths who want to sing at the Congregational Church on Sunday, please be there at 9:00am. You also need to wear a mask.

All the Smith’s also need to make sure you come sign this thank you. If you would like a copy of this picture please speak with Daniel Adams.



Frances Orton showing the plaque the Smith Family will present to the Congregational Church – photo credit: Steve Orton



Smith Family Gift



Frances Orton on behalf of the Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Association, honored President M. Russell Ballard

Frances thanked all those who made this wonderful event happen. She also said, *"I also want to thank the people of Topsfield for inviting us to your wonderful community so that we could participate and share in this event. It has felt like coming home."*

Our Family Association is offering annual scholarships to students who are planning on pursuing education. Applicants do not need to be Smith Family descendants to enter. Please spread the word about this opportunity. There is still one month to enter for this year so let those around you know about it. More info. go to Josephsmithsr.org/scholarship."

Frances' message:

I serve as the Chair of the Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Association. I am so honored to serve with a great group of people. Many of our committee traveled here and I would like them to stand.

Our committee has been blessed over the years to have the influence of a man who loves his family ties as much as we do. President M. Russell Ballard understands that knowing where you come from makes a difference. He once said, "We are all bound together— Our journey is different, but the trail we must follow is the same. It is the trail of faith, and if we keep our feet firmly planted on that trail, we will be just as successful in facing our challenges and trials in

conquering the wilderness of worldly things as our ... ancestors were in facing theirs."

"Real faith, our anchor in the storm, born of the Spirit, affects our actions and our attitudes. When we truly believe, we ask not "What do I have to do?" but rather "What more can I do?" When we truly believe, and when that belief is confirmed upon our souls by the Holy Spirit, faith becomes a causative force in our lives, driving every thought, word, and deed heavenward. That's what it means to walk with "faith in every footstep." It was so for our... ancestors, and it must be so for us today." - Elder M. Russell Ballard, When Thou Art Converted

This year's Smith family reunion in Nauvoo will recognize 50 years of reunion efforts and events. Lilac blossoms have long been recognized to hold special meaning to many family members. Lucy Mack Smith, Emma Hale Smith, Jerusha Barden Smith, and Mary Fielding Smith, among others, planted and cared for lilacs. For generations, Smith family descendants have nurtured lilac bushes grown from cuttings from Kirtland, Ohio, the Smith Family Cemetery in Nauvoo, Illinois, and in Utah. Blossoms that were propagated from those same plants have been preserved and incorporated into jewelry items made by our committee members, Debbie Nelson and her daughter Courtney. Tonight, we are pleased to present you (President Ballard) with one of those items as a memento of gratitude from the family.



President M. Russell Ballard picking up the Smith Lilac History and Lilac lapel pin from Frances Orton – they had to reach over a podium and table and around a large flowering plant – photo credit: Steve Orton

President Ballard asked what it was. Frances explained the gift is lapel pin with Smith Family Lilacs. He said, *"I was thinking it was seeds and I was going to give it to my son to plant."*



A very special solo was performed by a professional Steinway Master Artist and vocalist (Isaac James) who they flew in from Florida. He performed a song entitled, "I Went Home." This song told the story of Joseph Smith going home and telling his mother what he experienced in the grove of trees. – photo by Frances Orton



President M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles speaks at a dinner program highlighting the efforts to erect a new monument to the ancestors of Joseph Smith Jr. in Topsfield, Massachusetts, on Friday, May 13, 2022. Credit: Brian Nicholson, for the Deseret News.



President M. Russell Ballard – photo by Frances Orton



President M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles greets Alex Baugh (center) and recently retired town historian of Topsfield, Massachusetts, Norm Isler during a dinner program highlighting the efforts to erect a new monument to the ancestors of Joseph Smith Jr. in Topsfield, Massachusetts, on Friday, May 13, 2022. Credit: Brian Nicholson, for Deseret News.



President M. Russell Ballard, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, greets Elder Larry Y. Wilson, an emeritus General Authority Seventy, during a dinner program Friday, May 13th, 2022, highlighting efforts to construct a monument honoring the five generations of Joseph Smith Sr.'s family who lived in Topsfield, Massachusetts. Credit: Brian Nicholson, for Deseret News

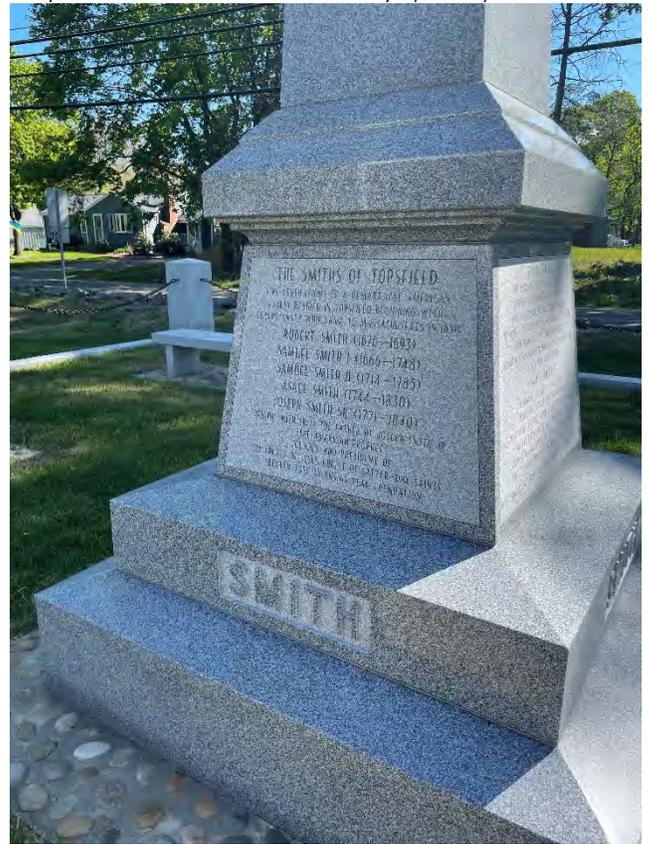
The next morning, Saturday, May 14, the family met at the Pine Grove Cemetery for the dedication service.



Looking from the street toward the monument – photo by Frances Orton



Up on the hill in the Pine Grove Cemetery – photo by Frances Orton





Before the dedication of the monument – photo by Frances Orton



From the Deseret News, President Ballard - “My mother is Geraldine Smith. She is the oldest daughter of Hyrum Mack Smith, who is the oldest son of Joseph F. Smith, who was the youngest son of Hyrum Smith,” he explained.

Claiming his own family connection, President Ballard said, is always a “glorious privilege.”

“It is very special to be here and to be able to contemplate and appreciate the impact of my forebears — Hyrum and Joseph Smith,” he said.



On the stand: Anne Barret, Heidi Swinton, Craig Ballard, President M. Russell Ballard, Elder LeGrand R. Curtis, Jr., President Jacob Soucy – photo by Frances Orton



President M. Russell Ballard, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, center right, talks with Elder LeGrand R. Curtis Jr., a General Authority Seventy and Church historian and recorder, and Exeter New Hampshire Stake President Jacob Soucy prior to the dedication ceremony of the smith Family Memorial in Pine Grove Cemetery in Topsfield, Massachusetts, on May 14, 2022. Credit: Brian Nicholson, for the Deseret News

Church News: Accompanying President Ballard to Massachusetts were Elder LeGrand R. Curtis Jr., a General Authority Seventy and Church historian and recorder, and Brother Craig B. Ballard, President Ballard’s son and a member of the Young Men general advisory council. In addition to visiting the cemetery and participating in the dedication, the group also visited the Smith homestead and historic Gould Barn in the community.

“We are here today because it is important to never lose sight of those who have laid the groundwork and built the path that has led to the light and truth [of the gospel of Jesus Christ] that is available to those who are willing to seek it, find it, embrace it and join it,” President Ballard said.



Anne Barret, President of the Topsfield Historical Society

Church News: Anne Barret, president of the Topsfield Historical Society, said the history of the Smith family is intertwined with the Topsfield community. The new marker — built by the Ensign Peak Foundation in collaboration with town officials — serves as a quiet reminder that the Smiths were once here, she said.

“One might be tempted to think that this small sleepy village wouldn’t boast much in the way of history,” she said. “But, in fact, Topsfield’s story is really the quintessential story of so many New England towns and the people who brought their hopes, dreams and vision to this land,” she said.

When the town was settled — a time when religion was central to everyday life — villages were required to hold church meetings; in 1650 a petition was submitted to the colonial government asking that a new village be established in Topsfield so inhabitants would not have to journey to far-off villages for Sunday meetings and other village activities, said Barret.

Once an agricultural community, Topsfield is still home to the United States’ oldest continuous fair. Many residents

who live in the rural, suburban community today work in nearby cities in professional and manufacturing jobs. “But what has remained constant is that this small village has remained a cherished place for over 350 years,” Barret said.



Heidi Swinton gave a powerful talk

Church News: Heidi Swinton of the Ensign Peak Foundation said “all of us in Christianity are working to do what was described of Jesus Christ: He ‘went about doing good ... for God was with Him’ (Acts 10:38).”

Church News: The new monument — 9 feet, 6 inches high and weighing 13,868 pounds — sits near another Smith marker, placed in the cemetery in 1873 under the direction of President George A. Smith, a counselor to President Brigham Young and first cousin to Joseph Smith Jr. Some of the Smith family are buried in the cemetery, but the locations of their graves are unknown.



Elder LeGrand R. Curtis, Jr

Church News: Even though he never lived in New England, Elder Curtis said visiting the area is like going home. Like the Smiths, Elder Curtis’ first ancestors came to the United States and landed in Massachusetts.

“Nothing of significance ever occurs without the efforts of many people,” he said. “Many have contributed to these monument projects, giving their vision, their work and their resources.”

The obelisk design of the marker “is reminiscent of the granite monument constructed by the Church in Sharon, Vermont, at Joseph Smith Jr.’s birthplace, ” said Elder Curtis.

During his remarks, Elder Curtis mentioned other monuments in Topsfield, one at the Congregational Church where the Smiths worshipped and a second at 22 Boardman Lane, found near the Smith family homestead, which was built in 1690.”



Photo credit: SWhelan.

Church News: Alex Tatum has lived at and owned the property that was once the Smith homestead with his wife and children for four and a half years. Visitors are allowed to the site because he recognizes that this is a time when people are searching — eager to make personal connections to their own history. He attended a dinner the evening before the dedication and left with the same personal resolve — a desire to connect to his own family tree.



Craig Ballard, Elder LeGrand R. Curtis, Jr., President Jacob Soucy, and President M. Russell Ballard speaking

Church News: President Ballard also dedicated the monument at the Smith homestead, on a rainy day in 2005: “This monument is erected in honor of the Smith family of Topsfield whose lives and character exemplified the cultural, political and religious values of the New England region and of a new and emerging nation,” reads the marker.

Topsfield’s 2020 census population was 6,569. Town Administrator Kevin Harutunian said it is special “to have so many people from around the country and beyond come to Topsfield to engage in the historical significance of this community.”

This community, he added, is the people.

“It’s an incredibly dynamic community, small community, friendly community — one that enjoys its historical significance, seeks historical significance and loves to share that with others.”



Eighteen-month-old Vivian Maddox of Washington, D. C., puts dandelion flowers on headstones prior to a dedication ceremony of the Smith Family Memorial in Pine Grove Cemetery in Topsfield, Massachusetts, on May 14, 2022. Credit: Brian Nicholson, for the Deseret News



Hardison Maddox, 5 of Washington, D. C., puts dandelion flowers on headstones prior to a dedication ceremony of the Smith Family Memorial in Pine Grove Cemetery in Topsfield, Massachusetts, on May 14, 2022. Credit: Brian Nicholson, for the Deseret News



This group, Ensign Peak Foundation, made it possible for this monument to happen.

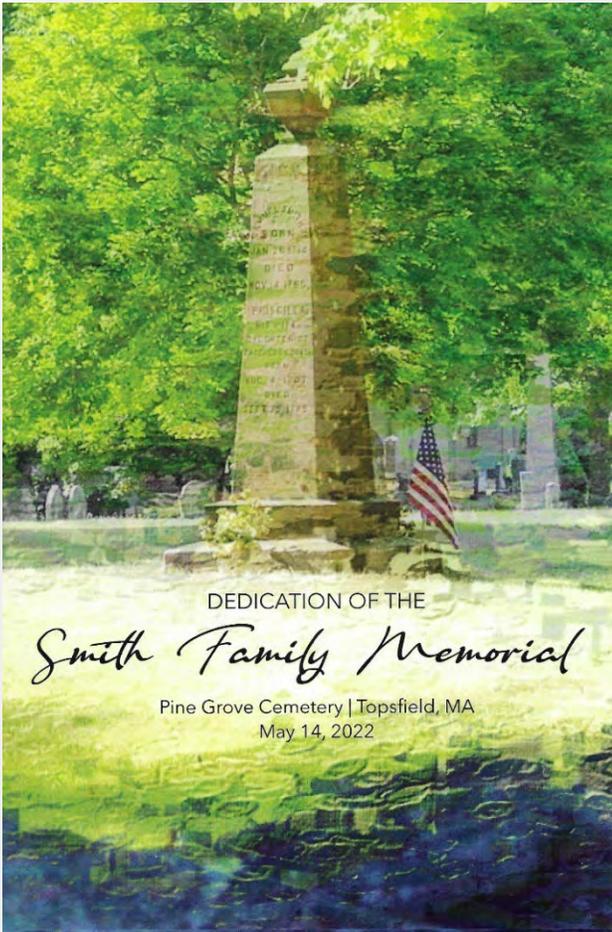


Ensign Peak Foundation – left to right: Kim Wilson, Michael L. Hutchings, Richard Turley, Jeffrey N. Walker, Richard N. W. Lambert, Monument, Robert S. Clark, Heidi Swinton, Steven B. Bain, Gerrit J. Dirkmaat, Larry King – Photo credit: Angela Dirkmaat



Ensign Peak Foundation - Left to right with spouses: Kim Wilson, Marlene Hutchings, Michael L. Hutchings, Shirley Turley, Richard Turley, Elizabeth Walker, Jeffrey N. Walker, Mary Lambert, Richard N. W. Lambert, Monument, Robert S. Clark, Wendy Clark, Jeffrey Swinton, Heidi Swinton, Steven B. Bain, Brooke Bain, Angela Dirkmaat, Gerrit J. Dirkmaat, Larry King– Photo credit: Angela Dirkmaat

Smith Family Memorial Program:



DEDICATION OF THE

Smith Family Memorial

Pine Grove Cemetery | Topsfield, MA
May 14, 2022

Introduction

The ancestral roots of Joseph Smith, Jr., the founder and prophet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, extended across two continents, North America and Europe. His many years, including his childhood, and his early years, were spent in the small town of Hallowell, Maine, and his family was one of the prominent ones in the town. The generations of Smiths lived in the town from the 17th century to the present. Joseph Smith, Jr. was born in Hallowell, Maine, on December 23, 1805. He was the first of a line of Smiths that included Joseph Smith, Sr. (1744-1828), Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844), Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844), and Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844).

The dedication of the Smith Family Memorial at the Pine Grove Cemetery in Hallowell on May 14, 2022, was a historic event for the town and a significant milestone for the Smith family. The memorial was dedicated by George A. Smith, Jr., the first of the Smith family to be born in the town of Hallowell, Maine, in 1805.

The memorial is located by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Hallowell, Maine, in 1805.

The memorial is the first of a line of Smiths that included Joseph Smith, Sr. (1744-1828), Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844), Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844), and Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844).

The George A. Smith Memorial - 1873

George A. Smith is the grandson of Joseph Smith, Jr. He was born in Hallowell, Maine, on December 23, 1805. He was the first of a line of Smiths that included Joseph Smith, Sr. (1744-1828), Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844), Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844), and Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844).

It was named in honor of George A. Smith, Jr., the first of the Smith family to be born in the town of Hallowell, Maine, in 1805. The memorial is located by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Hallowell, Maine, in 1805.

The Memorial in Sharon, Vermont - 1920

The Sharon Joseph Smith Memorial was dedicated on December 23, 1920, in Sharon, Vermont. It was the first of a line of Smiths that included Joseph Smith, Sr. (1744-1828), Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844), Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844), and Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844).

The memorial is located by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Sharon, Vermont, in 1920.

The Memorial in Northfield, Massachusetts - 2005

The Northfield Joseph Smith Memorial was dedicated on December 23, 2005, in Northfield, Massachusetts. It was the first of a line of Smiths that included Joseph Smith, Sr. (1744-1828), Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844), Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844), and Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844).

The memorial is located by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Northfield, Massachusetts, in 2005.

Smith Family Memorial DEDICATION PROGRAM

Pine Grove Cemetery, Topsfield, MA
May 14, 2022

Presiding: President M. Russell Ballard, Acting President, Chairman of the Twelve Apostles, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Conducting: Elder Richard S. Huthrie, Area Seventy, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Welcome: Sister Kathleen S. MacIntosh

Music: "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" sung by a Choir composed of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, under the direction of Eugene Furman, Area Seventy, piano

Invocation: Kim W. Berry, Chairman of the Board, Fringe Peak Foundation

Speaker: Anne Bank, President, Northfield Historical Society

Speaker: Heidi Sorenson, Board Member, Fringe Peak Foundation

Music: "Praise to the Man" by Will and W. Phelps, sung by the Choir

Speaker: Sister Kathleen S. MacIntosh, Area Seventy, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Music: "Joseph Smith's Feet" by George W. Van Dyke, Duane Sorenson and Shelby Poole, Isaac James, piano

Dedication: President M. Russell Ballard

Music: "Oh, How I Love Thee O, God for a Prophet" by Will and W. Phelps, sung by the Choir

Benediction: Gal. 3:1-2

Topfield Congregational Church - 2005

The Topfield Congregational Church was dedicated on December 23, 2005, in Topfield, Massachusetts. It was the first of a line of Smiths that included Joseph Smith, Sr. (1744-1828), Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844), Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844), and Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844).

The church is located by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Topfield, Massachusetts, in 2005.



The gathering had perfect weather for the dedication



Association Committee Member – Don Blanchard, Smith Family Member, Tiina Maughan, helped with planning events in Topsfield - Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Association Committee Members from left to right: Robert (Bob) Smith, Julie Maddox, Daniel Adams, Steve Orton, Mike Kennedy, Michael Jr. & Meagan Kennedy, Michael Nebeker, Daniel Larsen, Laura Blanchard, and Jared Glade. Sitting in front: Frances Orton, W. Emery Smith, and Karl Anderson. Photo provided by Daniel Adams.

Smith Family Memorial Dedication – Saturday, May 14, 2022

In the evening, the Smith Family drove to the Finz Restaurant at 86 Wharf Street in Salem, MA. A dinner was held for the Smith Family members and was also paid for by the same benefactor as Friday's dinner. This was more casual evening. We enjoyed wonderful sea food with a view of the ocean.



Siblings: Michael Nebeker, Susan Lowe, and Linda Erickson arranged for all the flower table decorations





View from the deck of Finz



Frances Orton was asked to welcome the Smith Family to this wonderful event. The opening prayer and blessing on the food was offered by Smith Family member, Richard Nelson.





The dinner was colorful and fun

Please Sign In

Susan Lowe
CARL & Joy Anderson
Stevie & Frances Orton
Emery & Pam Smith
Linda Erickson
Mike & Lisa Paulson
Sinda Bullendorf
Karl Anderson
Joan Anderson
Michael Nebeker
Dan Larsen
Rosemarie Larsen
Viv & Judi Dymally
David & Porriane Keating
Greg & Becky Smith
Tom Wilson
Richard & Elizabeth Nelson
Eliza & Richard Smith
Lynn & Boyd Mayhew
Mary Mayhew
Melissa & Brad Lennin
Jared & Shauna Glade
Michael A. Kennedy
Mike & Meghan Kennedy
Dave & Stacey McDonnell
George & Sunya Osborn

Lutann & Daniel Adams
John Moroz Smith (Dallas, Texas)
David & Micah Maddox & kids
Matthew & Julie Maddox
Kenny & Jill BRADY
Mark & DeAnne Studham
DAVE & MARY PINEGAR
Scott JOHNSON
Aisa Smith
Tina Mayhew
Don & Lona Blanchard
Jordan Boddy
Michael Kasler

Bob & Becky Smith
Rebecca & Lata Lambert
Jordan Langford
Alynn Lambert
Theresa McDowell
Virginia Fuller
Stacy & Troy Tammer
Matthew & Emily REYNOLDS
Rick Cochran
Sam James
Scott Lichus



Steve Orton made a few announcements and then introduced the speaker, Daniel Adams



Daniel Adams – Smith Family Committee speaking to the group

Smith History in Salem from the Ensign Peak Foundation Website:

UNION STREET, SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS



Union Street, Salem, MA. Photo (2009) by Kenneth Mays.

In the summer of 1836, Joseph Smith, Hyrum Smith, Sidney Rigdon, and Oliver Cowdery journeyed to Salem, Massachusetts, arriving in early August. While in Salem, the group rented a house on Union Street. It is believed that the group stayed in Salem about a month. They were to raise money and “preach the gospel door to door and in public meetings.” Salem was a city of about 15,000 residents at the time.



Union Street, Salem, MA. Photo (2009) by Kenneth Mays.

The exact address of the house they stayed in is uncertain, but the street is only about a block long so the location of the site is narrowed down considerably. On August 6, 1836, perhaps while he was in the Union Street house, the Prophet received a revelation which is now section 111 of the Doctrine and Covenants. Sidney Rigdon, Oliver Cowdery, and Hyrum Smith were at a museum, allowing Joseph to possibly be alone in the rented house. The heading to section 111 explains that this group of brethren was there because they had heard from a man named Jonathan Burgess “that a large amount of money would be available to them in Salem.” That resource was not obtained, but the Lord explained that “there are more treasures than one for you in this city.” (D&C 111:10.)

This insight was better understood, at least in part, in the subsequent conversions of many new members five years later as well as the discovery of valuable family history information in the area.

OWNERSHIP STATUS

Union Street is a public road in Salem, MA and open to all. However, all the homes and businesses are privately owned. Nothing is open for tours. It is not known where on this street the Joseph Smith stayed while in Salem. Consequently, there is no way to determine whether or not that structure is still extant. However, it is known that several of the structures on Union Street were standing in 1836 when the Prophet and his party stayed in Salem.

Smith Family Invitation to Sunday Service at the Congregational Church



Congregational Church Chancel Choir and Smith Family Sing Together

For the Beauty of the Earth by John Rutter
Under the direction of Music Director, Kim Karchenes
Pianist, Isaac James
Sunday, May 15, 2022
Photo: Congregational Church



Congregational Church Chancel Choir and Smith Family Sing Together

For the Beauty of the Earth by John Rutter
Under the direction of Music Director, Kim Karchenes
Pianist, Isaac James



A Day of Fellowship

Sunday, May 15th, we left at 8:15 and walked to the Congregational Church. Our family was meeting with the church choir to practice singing at 9:00. Everyone had to wear a mask.



Before the choir began to practice, Linda Erickson, Frances Orton, and Michael Nebeker discuss items before the service



Church News: *“Reflecting interfaith unity, the Congregational Church of Topsfield invited President Ballard’s son, Craig, who is a member of the Young Men general board, to speak at their worship services on Sunday morning. He expressed gratitude on behalf of President Ballard “for the warm welcome that [the Smith] family [has] received and continue to receive in Topsfield. This is true Christianity.” Fifty Smith descendants participated in the worship services and were invited to sing with the choir. It was the first-time descendants of the Smith family had attended the Congregational Church in more than 200 years.”*

During the service, Amy A. Bruch, Associate Minister for the Congregational Church used a quote in her message from Pastor John Robinson to the Pilgrims on their farewell journey.

"[Robinson] charged us before God and his blessed Angels, to follow him no further then he followed Christ.

And if God should reveal anything to us by any other instrument of his, to be as ready to receive it, as ever we were to receive any truth by his Ministry: For he was very confident the Lord had more truth and light yet to break forth out of his holy Word." (Words of John Robinson, Old South Leaflets. No. 142.)



Michael Nebeker addressing the Congregational Church and Smith Family with Amy A. Bruch, Associate Minister attending remotely

Michael Nebeker made some remarks after thanking this community for leaving their lights on: “We have received nothing but kindness in this town. Rick and I have been collaborating as many others have been on this project for many years. The warm welcome that we have felt in this village is truly remarkable. I would like to read a scripture out of Corinthians. It is my favorite scripture.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 *“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”

As a young man, reading this scripture growing up, I always thought that these were promises to come in the next life. I was not prepared for the feelings and impressions that I have felt this weekend.

Being in the midst of fellow saints, thank you for your devotion to Christ. Your devotion to faith. Your devotion to liberty and our righteous way of life in the United States of America.

Thank you for being here. You are always welcome to come out West. Our doors are open to you in our homes throughout Utah and elsewhere. I pray that God's spirit is with you always.

I say these things in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, Amen."



Craig Ballard, Smith Family Association Trustee, at the Congregational Church and Smith Family with Amy A. Bruch, Associate Minister on the screen



Craig Ballard addressing the Sunday morning group

Craig Ballard, "Good morning. I am here on behalf of my father who is 93 years old and had another commitment at the same time this morning. He wants all of you to know how grateful he is for the warm welcome we have received and continue to receive here in Topsfield.

This is true Christianity. There is so much more that unites us than divides us. When we have these opportunities to work together, worship together, and enjoy things together we can see there is more that unites us.

This church has been the spiritual sanctuary for five generations of Smiths. This is where the believing blood of the Smith Family was developed and grown and nurtured. This is where they learned to love their Savior, Jesus Christ.

Joseph Smith Sr. was able to put that same love into the hearts of his children, including Joseph Smith Jr. Who was

the founder and prophet of our church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

There is so much we can look to in this wonderful part of this world, in you and the great people of Topsfield that we can be grateful for in nurturing and developing the believing blood.

I want to share one quote with you that I found inspiring. It is a quote by a Frenchman, Alexis de Tocqueville. He wrote:

"I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her fertile fields and boundless forests, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her rich mines and her vast world commerce, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her public school system and her institutions of learning, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution, and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great."

That is a telling statement. I think we see a lot of this happening right now. You are good. We all want to do good and do what the Savior has asked us to do. Love each other, help each other, bless each other's lives, and try to be His disciples,

I want to leave my testimony; I know Jesus Christ lives. I know He is our Savior and redeemer. That He and only He has the path to eternal life and salvation. I am grateful for that testimony and leave it with you in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen."

Craig asked Daniel Adams to bring up the gift from the Smith Family.



Daniel Adams and Craig Ballard present the painting with Amy A. Bruch, Associate Minister attending electronically

Daniel Adams brought a framed painting and explained, “The Smith Family has an Association. I am Dan Adams and as part of Smith Family Association, we cannot adequately express the gratitude and thanks that we have. Our hearts have overflowed while we have been here. We had a Smith Family Member who is an artist paint a picture of Topsfield in the 1760’s. The homes that are surrounding the Topsfield Congregational Church.

Daniel read the words on the painting and then said, “We are presenting this to your congregation and community and on the back, it is signed with the members of the Smith Family Association and also Smith descendants. This is a small token of a debt of gratitude that we feel. Thank you.”



Left to right: Karl Anderson, Executive Secretary of the Joseph Smith Sr and Lucy Mack Smith Family Association, Michael Nebeker (Smith Association Committee), Craig Ballard (Smith Association Trustee), Daniel Adams (Smith Association Committee), Tony Rogers (Topsfield Church Moderator), Steven and Frances Orton (Trustee & Chair of Activities of Joseph Smith Sr and Lucy Mack Smith Family Association) and Emery Smith (Smith Association Treasurer). Photo credit: SWhelan.



Daniel Adams and Craig Ballard showing the family signatures on the back of the painting





Larry Atkins - Pastoral Care

Larry Atkins began, I have been living across the street from your family for years. They are a quiet bunch. Before COVID, each summer, we would have a bus come through and it was always in the morning. They get you people up early. It is usually a Saturday. They go over and at that time look at the grave. Now they really have something to see. Whoever did that work needs to be commended. It is absolutely beautiful.

I spent time over there this morning, very early. The birds were singing such a gorgeous song. They were so happy to be alive and start a new day.

I am a member of this church. I have worked a long time with caretakers. I have always admired our caregivers. Unfortunately, I generally meet families under a lot of stress. It is a very emotional time. Some of those folks have been in hospice and for some things are coming to a close. The caregivers are experiencing fatigue. Some wonder why and ask God why he is doing this to them. There are not easy answers but basically, God is on your side. He is crying bigger tears than you are.

I was looking for a good definition of what a caregiver is. I heard a story of a veterinarian. As he went to work, he saw a homeless man with his dog. He could see his dog was sick. He asked what he could do. He brought medications to help the dog. That to me is a definition of a caregiver too.

I came across something the Smith Family might enjoy. One of your first counselors gave a talk years ago about care giving. He said there are three things important in care giving:

- Care for each other
- Teach each other and be taught
- Sit down

I have a fourth one – curiosity.

Sometimes your loved one might be suffering from dementia and that can be hard. Serving those people and letting them get away can be important.

Moses' mother placed him in a basket and put him in the river. He floated to safety. A princess became a care giver to Moses. That is probably the first time that caregiving we mentioned in the bible.

Jesus told his disciple to serve those around them.

Some people take advantage of others for their own benefit. At this church we have done a good job of trying to take care of each other. I believe care givers have so much hope for those they are caring for.

I think about all the people who have come through this church since 1850. What was this church like a hundred years ago? No indoor plumbing, no indoor lights, a potbelly stove to warm them, they probably sat with heated bricks under blankets to keep them warm. They came because they had hope for the future and a belief in God.

You are welcome if you know a lot or just a little – you are welcome. We are excited to have the smith's here. Five generations here. It wasn't easy to live here in the New England area.

We have a parish care team and they work quietly. We offer phone calls and prayers. Shirley Moses was a dynamo who got things done in the nicest and quietest way. There are a lot of Shirley Moses' out there. Taking meals over to people because we care. We have been involved with helping refugees settled. You folks from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have a big mission. I was talking with some of your missionaries yesterday and they are serving a year. (Oh, it's two years.) Ok.

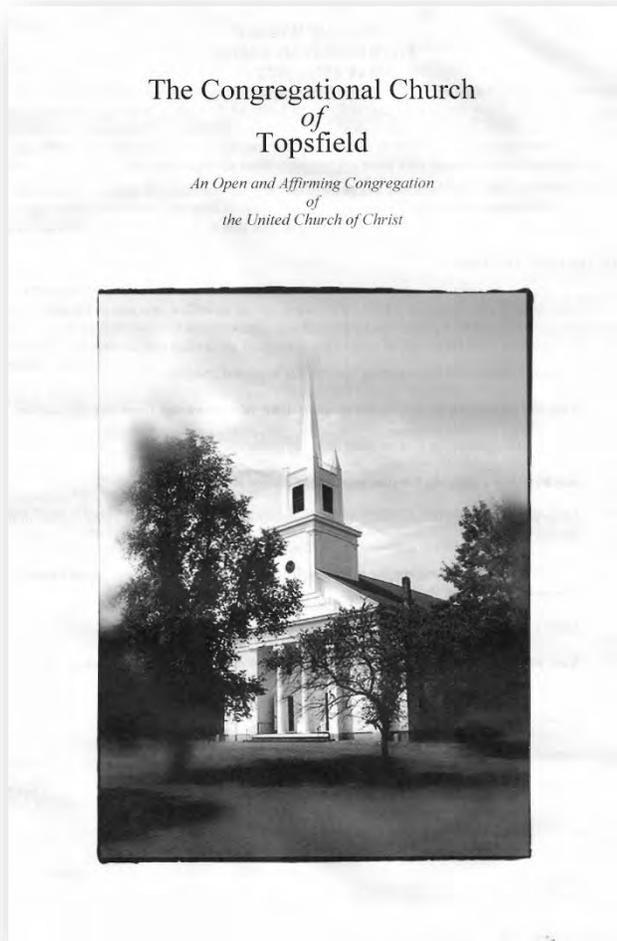
Let us not forget who we are and where we are going.

During prayers and celebration:

Prayer time. A Congregational Church member, Edward (aka Ed) Jelinek, stood and said, "I would like to offer thanks for the fellowship we share with the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on this historic occasion. Thank you for coming and worshipping with us. I want you to know that the town of Topsfield has and will be forever a refuge to you. Thank you to the Smith Family for helping us grow the town of Topsfield. That this church that was helped to be founded by Robert Smith in 1663 will always be a sanctuary to you. I say that on behalf of the church and on behalf of the town. Welcome. We will always leave the light of for you, Michael."

Rick Cochran stood and said, "Today is my birthday and I can't think of a better place to be than with all of you." He also shared his gratitude to the people of Topsfield and the Congregational Church.

The service program:



UNISON PRAYER:		
O Holy One		
Thank You for this Sunday. Lord, we come before you first and foremost with hearts of gratitude. You have seen us through another week, and we stand at the threshold of a fresh week, full of new beginnings. Lord, help us start this bright embarking with You. Stir in us a deep desire to come into further relationship with You. Remind us that it is not solely by going to Sunday service that we worship and come before You; rather, it is through the daily <i>communion</i> with You through relationship and prayer. Highlight to us how we may be obedient to Your call and heart. Embrace us with Your love, oh Lord, for we desperately desire to know You and to feel Your love around us. Give us a hunger for Your Word and truth, oh Lord. Help us begin our week this day in preparation through contemplation and connection with You. Amen.		
THE LORD'S PRAYER		
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.		
SHARING OUR GIFTS		
THE OFFERTORY	"Morning Reverie"	David Paslow
THE DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION		
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him* all creatures here below; praise Him* above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost** Amen		
*You may substitute God Her **You may substitute Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost		
SCRIPTURE	Psalms 23, Mark 10:41-45 (NRSV) View page 4	Dolly McIvaine, Lay Reader
ANTHEM	"For the Beauty of the Earth" Chancel Choir and Smith Family members	John Rutter
SERMON TITLE	"Reaching Out - A Caregiver's Story"	Larry Atkins
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE		
CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS		
SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION		
PASTORAL PRAYER		
CLOSING HYMN	"Sweet Hour of Prayer" View page 5	SWEET HOUR
Hymn #496 (Methodist Hymnal)		



We welcome today, Isaac James, a nationally acclaimed and accomplished classical pianist, who has performed throughout the United States. He is currently the Music Director at the Punta Gorda Congregational United Church of Christ in Florida and the manager at the Gulf Theatre at the Military Heritage Museum.

We also welcome today, the Smith Family members, for joining the Chancel Choir and singing "For the Beauty of the Earth."

SERVING THIS MORNING

Polly Croteau, Carolyn Detato Dolly McIvaine Robert Knutsen David Larson	<i>Alvin Guald</i> Lay Reader <i>David Usher</i> Usher
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Senior Minister Martin Rickett, 978-887-2101 martin@topfieldchurch.org	Communications & Office Manager Kim Love, 978-887-2101 kim@topfieldchurch.org
Associate Minister For Children & Youth Ministry Amy A. Brock, 978-887-2101 amy@topfieldchurch.org	Children & Youth Ministry Assistant Barbara Merriman barbamerriman@topfieldchurch.org
Music Director and Organist Kim Karchettes, 978-887-2101 kimk@topfieldchurch.org	Jay Ed Nokes Preschool Yvonne Reine, 978-887-2018 jed@topfieldchurch.org

The Congregational Church of Topsfield
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The Smiths were invited to treats with cranberry juice and lemonade and fellowship on the Congregational Church lawn



Rosemarie & Dan Larsen, Michael Nebeker, and two Congregational Church members Robert (aka Bob) Knutsen and Edward (aka Ed) Jelinek visiting after the service



In front middle is John Smith with the George Albert Smith Family Association



So many yummy treats along with cranberry juice and lemonade were provided for everyone to enjoy during the mingling outside the church building on the green lawn





Larry Atkins met afterward with Steve and Frances Orton and other committee members to hear the history of the Smith Family lilacs



Larry Atkins was presented with Smith Lilac mementos for Larry, Minister Martin Riekert, and Associate Minister Amy A. Bruch presented by Frances & Steve Orton, Laura Blanchard, Karl & Joyce Anderson



Smith Family Lilac bookmark made by Debbie Nelson and her daughter, Courtney Nelson



The Smith Family gathered outside the Topsfield Congregational Church after services – Sunday, May 15, 2022 - Photo credit: SWhelan.