

New England Heritage

Wednesday, September 20, 2006
10:58 AM



20 September 2006

Asael Smith- literally believed that when Jehovah gave Moses the 10 commandments he wanted to put in 11, and the 11th was "mind your own business."

Wanted his faults to die with him and his virtues to live on in his children.

Believed in revelation. Received a revelation that said that one of his posterity would revolutionize religious thought.

Joseph Smith Sr. gave his father, Asael Smith a copy of the Book of Mormon on his deathbed.

Solomon Mack- very accident prone. Caught in a mill wheel twice. Concluded that all doctors are quacks. Discovers a great truth- when he prays his pain is lessened. Wrote a book, called the Narrative. Much written in poetry (awful poetry). Talks twice about having seen a pillar of light and hearing his name called.

Joseph came from a family with gifts of the spirit and believed in revelation. Otherwise, what might have happened when he came home with the story of the first vision?

Joseph Smith Sr. & Lucy Mack met in Tonbridge, Vermont. Lucy was coming to live with a brother, she had just lost one of her sisters and was coming to sorta forget about it.

Joseph Smith Sr. has 7 revelatory dreams before Joseph's first vision. All of them occurred when he was sleeping, each time a messenger dressed in white comes to see him and takes him somewhere where they have a dialogue. The third dream is in a place called Lebanon, New Hampshire and shows him a box and says the time to see what is in the box is not yet, and is told that the fullness of the gospel is contained within it. The seventh vision he is taken to a low beautiful valley where there is just one tree. Follows a rope down to it, there is on the tree a chestnut burr covered fruit, but when the burr is peeled away the fruit is white. Much like the Tree of Life vision, except all of his children are there and they all feast on the fruit.

"The History of Joseph Smith by his Mother" by Lucy Mack Smith contains the accounts of his father's visions.

Lucy Mack Smith when desperately sick makes a covenant with the Lord that she will teach her children to fear God. Said she heard a voice, that says "seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you."

Lucy was very concerned about her husband not being baptized, goes out into the woods to pray where she says she always gets an answer. However, she doesn't get an answer this time. The next night she dreamed about 2 trees, one that turned to marble in the wind and one enjoys the breeze. The breeze is the true gospel and the trees are Joseph Smith Sr. & his brother.

For Joseph Smith Sr. & Lucy Mack's wedding Lucy's brother gives them \$1000, which Joseph Sr. said Lucy could keep as her private purse. Later Lucy gives him the money to pay off a debt. They are broke. They go back to Lucy's parents house in Sharon, Vermont. They rented part of the farm but they would leave when the farm sold. Joseph was born in this cabin in Sharon, Vermont. Joseph Adam Dennison- the doctor who birthed Joseph- wrote in his log for that day "If I had known what that baby was to become I would have smothered the cuss."

Joseph Sr. would work in the Spring - Fall as a wheat farmer but would work as a schoolteacher in the winter. He is a renter from 1803-1818 when he moves to Palmyra, New York. At one point they are living in Lebanon, New Hampshire. In towns they are always worried about epidemics because they could wipe out towns. In Lebanon they had Typhus go through. Sapphronia is the first to get it, quarantines their home. Every child in the family gets typhus. When the fever ends usually you get a blister somewhere on your body. None of the children had residual effects from the illness except for Joseph Smith Jr. He got a blister on his right shoulder blade. It was massive, his mom said that a pint of puss came out of this blister. They treated this blister by heating up a shovel and then putting it on the blister. Later another blister shows up above his left ankle. After that a bunch more blisters show up and his leg bone is infected. The doctor goes to Dartmouth college to get some help. The doctor who came from Dartmouth was named Nathan Smith who brought along 11 interns to check this case out. The doctors say his foot will have to be amputated, however the Smiths' ask if there's any alternative. They have a new surgery that they want to try. There are two different accounts of the surgery, one says he is taken to Dartmouth for surgery and the other says he is kept at home for the surgery. The story of it being at home is from Lucy Mack Smith. After the surgery Joseph was very reduced in health. They take him to the sea for his health. During his life 14 pieces of bone come out through the original incision. He is on crutches for the next four years which helped him develop a very strong upper body. He loved to wrestle and play pulling sticks.