

# Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Reunion

## Saturday Morning, August 2, 2014

Joy Ercanbrack wrote about the Saturday morning children's activities, "Younger children first met with "Grandma Lucy" portrayed by Renee Park who taught them about her family history and events of the restoration. They learned she painted tablecloths and other linens to help support their large family. The children were able to color a keepsake pillowcase with three quilt block stars named for three states where the Smiths had lived Ohio, Missouri, and Illinois. The top of the pillowcase was printed with the words: "Smith, our family is a patchwork of love".

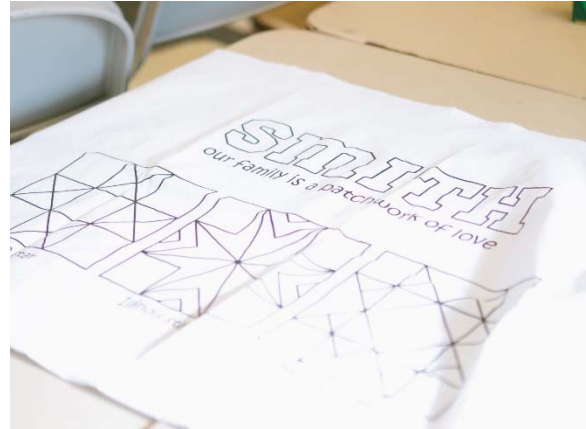


Renee Park dressed as Grandma Lucy was wearing a replica apron like the one that was used by Mary Duty

During the 2011 Kirtland Reunion a pattern was measured and made for anyone wishing to make a "pocket" like this. ([For Pattern click here.](#)) The pocket history was written in \*Edith Smith Patrick's handwriting – "A pocket worn by Mary Duty Smith: wife of Asael Smith; grandmother of Joseph and Hyrum.

*She removed it when she went to bed for the last time, in Kirtland. She hung it on the post of the bed where it hung when she passed away at the age of 93, May 27, 1836. At her bed side were her son Joseph and her grandson's Hyrum and Joseph all of whom she loved dearly and was very proud.*

[\*Edith Smith Patrick, was grand-daughter of Hyrum Smith and great-grand-daughter of Mary Duty Smith. Property of Loretta Richards Neil of Sandy, Utah who is a great-great-great granddaughter of Mary Duty Smith.]



Joy continued, "Following the theme "Walking in their Shoes" each teenager brought a pair of canvas sneakers. Using fabric markers we drew icons on the shoes to represent important events and places to the Smith family. For example three trees helped us remember Joseph's experience in the Sacred Grove and a ship for our Smith ancestor who sailed on the Mayflower. Other icons included lilacs, a wagon wheel, and the Book of Mormon. We discussed the value of empathy and how picturing one-self in another's shoes fills you with compassion and perspective for their place in history."



The adult meetings began with a song and opening prayer by Diane Griffin Pulver. Then Steve and Frances Orton welcomed the family and introduced the first speaker, Richard G Moore, who shared insights on the strength of Emma Smith.

[Click for Richard Moore's complete message.](#)



Richard Moore

You can read more about Richard Moore on page 10 of our [online agenda](#).

After Richard's talk the family took a 15 minute break to stretch and gather the children and youth from their activities.

Then we gained a great respect for Joseph Smith III from the historical sketch given by Lach Mackay.



Lach Mackay

Lach Mackay was able to bring to life family stories many of which were in Joseph Smith III's own words. Lach said, "Though small snippets of DNA connect us I believe it is shared stories that unite us as a family."

Lach told us one of his favorite Joseph Smith III stories in the words of Joseph Smith III, "There was an explosion and Joseph Smith III steps out quickly to survey the damage. A 15 to 20 pound rock is in the air with other debris and it comes down and brushes the brim of his hat as it comes past and lands at his feet. Occasionally I like to pause and ponder what the world would have been like if he had been a step faster. Then to think about the importance of every step we take. In this case, the hundreds of thousands of lives that would have been different had he not survived that incident. If you think too hard and too long about the importance of every step and the impact on future generations then you might get paralyzed and you cannot move at all."

[Lach Mackay's full talk.](#)



Kim Smith, Bryan Davis, Abby Carter set the tone through music



A recorded audiovisual message of unity and friendship was given by Elder M. Russell Ballard

The meeting closed with a prayer by Don Lee.



Christin & Lach Mackay, Anina & John Luff, Rosemarie & Dan Larsen, Mary & Fred Larsen operated the local reunion logistics



Lani & Richard Moore, Lach & Christin Mackay, Frances & Steve Orton worked on the reunion program



## 2014 Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Reunion Photo

The family walked to The Church of Christ Temple Lot for an outside family photo commemorating 183 years since the temple lot was dedicated on August 3, 1831 by Joseph Smith, Jr

# Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Reunion Saturday Evening, August 2, 2014

The family was welcomed and greeted Saturday evening by Daniel Larsen. Dan introduced their special friends, Bruce and Diane Priday and Jim Hexby. He also thanked Mary, Fred Larsen's wife, and Rosemarie, his wife, for putting the family banquet meal together. Steve Orton then introduced the program and Gwen Lee opened with prayer.



Steve Orton introduced the program



Joy Ercanbrack and Frances Orton presented the shoes and money to help the Women's Refuge a home that helps young mothers get back on their feet



Don & Lara Blanchard putting finishing touches on the shoes being given to the Women's Refuge



Ronald Porter using this old fun organ for our opening song



A view from the stage looking out over the family banquet



Looking toward the stage



Charlie and Pam Robison did a presentation on Joseph Smith III and his daughter Audentia



Fred Larsen sharing a message of understanding and friendship



Fred Larsen showed Liz Lemon Swindle's painting of Emma on the Ice which was a gift to him and is his favorite painting

Fred Larsen mentioned ways the family is bonded. He said, *"By history, by doctrine, and by family."*

*"We are bonded by our history there isn't any question about that. ... We are also bonded by similar elements of our religious doctrine. ... We may not all agree on the basics of the doctrines but we are respectful of our differences."*

Fred asked us all, *"Can we really walk in their shoes? There is a challenge."* Emma was Fred's great-great grandmother and she was among the saints forced to cross the frozen Mississippi River. *"Just think about the faith it must have taken to step on that ice carrying her eight-month old baby and two year old son, while the others hung to her skirts?"*

### Fred Larsen's speech.

At the end of the evening, Kim Smith and Bryan Davis sang a musical number Precious Memories while showing a slide show of past family reunion gatherings. Norine Garrett ended the evening with a closing prayer.

Each family member was given a token to remember our time "Walking in their Shoes."



The card words were penned by Joy Ercanbrack with love:

*"As our time in Missouri draws to a close, we wish to remember our ancestors and rejoice in new family relationships. We've learned details about the lives of Joseph and Lucy's children and grandchildren. We've seen artifacts that illustrate their stories, visited Liberty Jail, and stood on sacred temple lots."*

*"Our modern-day shoes can represent a real connection to this history. When you tie your shoelaces, think about how you are joined to the Smith family. Perhaps you will want to remember them by writing your name on one end of a shoelace; then add names of previous generations (your parent, grandparents, etc.) until you finish with the son or daughter of Joseph and Lucy who is your direct ancestor. How will you honor this family tie?"*

*"Family ties are precious threads."*