

# The Infant Church

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10:56 AM

February 1831

Joseph Smith lives at the Newel K. Whitney store and someone Nathan.

The clerk at the newel K. Whitney store was Orson Hyde. He would hit the ceiling with a broom handle when people would come to see Joseph, and Joseph would ALWAYS meet with people. His answer when people would ask him what the Lord wanted them to do was to go on a journey and spread the gospel. Joseph starts working on the JST at this time. Emma at this time is pregnant with twins, she gives birth to the twins and names them Louisa and Thaddeus. They both die within a day of their birth. She's now had 3 children but none to hold in her arms. At about the same time John Murdock's wife Julia Murdock also gives birth to twins- a boy and a girl. The boy is named Joseph Smith Murdock and the girl is named Julia Murdock. Julia Murdock dies in childbirth. John needs someone to be a wetnurse for his children. So he makes a gift of his twins to the Smiths. About 30 miles outside of Kirtland in a town called Hyrum was a man named John Johnson. He's just built a new farmhouse, he is very well-to-do. He is very curious about this man claiming to be a prophet in the next town over. He decides that he wants to take his wife and Methodist minister (Ezra Boothe) to go and meet this man. While talking with Joseph the topic turns to gifts of the spirit. They ask Joseph if anyone could cure the arm of Elsa Johnson. Joseph walked over and told him "Woman, in the name of Jesus Christ I command you to be made whole". She was made whole and all three of them join the church. When Ezra Boothe goes back on a mission to Hyrum to preach the gospel. Ezra Boothe speaks to a Campbellite congregation, whose minister is Simons Rider who was the only person more well to do than John Johnson. He goes to meet Joseph as well. He is convinced and baptized, Joseph tells him to go on a journey and to take the place of a 17 year old young man who had refused his call. Simons was upset that he was only that esteemed. He asks for his missionary call, and Joseph misspells his name (Symons Ryder). He is welcomed back into Hyrum as a Campbellite minister. Ezra Boothe goes with Joseph to Missouri. He was expecting massive miracles everywhere they go. When none of that happens, he decides he has been deceived, and he decides to tell the world about the falseness of Mormonism. He is the first real apostate. He writes a series of articles for a newspaper. When Ezra returns to Hyrum Symons Ryder invites him to live with them. Finally Joseph decides that it is time for him to move. John Johnson invites Joseph to come and live with him. This is a good deal, except Ezra and Symon live right across the street. Symon wants to debate Joseph through the newspaper about the evils of Mormonism. Joseph volunteers Sidney Rigdon to debate with him instead. As people come to see Joseph at John Johnson's home they ask to camp out in his yard. This doesn't make Symons Ryder very happy. They start thinking that Hyrum, Ohio is the gathering place for the saints. Symons thinks the only way to stop Mormonism is to kill Joseph. They decide to form a mob, they think the best time is March of 1832. In March of 1832 the twins have measles, (they are 11 mos old) and they need a doctor, who comes and quarantines the house, so everyone who doesn't need to be there leaves so they won't be stuck in the house. By the time the doctor shows up only Mother & Father Johnson, Joseph & Emma and the twins are there. Symons knows that the best chance of not having a fight is now when there are the fewest people in the house. So he sends out messages to little towns nearby to meet on March 24, 1832 in the brickyard. There are 60 men who meet there. These men got away by saying they were sick and going out to the outhouse to take care of business for awhile. The women wouldn't come out to check on him because it was dangerous for them to go out alone. The men bring their oldest set of clothes because they would bury them when the deed was done. They would use a paint of gunpowder and water to paint themselves black, on their face, hands etc. By midnight, Emma is walking the floor with one of the twins when she hears scratching on the window. She thinks it's just a tree branch, until 12 men come into the room. When they come in she screams "MURDER". They grab Joseph and take him out of the room. One man named Carnet Mason grabs Josephs hair so hard that he pulls off Joseph's scalp. Another man grabbed Joseph's right leg (the good leg), and Joseph kicks the man- Mr. Waist in the face, so hard that he lands on the front porch. Later he said that Joseph was the strongest man he'd ever met. Mr. Waist grabs Joseph around the throat and chokes him until he loses consciousness. The mobsters take him away because they had premeditated how they would kill Joseph... and it wasn't by choking. The rest of the

60 men come out. He discovers that Sidney Rigdon is already there. Sidney was dragged by his heels and hit his head on the ice the whole way. He has been tarred and feathered and his head is bleeding. The mobsters tear off all of Joseph's clothes except for his shirt collar. Shirt collars in those days showed a bit of respect. He was placed on boards from the brickyard because he is about to be operated on by Dr. Dennison (the one who helped in the birthing process) to castrate him and lead to his death. Suddenly his hand starts to shake and the knife falls. In his pocket he had a vial of nitric acid, but Joseph keeps his teeth clenched, but he pushes so hard that it hurts Joseph's teeth. Finally the vial falls and breaks. Finally they call Symons for the tar bucket. While they run for the tar buckets one of the men call tells Joseph "now I'll tell you how these kinda people feel the holy ghost" and scratches Joseph like a mad cat (long nails = old money in the South). When the tar is heated up Joseph has lost his fight. The mob members have no problem putting the tar paddle in Joseph's mouth. They're throwing the rest of the tar on him. The last words Joseph hears before losing consciousness is "The Mormons are coming." (remember... Orrin Porter Rockwell...) The mob is sure they've killed both Joseph and Sidney. They retreat to the brickyard and return to their homes to "sleep it off". Joseph regains consciousness and removes the ball of tar from his mouth. Passes out again. Regains consciousness and starts crawling towards the John Johnson house. Father Johnson had been locked in his room because a dresser had been pushed in front of the door. Father Johnson finally gets out and takes his walking stick to use as a club. The noise awakens people in the shanty town, and more people join Brother Poorman comes to fight Father Johnson because he thinks he is a mobster. Brother poorman runs away because he thinks he's just murdered Father Johnson. Others come and find Father Johnson, heal him and off they go. When Joseph gets close he asks for a blanket, Emma sees that he's covered with something and thinks it's blood and passes out. Finally they get a blanket to Joseph. Joseph comes in and they bring knives to cut off the tar. He went to church that day, and there were many of the mobsters show up to see what happens. They are surprised to see Joseph showing up "scarified and defaced" Some of the most scars are around his face. Joseph's topic was forgiveness. That day he baptizes 3. The next day he finds Sidney who asks for a knife because he wants to kill his wife. When his wife comes back he says he wants to kill Joseph. Sidney was never the same. On Wednesday Joseph Smith Murdock Smith dies from the effects of the cold complicating the measles. On Thursday Joseph is being run out of town, chased by mobs all the way to Cincinatti, he writes to Joseph and tells Emma to move to Kirtland with Newel K. Whitney where there are people around. They never live in isolation again (it's too dangerous).