

The Kinsman

JESSE N. SMITH FAMILY ASSOCIATION



Jesse N. Smith

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THE SMITHS IN EARLY SNOWFLAKE, & WORKING ON THE RAILROAD

(The following is extracted from "Memories of a Mormon Pioneer," by Silas Derryfield Smith. As a boy of 12 he recalled the experiences of the Jesse N. Smith family in Snowflake in 1880, living in a log house, tents, and wagon boxes, and their work on the railroad the same year.)

The cooking (at first) was done mostly in bake-ovens on a campfire. Water had to be hauled from the creek until the irrigation ditches were built; then it was stored in barrels and tubs. Later wells were dug which supplied the culinary water thereafter.

The first thing to be built was a corral to hold the milk cows and the work horses, and then each family had a fencing allotment to build a fence around the irrigated land as the grain was coming up. Every boy that could cut a tree or drive a stake was pressed into service. Scrub cedar trees were plentiful so a rip-gut fence was built. Later each family fenced their individual land. Each family had 20 acres of land and a city lot. On public works all worked together. The men were allowed 50¢ an hour and the boys 25¢.

Early in July 1880 my father moved Mother (Emma S. West) with her five children out into New Mexico where he had contracted with others to build the grade for the Railroad. My brother, Jesse N. Jr., was with us and a number of townspeople also went to work on the grading. Joseph Fish and his wife, Eliza, with his children Della, Johnnie, and Jody were there. The freighters who were hired to bring in the supplies did not arrive as scheduled, and the camp was in a state of starvation but for the fact that Aloy Larson came by. He had some flour and other supplies which he shared as a loan with the camp. He was on his way to Colorado to get his father (Mons Larson) who, in traveling to Snowflake, had been stranded there.

The sheep and goat meat the Indians sold to the camp caused many to be sick because they ate too much of it, and the doctor from Ft. Wingate thought the unsanitary ways the Indians used in preparing the meat contributed to this unhealthy condition.

While waiting for supplies and equipment it began raining and the work animals were let out to graze. As the rain supplied water for them there was no need to round them up to drive them to water, and the animals drifted further out from camp. Mr. Indian got ideas as he came into camp with his squaw to sell meat. He observed the animals grazing around camp and not being too closely guarded. No doubt he helped in driving them further away until they disappeared entirely. When the time came to round them up for work, many animals were missing. Ernest A. Tietjen, the interpreter, inquired of the Indians about the missing horses and mules. Yes, they had seen some of them far away; they would have to pay the "bad Indians" money to get them back. A few horses were brought in for \$5 each. It soon became a racket, and some paid \$20 a head and others were gone forever. The officers at Ft. Wingate took a hand to stop this thievery, and the camp had to keep guards night and day.

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SMITHS IN EARLY SNOWFLAKE, & WORKING ON THE RAILROAD (continued from page 1)

All kinds of people came to these grading camps to get work. One large fellow named Aaron of fine physique with a good team and wagon and a fiddle was working there. He had at one time been in a mental hospital, but was a good worker. For relaxation after work he sang songs and played the fiddle, much to the amusement of the camp. My sister Sadie and Della Fish were around 15 years old and the only girls in the camp. They took delight in praising Aaron for his music, though he played a few tunes over and over. This encouraged him, and he began singing love songs to them. One day when Father and Brother Fish came in from work, Aaron said to Father that he wanted Father to marry those girls to him right now. They put him off as best they could, but Aaron was not to be persuaded or put off. John W. Young had just arrived in camp. He was a member of the board that had committed Aaron to the asylum years before, and Aaron had threatened to kill him. John W. thought the man should be bound and forcibly taken from the camp. They kept John W. out of Aaron's sight.

My father handled the situation by calling the men and boys to come and listen to Aaron's songs and music while others were getting his belongings together and hitching his horses to his wagon. Father told him how they all appreciated his good work, but reminded him of his family that needed the food and clothing he had come to work for, and of his aged parents whom he wanted to honor. Now here was \$20 for road expenses and a requisition for 500 lbs. of flour, 50 lbs. of sugar, 20 lbs. of bacon, and shoes for his wife and children, which he could get at the commissary at Albuquerque. Then he was advised to take the shortest route to his home. All clapped their hands and Aaron climbed into his wagon, saying, "Goodbye, boys. It's a long day before you see so good a man again!"

Quiet and unruffled good sense is better than force to solve a delicate situation.

KINSMAN NAMED CHURCH HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Dr. James O. Mason, deputy director of the National Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta, Ga., was appointed July 17 to the newly-created position of LDS Church Commissioner of Health Services. In this post he will serve directly under the Presiding Bishopric in coordinating health care and services through the 16 hospitals operated by the Church. He will make his headquarters in Salt Lake City.

He was born in Salt Lake City, a son of A. Stanton and Neoma Thorup Mason. He attended West High School and University of Utah, graduating at the head of his class in the College of Medicine in 1958. He also received a doctorate in public health from Harvard University, and interned in Johns Hopkins Hospital, Bethesda, Md. He did residency in internal medicine at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston. Before taking his position in Atlanta, he served as chief of infectious diseases at LDS Hospital, Salt Lake City, and as assistant professor at the U. of U. College of Medicine.

He has served since last September as president of the Atlanta Stake. While in Boston he was a high councilman and counselor in the stake presidency. He was married in 1952 to Lydia Marie Smith (d. Nathaniel A., John Walter), and they are parents of six children.



DR. JAMES MASON



HAROLD H. SMITH

FAMILY PRESIDENT ADDRESSES NATION'S GROCERS

Harold H. Smith, head of the Jesse N. Smith Family Association and president of the Utah Retail Grocer's Assn., gave the featured address at the 1970 convention of the National Retail Grocers' Assn. at San Francisco in June. Under the title, "Grocers Can Be Good Guys," he told the 7,000 delegates of the responsibilities of the retail merchant to his community and to society. He described two highly successful projects of the Utah grocer group--promotion of flag sales at cost and sponsoring courses in high schools on economics in the capitalist society.

The warm reception to the Utah program gave hope for a wider goal of flags for every home in America, reported delegates from the 50 states and Puerto Rico. Harold was accompanied to the convention by his wife, Mabel, and 40 other representatives from the state of Utah. He is president and general manager of the Heber Exchange Co., Heber, Utah.

SMITH GATHERINGS SCHEDULED IN SNOWFLAKE

As announced in the May issue of the Kinsman, a special gathering of the Northern Arizona group of the Jesse N. Smith Family Assn. was scheduled July 24th in Snowflake under direction of Jesse M. Broadbent, chairman of the Snowflake branch. The Pioneer Day weekend coincides with the annual celebration honoring the founding of Snowflake in July 1878.

In addition to the general gathering, descendants of the Samuel F. Smith family group held a special reunion at Snowflake during the same weekend. Harold H. Smith, Robert J. Smith, and Robert C. Rogers of the J.N.S. family officers are among those from Utah planning to attend the Snowflake events.

ASAHEL H. SMITH FAMILY GATHERING

Fifty of the 110 members of the Asahel H. Smith Sr. family (s. of Augusta and Jesse N. Smith) gathered in Boulder, Utah during the last week of June. Accommodated in campers, trailers, tents and limited dwelling facilities, this group had a great vacation time together. A real claudimonium.

Every part of the family was represented. Present with members of their families were sons Rudger, Marion, Philip, and Richard, and daughters Ida and Maria. There were also members of the families of sons Andrew and Henry.

Ida Smith Church and husband Howard have a summer home in Boulder. They had arranged for the use of the school building and church facilities. Meals of hunter's stew, Swiss steak, baked beans, and potato salad were served in "United Order" style. There were cookouts and picnics among the pine and aspen trees, accompanied by guitar playing, singing, and stories around the campfire.

The family entertained itself with talent performances and slide shows. There was a hayride; the kids rode ponies and pony carts; the men and boys pitched horse-shoes. Everybody played touch football. The little ones swung, slid, played croquet, threw rocks in the water, and had races. The favorite game in the creek was to take turns locating the bubble of air under the waterfall where some of the big boys could remain entirely submerged for as long as three minutes.

On Sunday the Boulder Ward was swelled to about double its normal size. The Smith family presented the program, complete with a women's chorus of "Love at Home" and a men's chorus of "Come, Come, Ye Saints." Clan reminiscences concluded the event after Sunday dinner and picture-taking.

DEAR FOLKS! PLEASE SEND US WORD ON THESE ITEMS:

In forthcoming issues we would like to publish the names of spring and summer college graduates not included in the list given in our May issue. In addition to the student, school, degree, and major, please name the parent and grandparent.

Remember also to send in the names and addresses of newlyweds in your family.

OFFICERS REPORT ON JOURNAL REPLICATION PROJECT

The forthcoming republication of the Journal of Jesse N. Smith with an up-dated posterity list was the principal item of business at the meeting of the Jesse N. Smith Family Association officers held July 15 at the home of J. Fish Smith in Salt Lake City. Those present were: Harold H. Smith, president; J. Fish Smith, Robert C. Rogers, and H. Smith Broadbent, vice presidents; Robert J. Smith, executive secretary; M. W. Smith, treasurer; and Oliver R. Smith, editor of the Kinsman.

M.W. reported that virtually all of the posterity list data has been typed up in readiness for the printer from the family record sheets with the exception of the descendants of Janet Johnson Smith. This material is being worked on by Ruth Udall Evans (d. Leah).

With the assistance of Dorine S. Jespersion (d. Harold H. Smith), M.W. has completed the re-checking of all the typescripts prepared on the other segments of the posterity list. This was necessary in order to determine whether there were any errors or omissions in the family record sheets or the transcripts from them. Several items of missing information are now being sought by letters and telephone calls, he said.

All family members should send to M.W. Smith any additional information on births, marriages, and deaths which may not have been recorded previously, it was emphasized. Even if this information has been received from another source, the additional notice is helpful for verification, and in cases where it has not been submitted previously it will fill a gap in the record, it was pointed out. Data on 1970 births, marriages, and deaths will continue to be inserted in the list as soon as they are received--even up to the time that page proofs are processed by the printer. Information on descendants should include full name and names of parent and grandparent, in addition to date of birth and/or death. On marriages the data should include also the full name and birth date of the spouse, and date of marriage. For marriages definitely scheduled in the future, it is suggested that information be sent in immediately, and that confirming information be furnished also as soon as the event takes place.

New Features Planned. In the republication of the Journal several additions were approved by the officers. These include a foreword, an expanded index, some photographs and letters of pertinent biographical value, and a descriptive subtitle. Work on these items, as well as publishing arrangements with the printers, was assigned to Oliver R. Smith.

Approximately 250 prepaid orders have been received for the new Journal and 175 for the new Posterity List, M.W. said. Additional copies desired should be ordered promptly, and blanks for this purpose are provided on another page of this issue of the Kinsman.

Memorial Home. It was reported also that many family members and others have been visiting the Smith Memorial Home at Parowan, and that John C. Pendleton of Parowan is in charge of maintaining the grounds again this season. Visitors may obtain the front door key by calling at the Phillips oil station on Main Street in Parowan.

Appreciation was voiced for the improved health of J. Fish Smith and for the successful eye operations performed for M.W. Smith recently. His vision in one eye is now much improved, and a similar improvement is expected in the other eye during the next few months.

This was the fourth meeting of the officers held this year. Previous meetings were: Feb. 23 at the home of Robert J. Smith; March 30 at the home of Oliver R. Smith; and May 22 at Brigham Young University. The next meeting will be held in Provo on August 10, and family members desiring to suggest matters for consideration are invited to write to Harold H. Smith before that time.

NEWS OF FAMILY MEMBERS HERE AND THERE

MODESTO, Calif.--Denise Mortensen, 17 (d. Jan Udall Mortensen, Leah) was one of four central California high school seniors to win \$750 scholarships in the Bank of America Achievement Award program. She was student body secretary and girls' vice president in the 2,800-student Downey High School, and a delegate to Gov. Reagan's recent conference for youth. She serves as music director in MIA, Sunday School organist, is a seminary graduate, and has qualified for six individual awards. (From the Church News, June 13, 1970)

FREMONT, Calif.--Coreen Smith, (d. Norman, Wickliffe, J. Walter) received an honor award in French at graduation from 8th grade. Mavis, her mother, is in England this summer to do genealogy research on one of her family lines.

SYRACUSE, N.Y.--Jon Green (h. Karen, H. Smith Broadbent, Lorana), who has been studying at Syracuse University toward the Ph.D. the past two years, has been appointed assistant professor of humanities at Brigham Young University and will move to Provo in August with his wife and daughter, Erin.

PROVO, Utah--Dr. Lee W. Farnsworth, wife Gayle (d. John C. Smith, J. Walter) and eight children will leave in August to spend the next year in Japan while Lee is on leave from teaching duties in the political science department at BYU. He will do research and teach one class at International Christian University, Tokyo.

MISSIONARY NEWS: Elder M. Reuel Smith (s. Melvin Lehi, Elias) has completed two years' service in the Central American LDS Mission but will remain two additional months until Sep. 10. He will then enroll as a sophomore at BYU. His address: Apt. 2339, San Jose, Costa Rica, C. A. His sister, Melauna, is also attending BYU with majors in art and music. (215 E. 500 N., Marian Apt. #19, Provo 84601)

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