

50TH REUNION—TREASURED CONNECTIONS

Facing death, Father Smith penned these words to his *Dear Children*: “Live together in an undivided bond of Love.” He urged them to continue to meet “if possibly once Evry year [sic].”

By 1972, the Smith descendants were scattered not only across the United States but across the globe to Australia. Non-family member Buddy Youngreen became interested in the Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith family, began identifying cousins, and encouraged the first Smith Family Reunion in Nauvoo in 1972. Descendants gathered at the Old Homestead overlooking the Mississippi, reminisced over scraggly lilac bushes, and began getting acquainted.

Since then, cousins have continued gathering at various locations. Granite tombstones have been placed for Father and Mother Smith at the cemetery next to the Old Homestead. The family has also beautified the cemetery and added a newer marker for Joseph Jr., Emma, and Hyrum.

In August 2022, 340 family members



gathered for the 50th golden reunion in Nauvoo and made and renewed treasured connections. Frances and Steve Orton, reunion presidents, honored those who attended the first reunion 1972. Beautiful lilac bushes grace the edge of the granite markers for Joseph, Emma, and Hyrum. Lilacs are a favored family flower planted at various Smith locations. Debbie and Courtney Nelson pressed lilac petals from family gardens and then presented lilac necklaces and keychains to those who attended the first reunion.

Lilac mementos were also made available to family members. Suzanne Jones said her necklace “helped me feel a connection to our wonderful grandmothers that I’ve not sensed before, and for that, I’m immensely grateful.”

Joseph Fredrick Smith, a great-grandson of Joseph Jr., and John Smith, a great-grandson of Hyrum were acknowledged as the oldest living descendants at the reunion.

Joseph asked John Smith, “How old are you?” Then, after they spoke their ages out loud for everyone to hear, Joseph boldly said with good volume, “You are older than me. Bless you!” Joseph then grabbed John in a firm hug and said again, “Bless you.”



John (89) left and Joseph (87) right

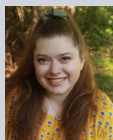
In 1991 Lois Smith Larsen (Joseph Jr.’s descendant) and Donna Lee Frogley (Hyrum’s descendant), Joseph and Hyrum descendants, joined together to place a wreath at

...*Treasured Connections* p. 3

2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



First Place
Laura Nelson



The Smith Family:
Lives of Gratitude



Second Place
Samantha Lowe



Emma Smith
Barn Quilt



Third Place
Luke Deibel



Families
are
Forever

SCHOLARSHIP DUE DATE JUNE 15, 2023 WIN UP TO \$1,000!

Winners will be announced at the Moroni Day Fireside, September 21, 2023

www.josephsmithsr.org/scholarship/

TOPSFIELD MONUMENT DEDICATED 2022

"Never lose sight of those who laid the groundwork and built the paths that have led to light and truth that has now been available to those who would be willing to seek it and find it, embrace it and join it," President Ballard said when he dedicated the monument in May 2022.

In 2020, the Ensign Peak Foundation* placed a 14,000 pound obelisk granite monument in the Pine Grove Cemetery in Topsfield, home to five generations of Smiths: Robert, a 14-year-old indentured servant who immigrated to America; Samuel, Samuel II, Asael, and Joseph Smith Sr.

In 1873 George A. Smith placed a monument honoring the two Samuels. The new monument updates and expands historical information.

Family members joined civic and religious leaders and friends at the dedication and attended the Topsfield Congregational Church.

*A private company dedicated to preserving and hallowing sacred sites.

newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/president-ballard-smith-monument-ministry-massachusetts

DAGUERREOTYPE DISCOVERY THE REAL JOSEPH SMITH ?

Isn't it every child's dream to discover a lost treasure that peeks into the past? Daniel Larsen may have done just that. In 1992 Larsen's mother, Lois Smith Larsen, daughter of Frederick Madison Smith, RLDS Church President, and son of Joseph Smith III, bequeathed him some family heirlooms. One was a pocket watch with a Joseph Smith III monogram. The second was a similar but smaller locket. The locket was gold plated, about 1 1/2", and had a jammed mechanism. He secured these in a safe for later perusal.

In 2020, he came across the keepsake items and grew curious. This time he forced open the locket and discovered a picture, a daguerreotype. Larsen said, "I looked at it and I looked at it and saw those eyes. I told my wife to come in and look at this. We looked at it and...almost at the



Copyright by Dan Larsen

same time said, "This is a photo of Joseph Smith." quoted from Trent Toone's article "Does an image of Joseph Smith exist? What one descendant found in a forgotten family heirloom" in the Deseret News.

Dan Larsen then emailed a photo of the image to his nephew, Lachlan Mackay, avid historian and Community of Christ Apostle. Mackay shared the image with the Community of Christ historian and archivist Ron Romig, and they began to investigate the provenance and possibility that the daguerreotype could be the earliest image of Joseph Smith. They spent the next two years working to authenticate the daguerreotype before their public announcement.

To view details of the authentication process (expert analysis, historical research, facial recognition software, forensic artist & overlays and cutaways): and to see pictures, see:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVpwIOViIuw

IN LOVING MEMORY



We are truly saddened by the loss of LAURA BLANCHARD, a data steward with the Smith Family Organization since 2010. Laura passed away on December 19, 2022.

WITH GRATITUDE

We extend heartfelt gratitude and recognition to RALPH as Trustee and ELIZABETH SMITH for their work with the Smith Family Organization since 2019.

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to W. EMERY SMITH for his work as organization treasurer.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mary Fielding Smith's Cottage Gardens at This Is The Place Heritage Park, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Volunteers are needed to weed at the Mary Fielding Smith cottage once a week during the spring/summer. We thank Cornell & Ruth Porter and Debbie Porter Nelson for caring for the garden since 2012. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Debbie: debbienelson5@msn.com.

IDIG NAUVOO

May 16, 2023–June 16, 2023. For information or to register, see <https://idignauvoo.legacyshare.org/>



HERITAGE TOURS

Join Us! September 13-18, 2023 Smith Family Historic New England Sites Tour. Call Mormon Heritage Tours at 801-272-5601.

Treasured Connections Continued...

the granite markers of Father and Mother Smith. This August, Zoe and Chloe, descendants of Lois Smith Larsen and of Joseph Jr. and Emma, again placed a wreath.



Zoe and Chloe Mackay de Riordan

And on the grounds of Joseph and Emma's Mansion home, youth and families also helped build a split rail fence between the Mansion Home and Sidney Rigdon's property. "The kids participated with joy.

To realize they actually put up a fence on Joseph Smith's property is something they'll remember all their lives," said Bob Smith, Samuel H. Smith descendant. The family service project also included painting fence panels to surround a garden behind the Mansion House wing—part of the Smith Family Gardens Phase I Project.

Family members visited local sites, enjoyed meals and visiting together, and were able to join the idigNauvoo archaeological project at the Hyrum Smith office site.

Were Father and Mother Smith looking on, would not they have seen their posterity together in an "undivided bond of love?"

See the painting and building of the split rail fence www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kdX1sXYIRo



"Building the split rail fence."

Tucker Jensen

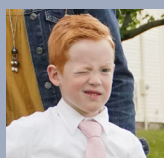


Boyd Nebeker, pitmaster, roasting the pig for lunch.

*"All the meals—
THE PIG!"*

Declan Maddox

PLEASE HELP US BY DONATING!



"Psssst"



"Yeah you"



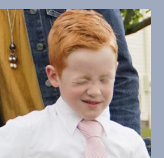
"Family?"



"Awight!"



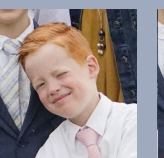
"Wanna..."



"...donate?"



"le sigh"



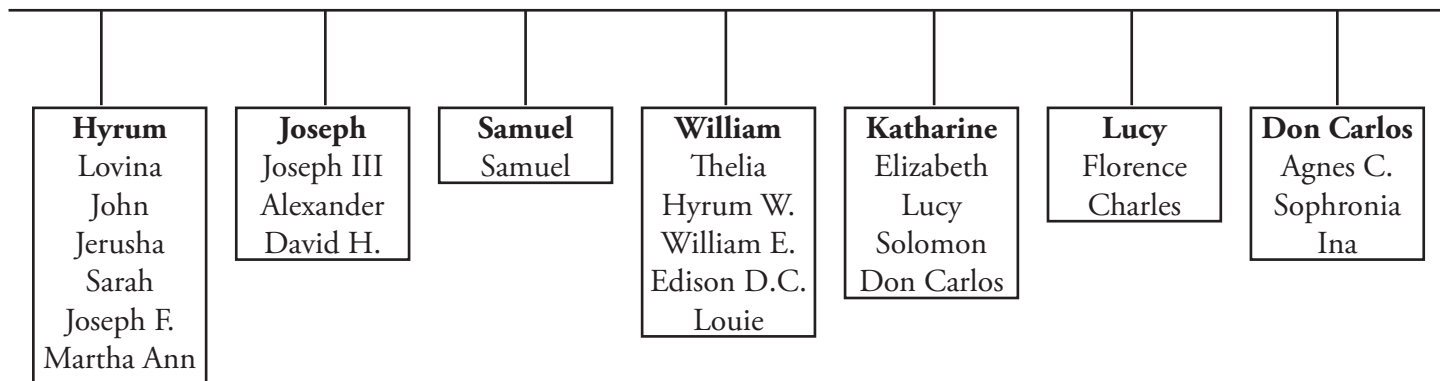
"Thanks!"



"See ya, Cuz"

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200TH ANNIVERSARY OF MORONI'S VISIT

DANIEL ADAMS

200 years ago, 17-year-old Joseph Smith was under constant and severe persecution for claiming he had seen God and Jesus Christ—persecution intended to make him deny that vision or any heavenly manifestation—persecution which under any other circumstance would have closed the heavens! Yet in this very environment, young Joseph announced a second remarkable vision, one in which the promised messenger of the Lord had come to prepare the way for the long- prophesied restoration.

As is the pattern of restoration, this messenger quoted several Biblical prophecies and stated that they were beginning to be fulfilled, of angels appearing to men, old men having remarkable dreams, young men



Painting by Jorge Cocco

having glorious visions and power and truth coming to the earth once more!

This messenger called himself Moroni and spoke of a new book of scripture, its translation, and of Joseph's role in this restoration. This visit was so critical that Moroni repeated it three times over the course of the night and again the next day.

Despite Hell's intensifying fury, the heavens were forever opened,

God stood revealed, and man could finally know his purpose and destiny! Moroni and other angelic visitors would now mentor Joseph as the restoration unfolded and which, as Moroni prophesied, is now filling the world.



**JOIN US Thursday, September
21, 2023 for the Family Fireside**
www.JosephSmithSr.org



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