

The Martyrdom

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11:01 AM

June 24- Joseph is accompanied by 40 men to Carthage. They get within a few miles of Carthage when military force sent by Governor Ford take them back to Nauvoo. The Governor demands all state weapons to be returned to the state. They finally arrive in Carthage around midnight. He passes the town square which is filled with military men. They have come from several counties. Joseph needs a place to stay- they stay in the Hamilton hotel, along with the Governor, the conspirators and others. As they check in many of the militia are outside the hotel demanding to see Joseph the Mormon prophet. Their yells are so loud that they awaken the governor. He promises them that in the morning he will review the troops and bring Joseph with him.

June 25th- Joseph goes to meet with the governor. He asks for an audience, is denied until after they have reviewed the troops together. Joseph and Hyrum come to review the troops. The men are dressed up and it's the full nine yards as far as military goes. Joseph and Hyrum are accompanied by the 40 men who are walking with walking sticks that they are waving in a defense. Joseph re-requests an audience. He asks for one favor- he knows that he and Hyrum are safe so long as the governor is in town. He asks that if he leaves that he will take himself and Hyrum with him, and the governor agrees that even if he goes to Nauvoo he will take them with him. Joseph and Hyrum return to their room. The leader of the gathered militias come to their door, and Joseph invites them in. The militia men say what they wanted was to see them. Joseph says that isn't why they wanted to see him he knew they sought his blood. He prophesied "because you have sought my blood you will see a day when you will be wallowing in blood and so sick of blood." During the civil war each of these men participated and each of them eventually writes back to their commanding officer that they are wallowing in blood and sick to death of blood. The Sheriff Bettisworth comes and arrests Joseph and Hyrum again. They go before the local judge. They both plead innocent and ask to hold court immediately. The judge says he is not willing to clear his docket for them, they ask for bail. He said that the charge for each man would be \$500. This is HUGE bail for them, but the 40 men had the bail with them. The judge isn't sure what to do at this point and says that he wants to hold court, but cannot hold it immediately, so puts the men under house arrest in the Hamilton Hotel. They go back to the Hamilton Hotel. Late in the evening Joseph and Hyrum are getting ready for bed when the Sheriff comes to the door, he has a new arrest warrant, for Joseph and Hyrum for treason against the US. Treason is the highest crime in the US. They are charged for treason because the US at the time was saying that it was a time of manifest destiny and that the US was the stone cut out without hands and Joseph was saying it was the church. They are taken to Carthage jail. It's actually more of a home, there's a debtor's cell, and one room set aside for a jail and another bedroom. Joseph and Hyrum and some of their friends stay in the debtor's cell on the main floor.

June 26th- There are many friends who come and visit Joseph. Some are those who were called on a mission to Carthage, such as Uncle John Smith, who Joseph asks to go get Someone W. Babbit to come to defend Joseph in the court of law. Others are people bringing weapons that he stores under the bed in the upstairs bedroom. In the meantime there are rumors coming to Joseph about Governor Ford leaving Carthage.

June 27th- Early in the morning a runner comes to Joseph with amazing news- Governor Ford has left town for Nauvoo. He knows that by leaving town he takes all the state troops which leaves Carthage under mob rule. Governor Ford goes and speaks from the same platform that Joseph had spoken from. When Joseph is shot Governor Ford is at the mansion house being fed by Emma. Before he leaves he says "the deed is done we must hurry." The Carthage Greys were around the jail, the older men you had to be over 45 or have gray hair. At one o'clock the jailer sees that a bucket of black paint is being passed around the 150-200 men. He saw that many of the Carthage Grays were even doing so. The jailer knows that he alone could save the prophet, he tells Joseph that they will probably be safer in the jail portion of the home. Joseph has two last visitors, John Taylor and Willard Richards. Joseph turns to Willard Richards, whom he always called doctor, "Will you go with me into the jail portion of the home." Willard says "You didn't ask me to go to Iowa, you didn't ask me to go ____ but if you are accused of

treason I will be hung in your stead." John Taylor concurs. They instead go and sit in the upstairs bedroom. They read a history from the book of Josephus. They start to hear the mob outside sing, they were trying to regroup, "where now is the prophet Joseph, where now is the prophet Joseph, safe in Carthage jail" to the tune of "one little two little three little Indians." John Taylor is asked to sing "A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief" to soothe their nerves. John had a beautiful tenor voice whenever he would start his counseling sessions, secular or spiritual, and he would ask if he could sing them a verse of a song and would continue singing until the problem was solved. 5:15pm the door downstairs is opened and the jailer is overpowered and men start rushing up the stairs. Joseph and Hyrum reach for guns and John and Willard have sticks. There is firing on both sides. As they are pushing to close the door Hyrum is shot on the side of the nose with such thrust that he falls down on the floor and his last words are "I am a dead man." John Taylor is the next to be shot, he realized that there were many men in town, he was going to jump out the second story window and run for help. He is shot in both legs, the wrist and hip. He thinks he's going to fall out the window when he is shot in the pocket watch which knocks him under the bed. Joseph when he sees that Hyrum has been shot he drops his gun and goes over to Hyrum and says "My dear brother Hyrum", he goes and climbs onto the window ledge and sits on it and raises his hands above his head and says "Oh Lord my God" and one man shoots him in the back and he falls to the ground flat on his face. In the meantime there is a howl of wolves, many of these men are from Missouri, one of the men outside push the body of Joseph and several men shoot him, and many more men come out to shoot him as well. Willard Richards was the biggest man in the room, Joseph had prophesied that there would be a time that he would be in a room with friends and balls would fly but none would pierce his clothing. Willard goes and pushes John up against the wall, he hears Joseph and goes to the window and sees Joseph on the ground, he is shot in the right earlobe. As Joseph is being shot multiple times Willard determines that he is going to save John Taylor. They go over to the jail portion of the second story and covers John with a mattress. By the time Willard gets outside the mobbers are gone. The plan of the mob had been to take the heads of Joseph and Hyrum and parade with them through Nauvoo on broom sticks. One of the mobbers shouted "the Mormons are coming" which entailed a lot of people. Most of the men left town immediately and met in a tavern in Warsaw. Willard picks up the body of Joseph Smith as people come running. Willard sends the message to Nauvoo, "the prophet Joseph is dead, the patriarch Hyrum is dead, John Taylor is wounded, but I give my word we will not retaliate." Governor Ford and the militia are coming out of Nauvoo, and take the runners back to Carthage. Some of the men had escaped the turn around and do make it back to Nauvoo to tell the citizens. We do not know who told Mary Fielding Smith that Hyrum was dead. Emma is told by her nephew Lorenzo Watson. Samuel Smith rides that night to Carthage. In the meantime Willard Richards has asked the men who have come to guard the bodies of Joseph and Hyrum. They take the body of Joseph up to Hyrum and they lie together. Willard sends for a coroner so that it will always be on the records of Illinois that Joseph and Hyrum were murdered when they were supposed to be under the protection of the governor. A surgeon is called for John Taylor and all of the bullets are taken out except for the one in his left leg.

June 28th- There is a military procession. Samuel Smith is leading the procession. In one wagon covered with leaves is Joseph, and another with Hyrum. Two miles out of town Nauvoo residents have gathered. Some have said that there was never such weeping and wailing since the death of Jesus Christ. They take the wagons to a barn to wait until the families can see the bodies. Willard repeats his statement of no retaliation. Most people wait... some leave immediately (yup, Porter Rockwell). Joseph and Hyrum are laid out on the parlor table. They haven't been cleaned up yet. The family is invited in. Mother Smith looks at her sons and her comment is "Oh God, why hast thou forsaken this family?". Samuel at this point says "I have a pain in my side", he dies within a few weeks. Mary Fielding Smith is English born and bred, she isn't about to share her feelings, she is very stoic and proper. She sees Hyrum and tells Joseph Fielding "never forget your father, he died for the truth" not knowing what Hyrum had said earlier. Emma was more willing to share her feelings and screams "Oh Joseph have they got you know! Forgive me, forgive me." The family is then left to decide how to display the bodies. They clean up the bodies and decide to only show the faces of the bodies. 10,000 people come through but they didn't want people to be able to see how many bullet holes. The funeral is held around the walls of the temple, W.W. Phelps gives the eulogy, "Praise to the Man".