

## "Follies of Youth"

Wednesday, September 27, 2006  
11:00 AM

On Main Street in Palmyra the blacksmith's shop was the "cool" place to hang out in town because they built all of the guns. If you're a boy... sweet! The Blacksmith's name was Zachary Brown. One day while they were hanging out there, a circuit rider rode into town and as he's shouting out what he's gonna tell. The blacksmith pulls out Joseph Smith and tells the guy (mockingly) that Joseph already knew more and he should just move on.

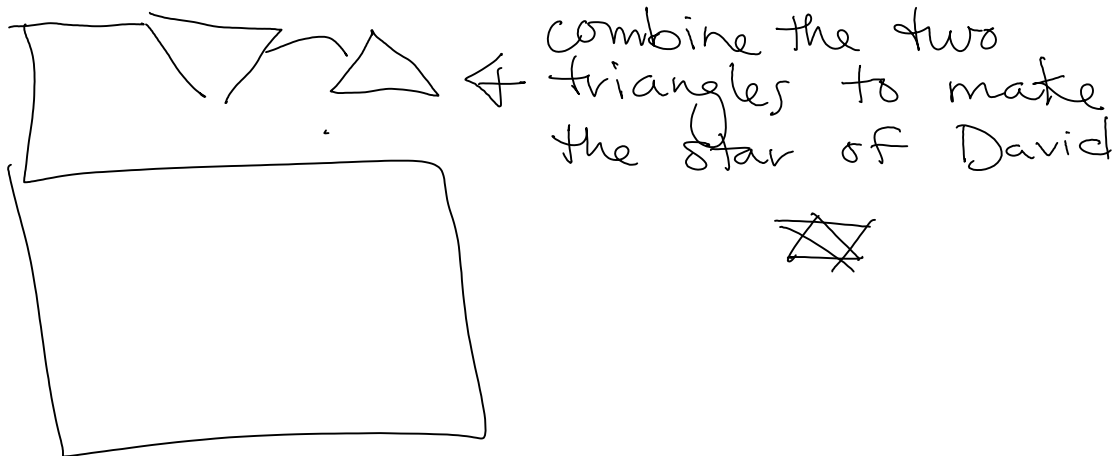
Joseph's best friend was Orrin Porter Rockwell. They both had leg operations so they both had a limp. They both were teased in school. Orrin's voice never changed and he would be a great soprano, and Joseph's being teased because of what he said he'd seen. Joseph continues to be an errand boy for his mom. Orrin would come with him. One day they were trespassing through a neighbor's farm. They heard a woman screaming and the sound of a whip, so they decide to get close to see what is happening. They find the neighbor farmer whipping his wife. Orrin says we should get out of here. Joseph says they should stay to stop the farmer. The farmer & his wife want them to leave. Joseph says he will not leave until the man stops beating his wife. They get in a big fight, Joseph wins, and the neighbor says he will never beat his wife again if Joseph doesn't tell anyone in town that it was him who beat the guy up.

"moroni day" September 21, 1823, Joseph is praying and the first thing he sees is a light. This was when Joseph wants to know if his sins are forgiven him, instead of that he is told "your name will be had for good and evil".

The Palmyra area is made of 50 hills. The Hill. 4 miles from Joseph's home, is a perfect triangle, and is the tallest of any in the area. Finds the stone box about 2/3rds of the way up. There are many Hill Cumorah theories. How will you ever know which is the right hill. We know it's the same Hill where the Jaredites had their last battle - they called it Ramah. It's where the Nephite's had their last battle. Heber J. Grant said that if the US became corrupted their last stand would be at the Hill Cumorah.

The plates: some accounts say that 1/3rd of it is sealed. The organization of the plates begins with Lehi then Mosiah (starts on the large plates), then the small plates are just thrown in. The end of the book are the small plates of Nephi.

The Urim & Thumim was attached to a breastplate that Joseph Smith said was obviously owned by a very large man. The Urim & Thumim looks like glasses. Two people actually drew out the Urim and Thumim- Wilford Woodruff & William Smith. The Urim & Thumim was not taken by the Angel Moroni. Wilford Woodruff said he was shown the Urim & Thumim before Joseph died.



Joseph's first reaction when he sees the Gold Plates is "aha! Money!" Moroni visits Joseph over 20 times over the course of Joseph's life. One account written by Lucy Mack Smith is one night when Joseph comes home late one night and saying he received one of the most brutal chastisements of his life, that Moroni told him that he needed to learn to keep the commandments. John Taylor says that Joseph met with the principle writers of the book of Mormon- "Nephi, Alma, Mormon & Moroni." Also recorded by... Heber J. Grant? ... that he met the twelve disciples in 3 Nephi.

The Smith family would meet together every night to listen to Joseph. Lucy says that he gave some of the most amusing recitals of life among the Nephites as if he had spent his whole life around them.

During this time, 2 months after Moroni's arrival in 1823, Alvin dies. Lucy wants put on his tombstone that he was killed by a quack physician. Alvin is 24 was suffering from a stomach ache, and is given

calomine (the same stuff that makes calamine lotion). It was financially crippling to not have Alvin in the family. He is sporadically mentioned anyways throughout Joseph's life. Joseph tells his mother about Emma he mentions that he has missed Alvin terribly, and is therefore considering marriage. Joseph Smith Sr.'s last words were "I see Alvin". Joseph requests that Alvin's body is brought to Nauvoo so that they can be reunited on Resurrection Day.

The Smith family home was built on the Palmyra side of the homestead. It is lost in 1830 and sold on a sheriff's sale. George Albert Smith was told in his Patriarchal blessing that he would be in the leading councils of the church, same as his father and grandfather. He never got on a career track as a result. He had all kinds of amazing jobs. He was pronounced legally blind but was hired as a road surveyor. He was a box boy for ZCMI. He lived right next to the Salt Lake Temple. One year he decides to go to the Utah State Fair instead of conference. In the afternoon people keep coming up to him and saying "congratulations" because in the morning he was sustained as an apostle. Joseph F. Smith comes to find him at his house. When George comes back he goes to talk to his wife, and asks if they have any money. His wife says she has saved \$16000. He tells her that this is terrible and that he wanted to be a penniless y's he can be an apostle if he is given 2 weeks. He has his wife cash out the money and has it sown into a skirt. They head to Rochester, NY for Palmyra. When they get to the Smith Home, William Chapman is the owner and is told that the farm is not for sale. George says "name your price", and William Chapman says he wants \$16000. George sells it to the church for \$1. The temple is built on the ground of the Smith family farm.