

Valiant Women of the Scriptures: Emma Smith



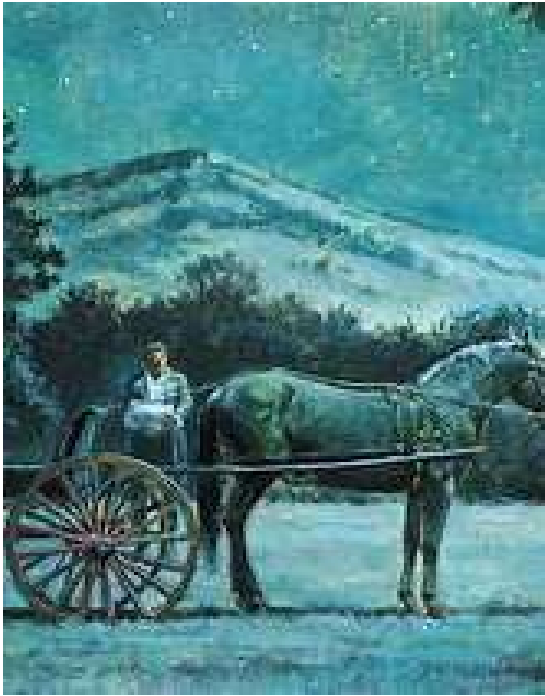
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EMMA SMITH, AN ELECT LADY

Emma Smith, wife of Joseph Smith, played a prominent role in the restoration of the Church. Her mother-in-law, Lucy Mack Smith, praised Emma's character: "I have never seen a woman in my life, who would endure every species of fatigue and hardship, from month to month, and from year to year, with that unflinching courage, zeal, and patience, which she has always done. ... She has been tossed upon the ocean of uncertainty; ... She has breasted the storms of persecution, and buffeted the rage of men and devils, ... which have borne down almost any other woman."¹

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Emma Smith's Life

"Emma and Joseph drove swiftly and in silence along the road. At length, Joseph spoke to the horses. They stopped and the reins were dropped loosely on the ground. They would graze there.

Joseph helped his wife to alight and she followed him through the rank grass heavy with dew. They carried a lantern and a crowbar. The light shone on the grass and briers ahead of Emma. She followed its gleam as it flashed from the lantern on Joseph's arm. She soon became aware that the ground was becoming steeper as she walked. The light rose ahead of her.

Joseph seemed sure of his way.

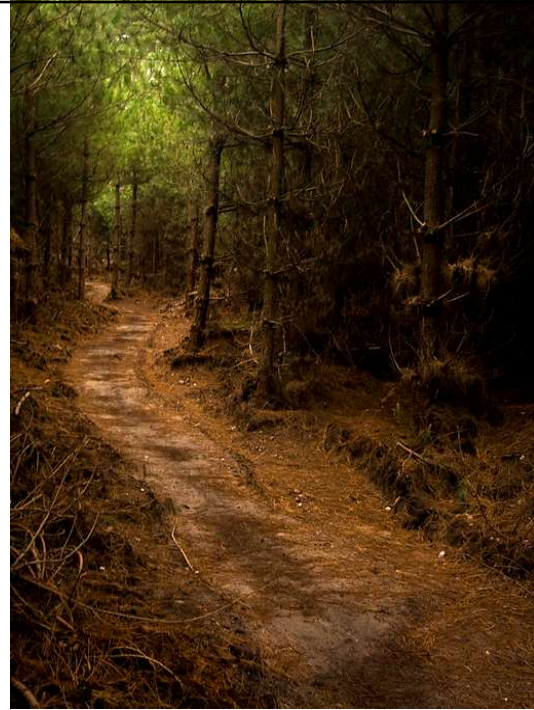
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Then suddenly he stopped and whispered, "Emma, I don't think you had better go any nearer. Will you be afraid to wait here alone?"

"No," she answered. He left her then and went on. She saw the light from the lantern ascend the hill steadily, and then it stopped and lowered, and was still.

Suddenly Emma was trembling. She was not frightened, but a sense of unreality and of awe, and of something more, pervaded her. Something of tremendous portent was happening on the hillside. She felt somehow terribly unworthy to be where she was and turned her face away from the light. She was praying with all her heart, but she could not utter a sound.

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It was very dark. The moon had set, and a cool wind was blowing. She stood with her face in her hands. The faint clink of steel on rock was wafted down to her on the breeze. And then she heard him, stumbling and running down the hill. He swung the lantern, found her with its light, and hurried to her. "Can you carry the lantern and crowbar down, and she picked them up. Joseph shifted something in his arms. She obeyed. Down the steep hillside they went, pebbles occasionally loosening beneath their feet as they half walked, half scrambled down. At length, they stopped and listened. In the silence, they could hear the grazing horses tearing the grass and turned toward the sound.

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She blew out the lantern and put the crowbar in the wagon. Then Joseph asked Emma if she would drive on the way home. He was afraid, he said, to put the plates in the back of the wagon. They might be jounced out and lost on the road. Emma climbed into the wagon, and her husband climbed in beside her. She picked up the reins, and they rode off. It must have been past midnight when they left the hill behind them. The air was chill and damp. The two did not to speak. Emma was holding the reins, but she was unaware of it. Her mind was on what Joseph was holding on his lap. And Joseph? He was sitting beside his wife in the spring wagon; but in his heart he was back on the hillside, and at his feet was the lantern shedding its small circle of light. And in that circle of light stood the angel Moroni. He was pointing to a ragged opening in the earth where a rock had been pried up with a crowbar. And in that opening was a cement case—its cover laid aside. And within the case...

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Joseph looked down suddenly into his lap, and his hands tightened around something bundled in a piece of tow sacking. It had sharp edges which were evident beneath its rough covering of cloth. He had not had it when he went up the hill."

Emma shows throughout her life such faithfulness and trust in her husband, Joseph. The Lord, I believe saw in her, wonderful attributes that would be very supportive, endearing, and loving to not only Joseph, but also her family, her extended family, and the Saints!

Emma's Heritage

Emma was raised in a very good, loving family. Emma's parents were Isaac and Elizabeth Hale with deep roots in the beginning of the founding of this nation, America. Isaac was from England and had an ancestor who was one

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of the first settlers in Concord, Massachusetts in 1635. They had settled Connecticut and Vermont where farming rough ground meant also fighting with hostile Indians. Isaac's father had served in both the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War. In 1780, Isaac at 17 had marched with Col. Ebenezer Allen to NY to fight back Canada's threats into Mohawk Valley. He had a very upright standing with the community and cared for his grandma until her death. His wife, Elizabeth Lewis Hale's family tree was also impressive as her grandfather, George Lewis, was a Pilgrim who settled in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1632. He made sure his family was well educated for that time period. Her father, Nathaniel Lewis, also served in the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War. In 1780, the first Methodist Church was founded in his home. Elizabeth was the first child. Isaac had been in service with George Washington, his old commander in chief. And he appreciated the soundness of the Constitution. Emma's parents moved to Harmony, PA and were making a living in this area when Emma was 2 years old.



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Joseph Jr's Heritage In that same year Joseph Smith (Sr), aged 35 years, was teaching boys at a small schoolhouse in Sharon, Vermont. Joseph was one of 11 children, hardworking, respected, and at times rollicking as a sturdy crew. His father, Asael, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. His mother, Mary Duty Smith was a woman of splendid character, firm in her beliefs, yet open-minded.

Joseph's grandfather was the Honorable Samuel Smith, who was twice a delegate to the First and then Second Provincial Congress of Massachusetts. Joseph's grandfather, Robert Smith came to Boston from England in 1632. Joseph was grateful for the honorable men in his life.

Joseph's wife, Lucy, had also come from an excellent heritage. Her Father, John Mack, had come from England in 1669. He had settled in Lynn, Connecticut where they remained. Lucy's mother, Lydia Gates Mack, was a schoolteacher which was scarce in those days and taught her children well. She had also read the Bible and taught them to pray. As Joseph thought of his mother-in-law the scripture "Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also and he praiseth her"(Proverbs 31:28) came to his mind.

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Spiritual Revival in the States

Around 1799, there seemed to be a spiritual awakening that began in the state of Tennessee and went North, South, East, and West. Church attendance was up and citizens began to be excited about Revivals. Joseph Smith Sr was 55 years old and after four crop failures due to the weather they moved to Palmyra, NY. This was not far from the Hales who were just over the border in Pennsylvania.

Lucy who had always been very faithful and spiritual minded, a mother of 10 in which 2 had passed away, was very devoted to the Lord. Joseph Jr grew up in a very spiritual environment as the family read their Bible, prayed together, and wanted God's will earnestly. Joseph Jr was very interested in his fifteenth year as his mother and three siblings joined one of the denominations, but his feelings were 'Deep and often pungent'.

Joseph's Testimony of the Experience in the Grove

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Joseph's testimony has been read and reread down through the past 200 years with an awe of amazement of the Lord's fulfilling the prophecy of Revelation 14:6-7, "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people. Saying with a loud voice, Fear god, and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment is come; and worship him that made heaven and earth, and the sea, and the fountain of waters." In the vision, Joseph was shown the place where the ancient records were kept by angel Moroni.

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As the story was spread about the villages, the sensitive boy began to experience social persecution that was very difficult for him to bear. His family believed his experience and supported him greatly.

When Joseph wasn't working on his father's farm, he hired out for work like the one where he was hired by Josiah Staal, who had an old document which said there was an ancient silver mine on his property. Joseph was skeptical but Staal was able to pay for his labor. The young men working were invited to Isaac Hale's home for a meal where Joseph met Emma Hale.

"Emma," he said quietly, "this is Mr. Joseph Smith, one of the young men who work for Mr. Staal." The girl looked up. Before her stood a tall, broad-shouldered young man, not quite out of his teens. His face was frank and open; his mouth was smiling gently. And he had the clearest, kindest blue eyes that she had ever seen! "How do you do sir," she said shyly.

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Joseph looked at her. She was tall and slender, having a real dignity, despite her youth. The flickering light of the fire touched her dark curls, worn close on either side of her vivid face, and lighted her beautiful deep brown eyes. It shone on her simple dark red wool dress, with its prim little white fichu, and on the delicate hands. And suddenly he, too, became very shy. "Your servant, ma'am," he stammered."⁴

Marriage of Joseph and Emma

Many evenings after supper at the Hales, Joseph would take short strolls with Emma down the road. One evening she was asking him what he intended to do with his life, he explained that he wasn't sure, but he thought he would be some sort of minister. As he told her of the two visions, he had had she could see how lost in the beauty of the experiences he was reliving and became totally unaware of surroundings and her. Joseph was not sure of her reactions to his experiences.

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"So, Miss Hale, you see how it is; I can't plan too far ahead. I must wait until I see the angel again. But I know that I have a work that I *must* do. I can't deny God what he would ask of me."⁵

After some silence and Emma's thoughts of how powerfully moved she was by the Spirit of God from the recent days of religious awakening and felt deep in her heart that only God could restore His kingdom, which was the apostolic church of Jesus Christ. Her soul stirred as she had conviction that the angel she had read about in Revelation 14:6 could be this angel Joseph was speaking of. Joseph's look was as if he felt her belief was of upmost importance to him. Suddenly, she felt that her decision was of the deepest consequence in some outstanding way

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that she could hardly understand. Then she believed with strong conviction that he was speaking the absolute truth.

"Yes, she answered quietly, "I do believe you. I believe every word!"

Her parents, especially Isaac was very upset that Emma would believe Joseph's story. After a few religious discussions when Joseph strived to show him how God would set up His kingdom again in the latter days using Matthew 24: 2 Peter 2:1, Galatians 1:6-8, Revelation 12:5-6 and 14:6. Isaac realized that there had been errors and departures from Christ's teachings that had come about in the Christian teachings, but he would not welcome Joseph back in their home.

Some days later, the young men were dismissed from their work at Mr. Stool's and Joseph went home after having seen Emma several times after the discussion with her father.

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They were able to write each other by means of someone Emma knew. Several months later, when Joseph had helped his family get a wonderful harvest in, and his family finding a shyster had taken their farm through trickery, he felt it was time to turn his mind to Emma. He went to Pennsylvania where Emma was visiting with friends. He put to her the question "Miss Emma, you know I love you. I have told you what my parents' home is like, and I've also shown you as clearly as I am able to see at present, the general direction that my life may take. I would be happy and honored if you would marry me."



Marriage of Joseph and Emma

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It took a few moments for her to contemplate her decision as she knew her parents' feelings and understood somewhat her life would not be as secure and settled as most women enjoyed. But her love for Joseph and a growing knowledge that she had been born to be the companion of this young man and shared his purpose that he had been charge with to fulfill. "She could not fail God or Joseph" so she said 'Yes, quietly, "I will be happy and honored to marry you."'⁶

The following afternoon, Joseph called for Emma at the home of her friends, the Stowells, who were not home. She left them a note and mailed an explanation letter to her parents.

Joseph and Emma were married on January 18, 1827, at the home of Squire Tarbell. They were both full of emotion as Joseph kissed Emma tenderly and shyly for the first time.

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I Corinthians 2:14-16 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Emma had experienced a discernment through her faith which is explained in Alma 16 when she aroused her faculties of the Bible taught her, exercised her faith, and really desired to believe. This desire worked in her and the good seed was planted in her heart, that she could not resist the Spirit of the Lord. After the seed swelleth, sprouteth, and grows, then the good seed will bringeth forth unto its own likeness, therefore, if a good seed groweth, it is good;... Alma 16:160-162 And now behold, is your knowledge perfect? Yea, your knowledge is perfect in that thing, and your faith is dormant.

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groweth, it is good;... Alma 16:160-162 And now behold, is your knowledge perfect? Yea, your knowledge is perfect in *that* thing, and your faith is dormant. And this because you know; for ye know that the word hath swelled your souls, and ye also know that it hath sprouted up, that your understanding doth begin to be enlightened, and your mind doth begin to expand. Oh, then, is not this real? I say unto you, yea, because it is light; and whatsoever is light is good because it is discernable; therefore, ye must know that it is good.

The new Smith family were very welcomed in Joseph and Lucy's home. They did not realize the disapproval and disappointment of Emma's parents, the Hales, as Joseph felt his mother's devotion to her children, would mean the matter would not bode well with her. Emma avoided the issue feeling there wasn't a need to bring up the friction in her family. She appreciated the Smith family's spiritual quality and their faith in the heart felt experiences Joseph had as facts. Joseph and Emma were so much in love and she had a genuine love for old Father Smith and warmhearted, loyal Lucy.

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"To Emma's keen disappointment, Joseph did not show her the plates. Upon entering their room at the farmhouse, he placed the heavy bundle on the bureau, turned, and faced her, putting his hands on her shoulders. 'Emma,' he said quietly, 'more than anything I want to show these plates to you, but I have been instructed not to show them to anyone for the present. And I want to be faithful to my trust. My dear, you have taken so much on faith. Can you take this also?'"

"Her eyes, which had been luminous with expectancy, grew bleak with disappointment. For Joseph and his belief in these records she had all but broken ties which bound her to her parents. Believing, she had married this man; to share with him the uncertain fate that would come to both of them-and in spite of all this, she would not be permitted to see the plates.

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Joseph saw her grief, understood, and appreciated it. She would have been less than human had she felt otherwise. He could not blame her, but neither could he do anything other than he was doing. "Emma," he said desperately, "if ever I am permitted to, I will show them to you." Then his face lighted. "But I know of no reason why you can't hold the bundle, and feel of the plates through the cloth. Indeed, as far as I know, there's no reason why the family cannot all do that."

When Father Smith, always trustful told of the existence of the plates and other articles, not only to Martin Harris, but a close friend and the word got out quickly. "Incredulity, which had hitherto spent itself chiefly in ridicule and minor indignities, flamed into open hostility"

Many times, in the months that followed, Emma feared what would happen to the plates and sometimes their own lives at stake. They began a time period where they were staying in many saint's homes. But first, her parents invited them to their home for a long stay as Emma was expecting a baby. On June 15 of that year, a little son, Alva was born to them. But the son died the same day and was buried on the Hale farm. Emma was very ill partly due to grief and heart ache and Joseph and her mother watched over her.

21

Since Martin Harris had broken his promise about showing the manuscript of the Book of Mormon to others than those to whom he had been permitted to show them and they were stolen and never found, Joseph had the plates, Urim and Thummim taken from him. In his great discouragement he sought the Lord's guidance in which there was a stinging rebuke. He was told because of his disobedience, and manuscript was in the hands of evil men who wanted to overthrow the work of God.



A while later the plates and Urim and Thummim were returned to him. He was commanded to not translate the stolen manuscript part as those might say they had the original manuscript and two versions not the same.

22



Emma began to be Joseph's scribe and was enthralled as she took dictation of the beautiful spirit of the story and the interesting ancient phraseology. "These people, long dead, were speaking from the dust to her, to her people of the year 1828. "Joseph Smith," she said, I know that what you read is of God. You couldn't have made it up. When you read anything else, you read poorly. Even your letters to me have been poorly spelled. But what you read today was perfect. It was your voice, but you read beautifully, precisely, smoothly, and I know it was God speaking through you. You couldn't have done it by yourself Joseph! She stopped suddenly, afraid she had hurt him. But Joseph only smiled, "You are right, my dear one. It is God, and I am ignorant." 1

23

In August of 1829, the manuscript was finished and by March 1830 the Book of Mormon was printed. Even though there had been a little bit of bitterness in Emma's heart at not getting to see the plates as some men had been shown, she knew it was real, and that it was true. "But my testimony as to its truth, and even the testimony of the eleven witnesses will not necessarily convince others." She mused. "Every man must know for himself, and be sure that God is making him sure." As she turned the pages, she read Moroni's words about A.D.421 before he buried the plates as he was very anxious about the people who would be given these records and said to his readers:

And when ye shall receive theses things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you by the power if the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things.

24



Oliver Cowdery, a scribe for Joseph and deeply interested in the Book of Mormon, and Joseph had questions about baptism mentioned in the book, since no church was exactly like the New Testament church having real authority from God to perform the ordinance. The two men had prayed a great deal over this matter many times in the woods. One day they came back telling Emma, an angel appeared to them and said he was John the Baptist. He laid his hands on their heads and ordained them to what he called the Aaronic Priesthood. He said that they should baptize one another in like manner. Joseph baptized Oliver, who then baptized Joseph.

The angel had explained that this ordinance did not give them authority to lay on hands for the conferring of the gift of the Holy Ghost, but said that authority would be bestowed upon them later.

25



The Ordinance of Baptism

After the publication of the Book of Mormon, these two young men were instructed by the Lord to be about the organization of the church. They began to teach the New Testament gospel of Christ and baptized several. On April 6, 1830 at the Whitmer home the church was organized. Six men, all of who had been baptized met in solemn assembly. All men were under the age of thirty. All of them but Oliver had meager schooling. None of them were rich but they shared in experiences with the Lord and angels that none of them would ever forget or deny. Joseph believed he had been commanded to ask the men if they would accept him and Oliver to be their teachers in the things of the kingdom of God. They laid hands on each other to be ordained as an elder in the church of Jesus Christ. As new good, honest, substantial people flocked to the new movement, so did persecution come more aggressively.

26



Revelations of God

"In the midst of all the terrible worry and nervous tension, comfort came to her in a way she had not expected." Joseph was receiving revelations from God concerning the work of the kingdom of God, being a righteous people, principles of the gospel, priesthood restored with the ordinances, etc.

Doctrine and Covenants 10: 1a- 4c

Emma was wondering how Joseph received "revelations" from God, so she asked him one day, "What happens to you, Joseph, when God speaks to you?" He knew it was hard to explain but stated, "I don't know that I can find just the words to make myself understood, Emma. I do know that I'm not in a trance. Really my mind and consciousness seem unusually clear and alert at times."

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Usually, I have been in prayer over some problem and have asked God about it, fully expecting that God would answer me. And-suddenly the answer is there. At first it used to come through the Urim and Thummim, as I imagine it was given to the ancients. But lately, since I have been ordained an elder, it comes to me directly. Sometimes I do hear the words. At other times I seem to see the words before me. Sometimes they are given into my mind and intelligence so that I suddenly know. But I'm always certain so that I must deliver them. There is power that accompanies the words, Emma, that I can't mistake. It envelopes me with light, inside and out. Sometimes I tremble under its influence, and sometimes I feel very weak and exhausted afterwards. But the experiences are beautiful beyond words. Perhaps this doesn't make it very clear to you. But I can't put it any better. I don't know how."



28

One hot July day, she saw Joseph under such circumstances when he came into the room and stood before her. She was startled at the paleness of his face. She realized when he spoke that he was under the compulsion of the power of God. She was astonished and joyful when she realized the message was for her.

D & C Section 24 July, 1830 – Harmony Pennsylvania. Revelation directing Emma Smith, wife of the prophet, to make a selection of hymns for the church. The hymn book was published in 1835.

These words from the Lord were a tremendous comfort to her in the days ahead and throughout her life. She studied the scriptures with fervor and pondered the selecting of hymns for the saints. The hymnal would be ready by the time the House of the Lord, (Kirtland Temple) was dedicated. As soon as this message was given she never again coveted seeing the plates.

29

Elect -Webster's 1828 definition: one chosen or set apart; *applied to Christ*.

Isaiah 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold, mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him, he shall bring forth judgement to the Gentiles.

Gen. 7:70 And righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth unto a place which I shall prepare, a holy city, that my people may gird up their loins and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion, a New Jerusalem.

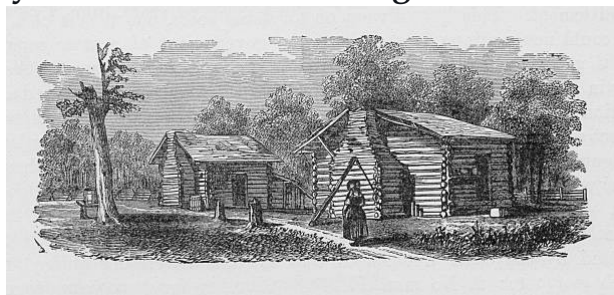
Emma was also told to not murmur about the things not seen and the Lord would decide the time that was wisdom. We sometimes struggle with many areas of our lives like Emma in which it is important to remember to trust in the Lord, not strive to be in control so much, and look for the goodness in others.

30

John 6:43 Jesus, therefore, answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves. No man come unto me except he doeth the will of my Father who hath sent me. And this is the will of him who hath sent me, that ye receive the Son; for the Father beareth record of him; and he who receiveth testimony doeth the will of him who sent me, I will raise up in the resurrection of the just.

After Joseph and Emma had moved to Kirtland, Ohio, where many saints had moved, they were “caught up in the hum of activity” and Emma was happy to meet new friends and they were welcomed and honored in the beautiful fellowship. They saw many dedicated souls coming to Christ in the Kirtland area.

The men helped each other out to put up their rough log houses. Emma even helped to chink (fill crack) the walls with mud.



31



In April of that year, Emma was waited on by Lucy and Sister Whitney at her childbirth of twins. After a long and enduring labor twins were born-dead. Her heartache and grief were once again hers. Joseph heart was sorrowed with love and pity for Emma. The loving kindness of the consoling saints showed their grief also of the situation. Joseph came to Emma one evening and told her of how Sister Murdock had passed away from giving birth to twins the day their twins, Thaddeus and Louisa had died. When he explained the situation that the women of the church were taking care of them, but Brother Murdock didn't know if he could with his other three children. Emma said, “Joseph, do you think...do you suppose that he might let us take them? Even if just until he could care for them...”. He had hoped she would want to care for them at their loss. Joseph was very touched to have the precious little ones in their home.

32



Soon persecution was lifting its ugly head again in this peaceful land as more and more people listened to the word of the Lord and were baptized. About a year after they took the twins to be with them, a mob broke into the Smith's home. They had taken Joseph, who was trying to fight for his freedom and they shoved Emma and locked the outside door. The twins were very ill with measles which Emma had been diligent in her care of them. The mob beat, tarred, and left him unconscious, but he came to and finally made it home. The little twin boy had become very sick from the cold winter wind directly on him the night before and after hands were laid on him and the care of a doctor, he passed away. That would be four babies dead in less than four years!

33



"After a few weeks later, Emma realized that she would bear another child in the late autumn, she told Joseph with fear in her eyes." Reaching up, he drew her into his lap. "My dear," he whispered, "life has been so terribly hard for you since our marriage. And you have been so brave. No other woman could have been so true or so sweet. These little ones, Emma - it has been so heartbreaking, I know, but it isn't forever my dear. This child to come, I feel sure, will live to grow up. What shall we call him?" "Joseph," she said, and then wondered why they both had taken it for granted that the child would be a boy. On November the sixth, little Joseph was born in the rooms where his parents were living above the Whitney store.

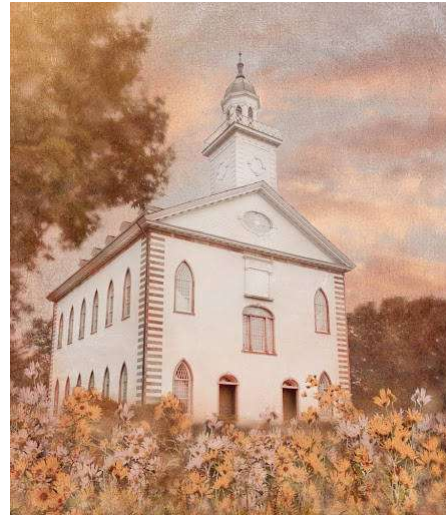
The saints who had traveled arduously to Missouri, specifically Independence was not welcomed in areas. At times they were misunderstood and other times the saints acted like they were better than their neighbor.

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On July 20, 1833 the Missourians made a petition boldly stating the Saints leave Jackson County. Violence pursued and the Governor, who couldn't control the unruly situations, appealed to the Saints to leave Jackson County.

The Saints at Kirtland were working as hard as they could on the "House of the Lord" to erect it by the Lord's counsel. There was also more persecution happening there. "On March 27, 1836, Kirtland Temple was dedicated. Emma never forgot that day. The services were rich in spirituality and rejoicing. The preaching melted the people to tears. For the first time, the little hymn book for which Emma had chosen the hymns was in use."

The missionaries went out following the temple dedication with renewed courage and vigor and the membership grew.



35

Kirtland Bound When Joseph and Emma had to flee Kirtland, due to mob action, it was January 12th, they had one more little one, Fredrick to ride in the wagon. Joseph and Sydney fled on horseback earlier in the night and a neighbor who knew the plans, helped Emma escape with the three children. They met up with Sister Rigdon's family and then Joseph and Sydney two days later.

"At times the two men hid in the backs of the wagons, knowing that their enemies were near. Once or twice actually crossed tracks with their pursuers, but the latter failed to recognize the white-faced women who, with wildly beating hearts, drove the swaying wagons steadily down the turnpikes.



On March 14 they arrived at Far West, in Caldwell County. In a few days, Samuel Smith and his family and Father Smith and Lucy arrived, to be followed soon by others from Kirtland. Emma had not expected to find peace here, nor was there peace.

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Yet here was a spirit of consecration, of sharing, and love among the membership that was comforting and strengthening. "10

Far West, DeWitt, and other villages continued to have dire violence from mobs. Haun's Mill was a horrible massacre. Joseph was taken by the state militia to Liberty jail. Emma greatly appreciated the letters she received from Joseph. It was in December she traveled by sleigh with the children and was able to obtain passes to see him for all of them.

John 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

Some weeks later, Emma was able to visit Joseph again at Liberty jail. Little Joseph was with her and he wanted to spend the night in the jail with his father. She was reluctant, but stayed with church members nearby and picked him up the next morning.

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Illinois Bound Due to Mob Violence After many days, Emma and the children reached Quincy, through deep snow, where many of the Saints were headed, as Joseph felt this would be a safe place for the them. Brother Holman was driving the wagon and felt the ice was very firm but he unhitched one horse behind the other and got the young children down from the wagon as they followed him closely.

"Emma carried the baby in her right arm, and stooped for Fredrick. "Put your arms around Mother's neck" she told him. He grabbed, nearly choking her. "Not so hard, dear, she gasped." "Joseph and Julia, stay in the wagon," she said. But they were frightened. "Let us walk, too" they begged. Then hold fast to me," she agreed. They inched their way across the Mississippi River with the wind fierce and the blinding snow in their eyes. The older children stumbled and picked themselves up and clung to their mother's dress. The baby woke and cried. They reached the Illinois shore and once again climbed into the wagon to find at eleven that night the warm, welcoming, sanctuary of the home of Brother and Sister George Cleaveland.

When Joseph and his brethren were found not guilty, they made there way to Quincy, Illinois, to their families.

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Illinois welcomed the saints because they were also against slavery. They found Commerce, an abandoned settlement, and eventually renamed it, Nauvoo, a Hebrew name meaning beautiful view.

Don Carlos was born to Joseph and Emma on June 13th of 1840 but when he was only about 15 months old on August 15, 1841, he died. He was one of about four or five in the extended Smith family who went on to be with the Lord in a short period of time.

During this period of time, Joseph continued to have many wrongful indictments against him and some were within the church people who had done him wrong with evil thoughts. "From this we can easily see that it was largely the spirit of partisan politics that caused the agitation which finally culminated in the tragic and horrible assassination at Carthage and the expulsion of the church from Nauvoo."¹¹



39

"On the evening of the twenty-third, Joseph spoke to the church ...across from the Mansion House. He asked them if they would be willing to die for him, rather than see him "taken to Carthage and butchered". And they answered affirmatively almost with one voice. He knew that they were sincere. They would understand then why he was going there. If he refused, they would be slaughtered. "Just as you are willing to lay down your lives for me, so I am willing to die for you," he said. "Shortly after he said, "Farewell, brethren, and farewell to the city I loved. I am going like a lamb to the slaughter." His sacrifice might spare the people of Nauvoo.

Emma had spent most of the next day, June 26, 1844, feeding Governor Ford and a company of calvary. "She greeted him and his officers courteously and saw that dinner was served. He assured her that Joseph was safe, was guarded by soldiers, and would be protected from violence." That evening, Emma's nephew rode hard up to their gate and panting said, "Aunt Emma, Uncle Joseph and Uncle Hyrum have just been shot and killed and John Taylor is wounded! God help us all!"

40

Emma was amazingly courageous and greatly blessed by the Lord's spirit as many church people came that very evening to comfort her. The next day the saints continued their respects for Joseph and the family. When the evening was late and children in bed she grieved with hysterical weeping at her husband's coffin. She then heard a light knock on the door and fear rose up in her. She found it was a good friend and another elder. They were there to tell her the \$5,000 reward alive or dead would probably be carried out soon according to rumors. After their discussion they decided to put the wrapped bodies under loose boards in the basement of the Nauvoo House.

The Saints Leave Nauvoo in Drove

In the days that followed, much chaos transpired among leadership and hostility against the saints was deep and they were being cast out of Nauvoo by Illinois citizens.

41

On November 17, baby David Hyrum, was born to Emma. He was frail and delicate but slowly he began to gain strength. At this time, some of the saints tried to coerce Emma to take her family with them to go to the Rocky Mountains with Brigham Young's group, but she remembered the scripture Joseph had read to her the night before he was taken to Carthage and then murdered.

It was Matthew 24:23-24 which reads,

For in those days, there shall arise false Christ and false prophets and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch that if possible, they shall deceive the very elect, who are the elect according to the covenant....Wherefore, if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert, go not forth, or Behold he is in the secret chambers, believe it not. "These words may mean more to you later than they do now," he said".

42

Emma would remain silent when approached by the men who wanted to know the whereabouts and take the manuscript of the Inspired Version. One man demanded the manuscript but “she said, if the time came that God wants you to have it, I shall see that it is turned over to you.”

When most of the church people left Nauvoo, Emma, Lucy, Cleveland (their man servant) and children hid in the basement of the Mansion House as hostile people fired cannons, pillaging, stealing, roaming as they looked in homes, and threatening women and children.



43

Emma regretfully had to move the children to Fulton City.

Back to Nauvoo For Making A Living

When the Smith family came back to Nauvoo as thievery had somewhat subsided, they still had the element of drunken, burly men speaking rudely to them. One day Lewis Crum Bidamon, who had known Joseph Jr and was a sincere friend and admirer of him, helped Emma with an incident. He let Emma know that if ever they needed protection or help he would help them.

After a certain number of visits and good merriment and joyful conversations with the whole family, Bidamon's proposal to Emma was accepted after she had her children's approval. They both knew that they would not take the place of their first companions, but both knew they needed each other. They were married on December 27, 1847.

44

Two incidents stand out as very important as the children grew into adulthood and took their rightful place in God's kingdom.

Polygamy Abhorred

In 1853, saints began to come back to the area from Utah and the question of polygamy and Joseph having a revelation for polygamy reared its ugly head. When the lies about Joseph were told to Emma, she wept bitterly and denied this evil rumor. She visited with her children and they all were in agreement that their beloved father would not do such a ridiculous thing. The young sons were furious that their father was being maligned this way. After much discussion, Emma showed them the scripture in Doctrine and Covenants 42:7d Thou shalt love thy wife with all thy heart and shall cleave unto her and none else; and he that looketh upon a woman to lust after her shall deny the faith and shall not have the Spirit; and if he repents not, he shall be cast out.

45

In 1857, Joseph III was married and farming that year, when Mormon Elders once again approached him about coming to Utah and being apart of them. He did not consider it.

Later Edmund Briggs, who had worked for Joseph III and visited with the family over a period of time, and Zenas Gurley came representing a church from Zarahemla, to ask for him his leadership of a growing conference of the body of Jesus Christ. They knew that his father, Joseph Jr had designated him as successor and they felt that God had delivered a word to five to him. Joseph III was upset that they were telling him it was his duty. Emmeline, Joseph's wife, intervened and ask if they could not just rest for the night as they seemed kindly and courteous. Since Joseph had not received any such testimony, he told them "I must know for myself before I take any such step."

46

Over the next few months, he read their petition "again and, as he did so, his heart stirred within him.... they had remembered the promise to the Martyr regarding his son. They had known of the two blessings pronounced on young Joseph. His vision of a happy, noble peaceful, no poverty, and no disease city came back to his mind as "The kingdom of God!" "Now he realized that, Christ, in offering men the chance to become like himself, was challenging them to build a godly society in the living present."

Then he knelt at his desk and prayed about the question on his heart and mind on his purpose. He wanted to give "the pearl of great price for which one would be willing to give all that he had. He wanted to give all."

47

Joseph's mother, Emma, was so very instrumental in raising him and his brothers and sister to believe the scriptures and follow the Lord!

"In April, 1860, they held a General Conference in Amboy, Illinois. Emma went with her son, to this conference, and heard him declare publicly that God had spoken to him about being the president of the Reorganized Church. She was so grateful for his decision!

Emma's family was with her as her illness took her life. She died peacefully in the Nauvoo House on April 30, 1879, at the age of 74.

Emma Hale Smith Bidamon had stayed so very faithful to her Savior, Jesus Christ, the restored gospel as taught by Him and his disciples and her first love and husband Joseph! She was ever taking care of the sick and afflicted. She worked so hard at caring for the poor and striving to be an honest loving saint. Joseph wrote, after a forced absence from home, lovingly of Emma after meeting her again briefly during troubled times. He expressed joy at taking her hand in his, and spoke of her as "my beloved Emma-she was my wife, even the wife of my youth, and the choice of my heart."

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