

EARLY YEARS OF JOSEPH SMITH'S LIFE

BEFORE THE AGE OF FOURTEEN (1817-1819)

Traveling to Palmyra, New York (circa January 1817)

On the way to Palmyra Joseph Smith Jr., after being knocked down, had to walk in snow and later a stranger took him to Palmyra (Note A to Manuscript History, dictated by Joseph Smith to Willard Richards in December 1842)

Attends school (1818)

First Lines in Arithmetic, for the Use of Young Scholars. Hartford, Connecticut, 1818; book signed "Joseph Smiths Book January 31st, 1818"

Joseph Smith Jr. learns to read, write and the ground rules of arithmetic (1832 Account of life of Joseph Smith)

Joseph reads the Bible

Joseph Smith Jr. searches the scriptures (1832 Account)

Works on behalf of family (circa July 10, 1818)

Joseph half Day Drawing hay for Jeremiah Hurlbut of Palmyra

Joseph Smith Jr. renders assistance for the support of the family (1832 Account)

Testifies in behalf of his father (February 6, 1819)

Joseph Smith [Sr.] plaintiff vs Jeremiah Hurlbut defendant; Joseph Smith Jr. testifies for plaintiff (Court document, Ontario County Records Center, Canandaigua, New York)

FOURTEEN TO SIXTEEN YEARS OLD (1820-1822)

Helped solve questions in debating club

Smith used to assist in solving some portentous questions of moral or political ethics in juvenile debating club (Turner, 1851)

Joined class of Methodist church

Joseph Smith joined the probationary class of the Methodist church in Palmyra; soon withdrew from the class (Tucker, 1867)

Exhorter in evening meetings

Smith caught a spark of Methodism in the camp meeting and was a very passable exhorter in evening meetings (Turner, 1851)

Mankind apostatized from true faith

Smith found that mankind had apostatized from the true and living faith (1832 Account)

Joseph Smith wants to obtain mercy

Smith cried unto the Lord for mercy (1832 Account)

Picked up *Palmyra Register* newspaper for father

once a week he would stroll into the office of the Palmyra Register, for his father's paper (Turner, 1851) The *Register* was published from November 26, 1817 to March 7, 1821.

Joseph Smith saw the Lord and heard him (circa 1821)

Smith saw the Lord and he spoke saying, Joseph my son thy sins are forgiven thee (1832 Account)

Borrowed peep stone found on Chase family farm

Willard Chase let Joseph Smith put a stone into Smith's hat; loaned it to him (Willard Chase Affidavit, 1833)

SEVENTEEN TO NINETEEN YEARS OLD (1823-1824)

Alvin Smith to be brought to hill

According to Joseph Knight Sr. and Willard Chase the early story was that Joseph Smith Jr. was to bring his brother Alvin to the hill next September in order to obtain the plates (Joseph Knight Sr., Willard Chase)

Alvin Smith dies (November 19, 1823)

Death of Alvin Smith November 19, 1823 (headstone)

Revival in Palmyra area

1824 revival in connection with local churches starts (Rev. George Lane)

Return of peep stone

peep stone returned to Chase family (Willard Chase)

NINETEEN TO TWENTY YEARS OLD (1825-1826)

Peep stone

peep stone borrowed again; by Hyrum Smith (Willard Chase)

Two Joseph Smith's hunts for treasure together

working for Josiah Stowell (Joseph Smith)

Joseph Smith attends school (Joseph Smith)

1826 Examination of Joseph Smith (March 20, 1826)

State of New York vs Joseph Smith the Glass looker (1826 Court minutes)

Other activities

Joseph Smith uses stone in his hat (Isaac Hale, 1834)

circa November 1826 Joseph Smith Jr. told early story of record/plates outside of family to Joseph Knight Sr. (Joseph Knight Sr.)

TWENTY-ONE TO TWENTY-TWO YEARS OLD (1827-1828)

Joseph Smith marries Emma Hale (January 18, 1827)

Joseph Jr. and Emma Hale were married (Joseph Smith)

Story of gold plates told to others

June 1827 Joseph Smith Sr. told early story to Willard Chase (Willard Chase)

October 1, 1827 Joseph Smith Jr. brings plates home

circa October 1, 1827 Martin Harris heard part of story from Smith family, plates found by peep stone (Martin Harris)

early October Joseph Smith Jr. told Willard Chase about going to hill and hiding plates (Willard Chase)

Box said to contain gold plates shown

A box exhibited said to contain plates held by individuals including wife and daughter of Martin Harris (Martin Harris, William Smith)

Joseph Smith working for Peter Ingersoll (Martin Harris)

Smith tells Peter Ingersoll he had no such book (Peter Ingersoll)

Works on contents of plates (circa January-June 1828)

circa January 1828 Ruben Hale and Emma Hale Smith scribes as Joseph Jr. orally presents story line of record

peep stone in hat said to be used to reveal wording on plates (Isaac Hale; Emma Hale Smith Bidamon)

circa February 1828 Martin Harris shows characters and tells about plates and spectacles to Charles Anthon (Joseph Smith, Charles Anthon)

circa April 12-June 14, 1828 Martin Harris a scribe to Joseph Jr. (Joseph Smith)

June 1828 Manuscript pages borrowed by Martin Harris are lost (Joseph Smith)