

***What is this?***



*This is the wooden box the Prophet hid the plates in. The inside measurement of the box is 14" x 16". The depth is 6 1/4" sloping to 4". The wood is 3/4" thick. The lid and bottom are walnut, and the sides are made from boxwood. The box was used as a lap desk, which explains the sloped top. The box is in the possession of Patriarch Eldred G. Smith.*

*Who's House is this??*



### The Log Home of the Smith Family

Around 1818 Joseph Smith, Sr., his wife, Lucy Mack Smith, and their eight children moved from Palmyra village to Stafford Road, just north of the 100 acres they planned to acquire. They built a log home and outbuildings where they resided for approximately seven years.

In late 1825 they moved a few hundred feet south to their new frame home. Their son, Hyrum, had arranged to purchase the eighty acres of land surrounding the log home. Following his marriage to Jerusha Barden, in November of 1826, Hyrum and his wife resided in the log home.

In the spring of 1829, Father and Mother Smith and their younger children returned to the log home where they lived with Hyrum's family until the fall of 1830.

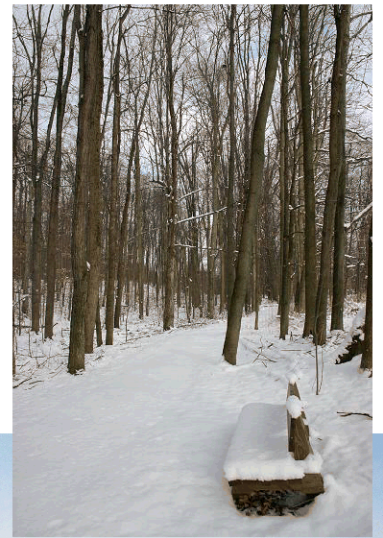
*Where is this??*



In the early 1800's Palmyra, New York was bursting with the promise of growth and prosperity. In 1828 it added a new three story building to its bustling business district. That structure was known as Thayer and Grandin's Row. It was not the excellence of its construction or its striking facade that would give it a place in history but rather, it was the fact that two young men, Joseph Smith Jr., the founder of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Egbert B. Grandin, an aspiring young publisher, signed a contract to publish a book, entitled the **Book of Mormon**. The year of their agreement was 1829. Through the ensuing years many alterations were made to the building. Now, that part of the building owned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been restored to the way it was in the late 1820's.

On March 26, 1998, the anniversary of the first printing of the Book of Mormon in 1830, the restored part of the building was dedicated. Visitors are invited to come to this Historic Site, see the building, the printing presses and observe the printing sequence in the room where the printing of the Book of Mormon actually took place. The visitor will also be able to walk through the bindery and into the store where the Book of Mormon was first sold. Of course, there is much more.





***Where is this  
and what  
happened here?***



## *The Sacred Grove*

*In the spring of 1820, Joseph Smith, Jr. entered this remnant of an ancient forest to kneel in prayer. The vision he beheld of God the father and his son, Jesus Christ, initiated the restoration to the earth of the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*Nine years later, in late June of 1829, Joseph Smith Jr. gathered a small group of his family and friends to a secluded spot in these woods and showed them the gold plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated. He allowed each of the eight participants to hold the ancient record, turn its pages and examine its characters. They prepared a written testimony, which was published in the Book of Mormon.*

*Palmyra, New York*



*What happened in this room?*



## FIRST APPEARANCE OF MORONI

Here late in the evening on Sunday, 21 September 1823, seventeen-year-old Joseph retired for the night. Concerned about his standing before the Lord, he earnestly prayed for forgiveness of his sins. He was confident that he would again receive a divine manifestation. Suddenly his room filled with light and a heavenly messenger stood by his bedside in partial

fulfillment of the great prophecy of John the Apostle (see Revelation 14:6–7).

Joseph described this resurrected being: “He had on a loose robe of most exquisite whiteness. It was a whiteness beyond anything earthly I had ever seen; nor do I believe that any earthly thing could be made to appear so exceedingly white and brilliant. His hands were naked, and his arms also, a little above the wrist; so, also, were his feet naked, as were his legs, a little above the ankles. His head and neck were also bare. I could discover that he had no other clothing on but this robe, as it was open, so that I could see into his bosom.

“Not only was his robe exceedingly white, but his whole person was glorious beyond description, and his countenance truly like lightning. The room was exceedingly light, but not so very bright as immediately around his person. When I first looked upon him, I was afraid; but the fear soon left me” (Joseph Smith—History 1:31–32).

The messenger introduced himself as Moroni, a prophet who had lived on the American continent. As holder of the keys of the “stick of Ephraim” (see D&C 27:5), Moroni came at the appointed hour to reveal the existence of a record written on gold plates which had lain hidden in the ground for fourteen centuries. It was “an account of the former inhabitants of this

continent. . . . He also said that the fulness of the everlasting Gospel was contained in it, as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants” (Joseph Smith—History 1:34). Joseph was to translate the record and publish it; because of this and other things he would be called to do, his name would be known for good and evil among all people (see v. 33).

Moroni cited several passages from the Bible quoting prophets such as Malachi, Isaiah, Joel, and Peter concerning the preparations to be made in the last days for the millennial reign of Christ. This commenced the gospel tutorship of Joseph Smith by Moroni.

So important was Moroni’s message and the need to impress it on the mind of the young Prophet that Moroni returned twice more that night and repeated the same instructions, adding information each time. During the first “interview” Joseph saw in vision the location of the plates (see v. 42).

They were buried in a hillside about three miles from his home. In the second visit, Joseph was told of judgments which were coming upon the earth (see v. 45). At the end of the third visit, Moroni warned Joseph that Satan would try to tempt him to get the plates for their temporal value because of his family’s poverty. Moroni directed seventeen-year-old Joseph that he was to have only one purpose for obtaining the plates and that was to glorify God. Only one motive should influence him, and that was to build God’s kingdom (see v. 46). Through subsequent events the Prophet learned why Moroni had given such admonitions and directions. Joseph’s interviews with Moroni occupied most of the night, for at the end of the third visit he heard a rooster crow. Indeed, a new day of spiritual light was about to dawn. Isaiah spoke of this day as a time when a “marvellous work and a wonder” would come forth (Isaiah 29:14).

*What temple  
is this?*



*What 2 things does this temple  
have that NO other temple has?*

## The Palmyra Temple

The Palmyra Temple is one of the most significant temples in the Church. Despite the fact that the temple is one of the new small temples, following the same design as more than a dozen other operating temples, the Palmyra Temple has deep historical and spiritual significance and incorporates several features that are unique among all temples, not just the small ones.

Palmyra is where this dispensation began, in 1820 Joseph Smith saw Heavenly Father and Jesus in a grove of trees just a short distance from the temple. In 1823 he received the Plates containing the Book of Mormon from the hill Cumorah which is also less than a mile from the temple.

The Palmyra Temple was the 100th temple announced by the Church and was planned to be the 100th temple dedicated but delays on other temple projects made it the 77th temple dedicated. It was dedicated on the 6th of April 2000, exactly 170 years from the date of the organization of the Church, in Fayette New York, a short drive away from the temple site.

Among the architectural details that make the Palmyra Temple unique are the stained glass windows found throughout the temple. Originally the Church planned to install a single mural of stained glass depicting the First Vision in one of the hallways of the temple. However, the artist that the Church commissioned to create the mural, suggested including stained glass windows in the building, all of them depicting the trees of the sacred grove. The First Presidency agreed, and now the temple is graced with over 17,000 pieces of hand cut colored glass in windows in the front lobby, the Baptistry, the Sealing Rooms, and the Celestial Room, as well as the original mural.

**President Hinckley wanted patrons of the temple to be able to see the sacred grove from within the temple so the three windows in the front lobby that overlook the sacred grove include one clear pane and two stained glass ones.** Most windows in Church temples are tinted or curtained so that the world and its associated cares are symbolically shut out. In this case a small piece of the world that served as a temple for a few moments in 1820, is brought in.

The concrete used in the temple also has a unique feature. **All of the primary children in the temple district painted their names on small rocks. These rocks were then placed into the concrete used to make the walkway and landing leading to the temple.**

The temple was announced on 21 February 21 1999.





*Where is this?*





*The Hill Cumorah is a drumlin, a long hill with steep sides and a sloping end formed under an advancing continental ice sheet. Drumlins in this region run north and south. Oliver Cowdery, who visited the hill in 1830, described it: "The north end rose suddenly from the plain, forming a promontory without timber, but covered with grass. As you passed to the south you soon came to scattering timber, the surface having been cleared by art or by wind; and a short distance further left, you are surrounded with the common forest of the country. . . . It was at the second mentioned place where the record was found to be deposited, on the west side of the hill, not far from the top down its side."*

Hill Cumorah is the most notable of many hills, or drumlins, in New York State's Finger Lakes region. The hill figures prominently in events that led to the organization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

In A.D. 421, Moroni, the last survivor of a great civilization that had inhabited the Americas since about 600 B.C., buried in this hill a set of gold plates on which was recorded the history of his people. In 1827, Moroni returned as an angel and delivered the plates to Joseph Smith, who translated them and published them as the Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ.

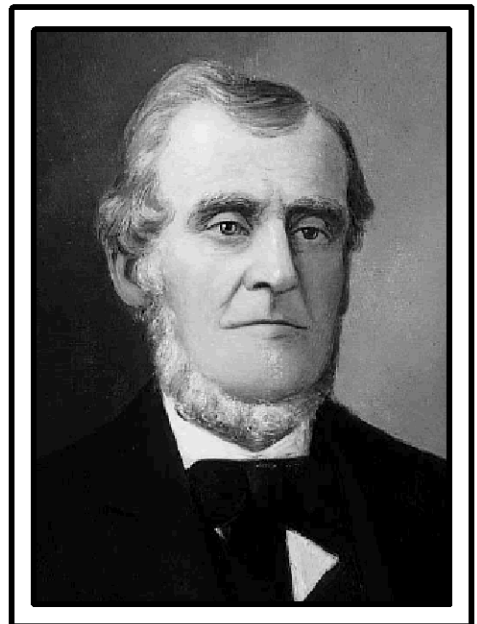
*How many  
languages is the  
Book of Mormon  
now available??  
Hint, Pres. Hinckley  
just told us in this  
past conference*



*It has been published in 106 different languages*



*Who is this?*



## Martin Harris

*Except for Joseph Smith, no man played a more varied role in the coming forth of the Book of Mormon than Martin Harris. He provided financial support so the Prophet could move from Manchester, New York, to Harmony, Pennsylvania, in December 1827, helping to fulfill an ancient prophecy (see Isaiah 29:11–12). He also served as scribe, became a witness of the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, financially assisted in its publication, and testified of the truthfulness of the book throughout his life.*



*Who is this?*



Oliver Cowdery (1806-1850), scribe to Joseph Smith and witness of the Book of Mormon (1829), Second Elder of the Church (1830), and Assistant President of the Church (1834), editor, and lawyer. Cowdery was with Joseph Smith when the Aaronic and Melchizedek priesthoods and keys were restored. After ten years of separation from the Church, he was rebaptized. He died at age forty-three, faithful to his testimony.

*Who is this?*



Emma Hale Smith was the wife of Joseph Smith, prophet of the Restoration. She was born 10 July 1804 to Isaac and Elizabeth Lewis Hale, who were the first permanent settlers in Harmony, Pennsylvania. Emma met Joseph when he boarded at her father's inn while working near Harmony. They were married 18 January 1827. That fall Joseph received the gold plates and began to translate them as directed by the Lord. Emma served as a scribe during the early part of the translation of the Book of Mormon.

***Where is this and who's house is it?***





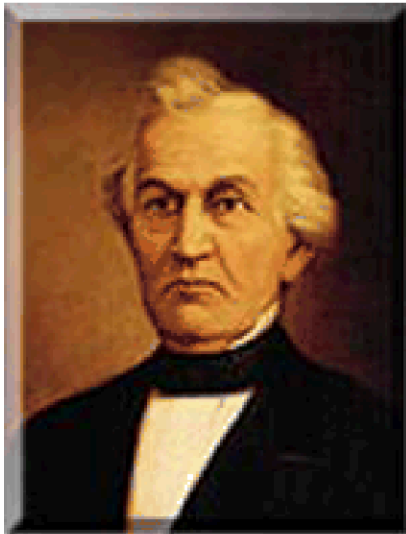
**Joseph and Emma Smith's home in Harmony, Pennsylvania.** The center portion is the original home. This is where Emma gave birth to their first child, Alvin, who died the same day, 15 June 1828.

Here Joseph Smith translated a large portion of the Book of Mormon. While living in Harmony, the Prophet received several revelations (see D&C 3–13, 24–27).

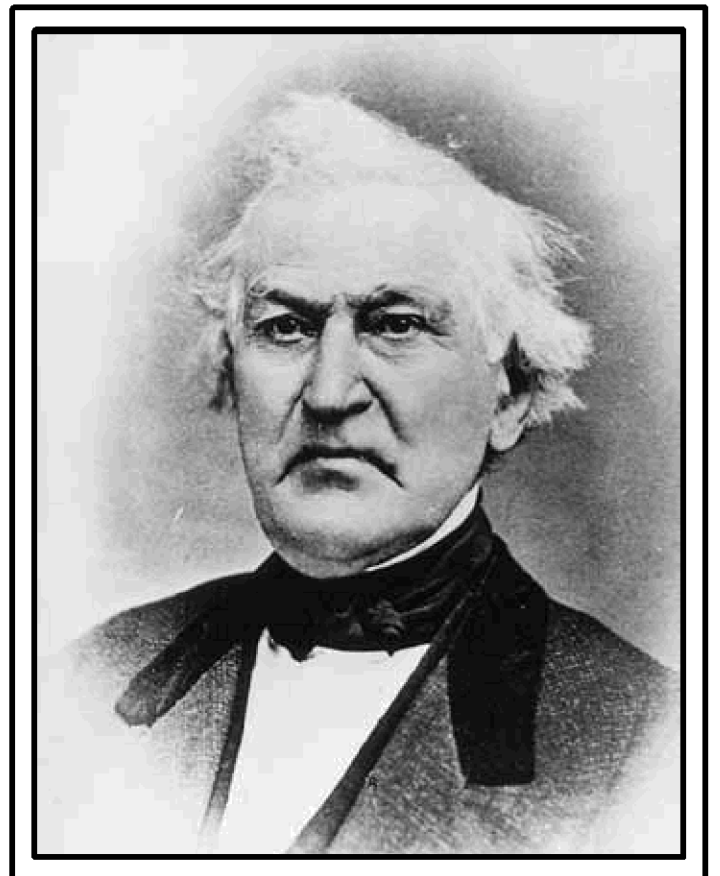


*Who is this?*

***Hyrum Smith (1800–1844)** was the older brother of the Prophet Joseph. He was martyred with this brother in Carthage, Illinois, in June of 1844.*



*Who is this?*



*David Whitmer (1805–88) was one of the three witnesses of the Book of Mormon. He died in Richmond, Missouri, at the age of eighty-four.*



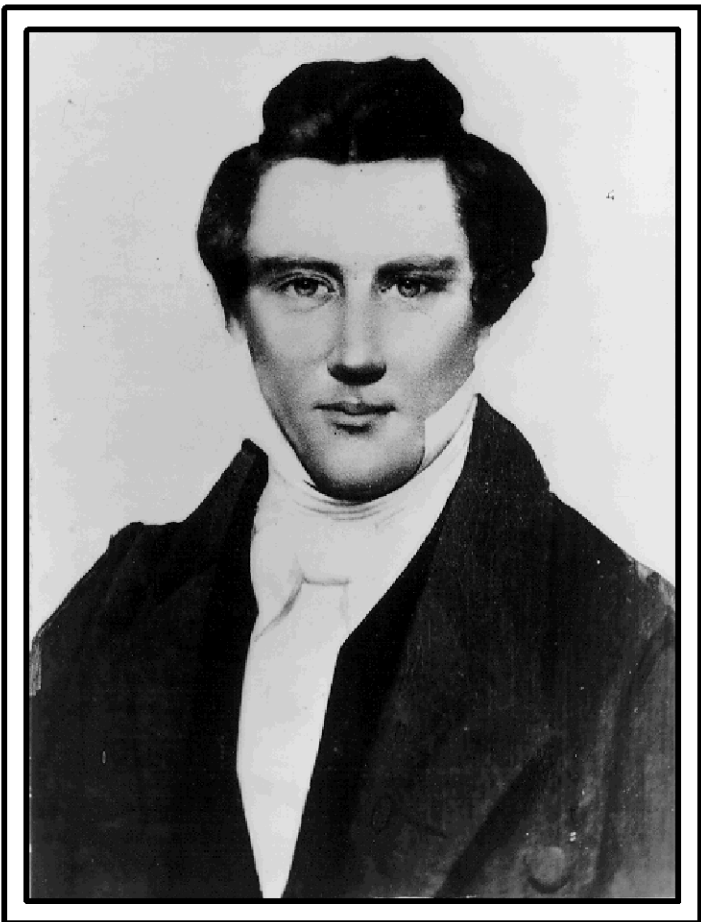
*Where is this and who's home is it, and what happened here?*



**Peter Whitmer Sr homes, this church was organized here**

*Peter Whitmer, Sr., offered the use of his home for the organization meeting that was scheduled for Tuesday, 6 April, according to the revelation. At the appointed hour, close to sixty people assembled to witness the formal organization of the Church of Jesus Christ.*

*Approximately twenty of these people had come from Colesville, a distance of approximately one hundred miles, to participate in the events of this sacred occasion.*



*Who is this?*



### **Joseph Smith Jr., 1st President of the Church**

Born December 23, 1805, in Sharon, Vermont, Joseph Smith Jr. was the fifth of eleven children of Joseph Smith and Lucy Mack. He worked on the family farm in Vermont and later in western New York. A series of remarkable spiritual experiences prepared him for his prophetic calling. Beginning in 1820 at Palmyra, New York, Joseph Smith saw God the Father and Jesus Christ in vision. Through revelation, he translated and published the Book of Mormon, organized The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on April 6, 1830, and received revelations to guide the Church. By inspiration, he called Apostles and other Church leaders, defined doctrines, and taught the principles and ordinances that would lead to exaltation. Under his leadership, Latter-day Saints founded communities in Ohio, Missouri, and Illinois. He was sustained as First Elder of the Church on April 6, 1830. On June 27, 1844, at Carthage, Illinois, Joseph Smith died a martyr to his faith.



*Who is  
this?*

*Lucy Mack Smith, mother of the Prophet*