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## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

PAGE 273.—History of Joseph Smith.  
PAGE 274.—History of Joseph Smith.  
PAGE 275.—History of Joseph Smith continued—Remarks by Elder Orson Hyde, Tabernacle, Nov. 1, 1857—Discourse by Elder Lorenzo D. Young, Tabernacle, Oct. 25, 1857.  
PAGE 276.—Discourse by Elder Lorenzo D. Young, Tabernacle, Oct. 25, 1857, concluded—Discourse by Elder Orson Hyde, Tabernacle, Sunday afternoon, October 25, 1857—The New Dome of the Capitol—Pre-emption—Improvement in Shaft Motion—Preservation of American Grain—Habit—Cash and Credit—Hall.  
PAGE 277.—Editorial: California Mail—From Carson Valley—The Finest Apple—News: Kansas—Texas—Terrific Hurricane in Wisconsin—Camels—The Colorado—The Atlantic Telegraph Cable, &c.—Prussia—Russia and Circassia—India—Table Containing a Summary of Meteorological Observations, for the Month Ending October, 1857.  
PAGE 278.—Poetry: Shoulder to the Wheel.—Discourse by Patriarch John Young, Tabernacle, a. m., Oct. 25, 1857.  
PAGE 279.—Discourse by Patriarch John Young, Oct. 25, concluded—Death of the High Priest of Japan—Fire Proof Firemen—How Merchant Ships are Manned—Mrs. Partington on Courtship and Marriage—Business Advertisements.  
PAGE 280.—Poetry: Keep to the Right.—The Whale—Lemon Juice in Dropsy—Married—Died—New Advs.

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## HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

JUNE, 1844.

### AN ACCOUNT OF THE

#### ARREST, IMPRISONMENT AND MARTYRDOM OF PRESIDENT JOSEPH SMITH AND PATRIARCH HYRUM SMITH, IN CARTHAGE JAIL, HANCOCK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

As collected from the journals kept at the time by Dr. Willard Richards, and the statements published by John Taylor, Messrs. Reid and Woods, and John S. Fullmer, and the writings and statements of Dan Jones, Cyrus H. Wheelock, Stephen Markham, and many other persons who were personally acquainted with the transactions.

BY THE HISTORIAN.

JUNE 22, 1844.—About 9 p. m., Hyrum came out of the Mansion, and gave his hand to Reynolds Cahoon, at the same time saying, "A company of men are seeking to kill my brother Joseph, and the Lord has warned him to flee to the Rocky Mountains to save his life; good bye, brother Cahoon, we shall see you again." In a few minutes afterwards, Joseph came from his family; his tears were flowing fast; he held a handkerchief to his face, and followed after brother Hyrum without uttering a word.

Between 9 and 10 p. m., Joseph, Hyrum and Willard, while waiting on the banks of the river for the skiff, sent for W. W. Phelps, and instructed him to take their families to Cincinnati by the second steamboat arriving at Nauvoo, and when he arrived there to commence petitioning the President of the United States and Congress for redress of grievances, and see if they would grant the Church liberty and equal rights. Joseph then said, "Go to our wives, and tell them what we have concluded to do, and learn their feelings on the subject; and tell Emma you will be ready to start by the second steamboat, and she has sufficient money wherewith to pay the expenses. If you ascertain by to-morrow morning that there is any thing wrong, come over the river to Montrose to the house of Captain John Killien, and there you will learn where we are."

About midnight, Joseph, Hyrum, and Dr. Richards called for O. P. Rockwell at his lodgings, and all went up the river bank until they found Aaron Johnson's boat, which they got into, and started about 2 a. m. to cross the Mississippi river. O. P. Rockwell rowed the skiff, which was very leaky, so that it kept Joseph, Hyrum, and the Doctor busy baling out the water with their boots and shoes to prevent it from sinking.

Sunday, 23.—At daybreak arrived on the Iowa side of the river. Sent O. P. Rockwell back to Nauvoo with instructions to return the next night with horses for Joseph and Hyrum, pass them over the river in the night secretly, and to be ready to start for the Great Basin in the Rocky Mountains.

Joseph, Hyrum, and Dr. Richards walked up to Captain John Killien's house, where they arrived at sunrise, but he not being at home, they went from thence to brother William Jordan's. About 9 a. m., Dr. Bernhisel came over the river to visit Joseph. Also Reynolds Cahoon, who made some explanations respecting Governor Ford's letter.

Early in the morning a posse arrived in Nauvoo to arrest Joseph, but as they did not find him they started back to Carthage immediately, leaving one man of the name of Yates behind them, who said to one of the brethren, that Governor Ford designed, that if Joseph and Hyrum were not given up, he would send his troops and guard the city until they were found, if it took three years to do it.

At 1 p. m., Emma sent over O. P. Rockwell,

requesting him to intreat of Joseph to come back; Reynolds Cahoon accompanied him with a letter which Emma had written to the same effect, and she insisted that Cahoon should persuade Joseph to come back and give himself up. When they went over they found Joseph, Hyrum, and Willard in a room by themselves, having flour and other provisions on the floor ready for packing.

Reynolds Cahoon informed Joseph what the troops intended to do, and urged upon him to give himself up, inasmuch as the Governor had pledged his faith and the faith of the State to protect him while he underwent a legal and fair trial. R. Cahoon, L. D. Wasson, and Hiram Kimball accused Joseph of cowardice for wishing to leave the people, adding that their property would be destroyed, and they left without house or home; like the fable when the wolves came, the shepherd ran from the flock, and left the sheep to be devoured. To which Joseph replied, "If my life is of no value to my friends, it is of none to myself."

Joseph said to Rockwell, "What shall I do?" Porter replied, "You are the oldest and ought to know best; and as you make your bed, I will lay with you." Joseph then turned to Hyrum, who was talking with Cahoon, and said, "Brother Hyrum, you are the oldest, what shall we do?" Hyrum said, "Let us go back and give ourselves up, and see the thing out." After studying a few moments Joseph said, "If you go back I shall go with you, but we shall be butchered." Hyrum said, "No, no; let us go back, and put our trust in God, and we shall not be harmed; the Lord is in it; if we live or have to die, we will be reconciled to our fate."

After a short pause Joseph told Cahoon to request Captain Daniel C. Davis to have his boat ready by half past five o'clock, to cross them over the river.

Joseph and Hyrum then wrote the following letter:—

"Bank of the River Mississippi, }  
Sunday, June 23, 1844: 2 p. m. }  
His Excellency Thomas Ford:—

Sir:—I wrote you a long communication at 12 last night, expressive of my views of your Excellency's communication of yesterday. I thought your letter rather severe, but one of my friends has just come to me with an explanation from the captain of your posse, which softened the subject matter of your communication, and gives us greater assurance of protection, and that your Excellency has succeeded in bringing in subjection the spirits which surround your Excellency to some extent. And I declare again, the only objection I ever had or ever made to a trial by my country at any time, was what I have made in my last letter—on account of assassins, and the reason I have to fear deathly consequences from their hands.

But from the explanation, I now offer to come to you at Carthage on the morrow, as early as shall be convenient for your posse to escort us in to Head Quarters, provided we can have a fair trial, not be abused, nor have my witnesses abused, and have all things done in due form of law, without partiality, and you may depend on my honor without the show of a great armed force to produce excitement in the minds of the timid.

We will meet your posse, if this letter is satisfactory (if not, inform me) at or near the Mound, at or about two o'clock to-morrow afternoon, which will be as soon as we can get our witnesses, and prepare for trial. We shall expect to take our witnesses with us, and not have to wait a subpoena, or a part at least, so as not to detain the proceedings, although we may want time for counsel.

We remain most respectfully,  
Your Excellency's humble servants,  
JOSEPH SMITH,  
HYRUM SMITH.

Also wrote to H. T. Hugins, Esq.:—  
"Sunday, Nauvoo, June 23, 1844.

H. T. Hugins, Esq.:—  
Sir:—I have agreed to meet Governor Ford at Carthage to-morrow to attend an examination before Justice Morrison, and request your attendance professionally with the best attorney you can bring.

I meet the Governor's posse on the Mound at 10 a. m.; in Carthage at 12 noon. Do not fail me, and oblige,

Yours respectfully,  
JOSEPH SMITH,  
Per W. Richards, Clerk.

P. S. Dr. J. R. Wakefield I wish as witness, &c."

And also to Dr. J. R. Wakefield as follows:—

"Nauvoo, Sunday, June 23rd, 1844.

Dr. J. R. Wakefield:—  
Sir:—I would respectfully solicit your attendance at court in Carthage to-morrow at 12 noon, as witness in case 'State of Illinois, on complaint of F. M. Higbee vs. Joseph Smith and others.' Dear sir, do not fail me and oblige your old friend.

JOSEPH SMITH,  
by W. Richards, Clerk.

P. S. Esq. Hugins and co-partner are expected; we meet the Governor's posse on the Mound at 10 a. m.; at Carthage at 12 noon; bearer will give particulars."

About four o'clock, p. m., Joseph, Hyrum, the Doctor, and others started back; while walking towards the river Joseph fell behind

with O. P. Rockwell; the others shouted to him to come on; Joseph replied, "it is of no use to hurry, for we are going back to be slaughtered," and continually expressed himself that he would like to get the people once more together, and talk to them to-night. Rockwell said if that was his wish he would get the people together, and he could talk to them by starlight.

It was the strong persuasions of Reynolds Cahoon, Lorenzo D. Wasson, and Hiram Kimball, who were carrying out Emma's instructions, that induced Joseph and Hyrum to start back to Nauvoo. They recrossed the river at half past five; when they arrived at his Mansion in Nauvoo, Joseph's family surrounded him, and he tarried there all night, giving up the idea of preaching to the Saints by starlight.

He sent the letter to Governor Ford of this date by Col. Theodore Turley, and Elder Jedediah M. Grant, who carried it to Carthage, where they arrived about 9 p. m. They gave the letter to Governor Ford, who first agreed to send a posse to escort Gen. Smith in safety to Carthage; immediately afterwards Mr. Skinner came in and made a very bitter speech to the Governor, in which Wilson Law and Joseph H. Jackson joined, telling him naught but lies, which caused Elder Grant to ask if messengers to him were to be insulted in that manner. The Governor treated them coldly, and rescinded his previous promise and refused to send, or allow an escort to go with Joseph, as he said it was an honor not given to any other citizen. He would not allow the messengers to stay in Carthage through the night, but ordered them to start at 10 o'clock and return to Nauvoo with orders for Gen. Smith to be in Carthage by 10 o'clock to-morrow morning without an escort; and he threatened that if Gen. Smith did not give himself up at that time, that Nauvoo would be destroyed, and all the men, women and children that were in it. Messrs. Grant and Turley immediately started, but on account of their horses being wearied they did not arrive in Nauvoo until about 4 a. m. of the 24th, when they went to Gen. Smith to report to him the state of excitement in Carthage; he would not hear one word of the warning, as he was determined to go to Carthage and give himself up to the Governor.

At night Joseph conversed with Captain Anderson, who reported that the mob at Warsaw had stopped his boat, and threatened to fire into her with their cannon. He gave the following certificate:—

"Nauvoo, 23rd June, 1844.  
This is to certify that on Tuesday morning last, I stated to General Joseph Smith that the number of passengers leaving that day might produce the effect on the public mind that they were afraid of being attacked, and prove injurious, and I further observed in order to preserve peace and good order that it would be better to use his endeavors to retain those in the city until the excitement should abate.

GEO. C. ANDERSON,  
Capt. Steamboat Osprey."

Joseph received the following letter:—

"Sunday Evening, June 23rd, 1844.

Gen. Joseph Smith:—  
Sir:—I have this moment received your favor of this day per the hands of Mr. Adams, I regret to say in reply that I am now awaiting every moment a boat for St. Louis, whither my business requires me to go, and which of course will deter me from acceding to your request. I have introduced Mr. Adams to a friend who is entirely competent to do full justice to your cause.

In great haste, yours respectfully,  
ED. JOHNSTON,  
Fort Madison, Iowa."

Preparations are making for an early start to-morrow morning for Carthage. Joseph gave directions to gather some horses for the purpose of carrying him and his friends to Carthage to-morrow.

Although the Governor has threatened to send his troops into the city, none have appeared as yet.

Monday, 24.—Francis M. Higbee having sworn out a writ before Thomas Morrison, a justice of the peace at Carthage, on the 11th inst., against Joseph Smith, Hyrum Smith, Samuel Bennett, John Taylor, William W. Phelps, John P. Greene, Stephen C. Perry, Dimick B. Huntington, Jonathan Dunham, Stephen Markham, William W. Edwards, Jonathan Holmes, Jesse P. Harmon, John Lytle, Joseph W. Coolidge, David Harvey Redfield, Orrin P. Rockwell, and Levi Richards, for riot in destroying the Nauvoo Expositor Press, the property of William and Wilson Law and others on the 10th inst., and Governor Ford having sent word by the posse that those eighteen persons should be protected by the militia of the State; they, upon the assurance of that pledge at 6½ a. m. started for Carthage, Willard Richards, Dan Jones, Henry G. Sherwood, Alfred Randall, James Davis, Cyrus H. Wheelock, A. C. Hodge, and several other brethren, together with James W. Woods, as counsel, accompanying them.

When they arrived at the top of the hill, Joseph sent Rockwell with a horse for Dr. Southwick, a southern gentleman who had been staying some days at the Mansion, and who wished General Joseph Smith to buy considerable property in Texas; but Ed. Bonney took possession

of the horse, so that Dr. S. could not then go.

Joseph paused when they got to the Temple, and looked with admiration first on that and then on the city, and remarked, "This is the loveliest place and the best people under the heavens; little do they know the trials that await them." As he passed out of the city he called on Daniel H. Wells, Esq., who was unwell, and on parting he said, "Squire Wells, I wish you to cherish my memory, and not think me the worst man in the world either."

At 10 min. to 10 a. m., they arrived at Albert G. Fellows' farm, 4 miles west of Carthage, where they met Captain Dunn, with a company of about sixty mounted militia, on seeing which Joseph said, "Do not be alarmed, brethren, for they cannot do more to you than the enemies of truth did to the ancient saints—they can only kill the body." The company made a halt, when Joseph, Hyrum, and several others went into Fellows' house with Captain Dunn, who presented an order from Governor Ford for all the "State arms" in possession of the Nauvoo Legion, which Joseph immediately countersigned.

Henry G. Sherwood went up to Joseph and said, "Brother Joseph, shall I return to Nauvoo, and regulate about getting the arms, and get the receipts for them?" Joseph inquired if he was under arrest, or expected to be arrested. Sherwood answered "No;" when Joseph directed him to return a head of the company, gather the arms, and do as well as he could in all things. Joseph then said to the company who were with him, "I am going like a lamb to the slaughter, but I am calm as a summer's morning; I have a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward all men; if they take my life I shall die an innocent man, and my blood shall cry from the ground for vengeance, and it shall yet be said of me, 'he was murdered in cold blood.'" He then said to Father Sherwood, "Go, and God bless you." Sherwood then rode as swiftly as he could to Nauvoo.

Esq. Woods left the company there, and continued his journey to Carthage.

This order for the delivery of the State arms was evidently designed to drive the citizens of Nauvoo to desperation, so that in the heat of their indignation they might commit some overt act which the Governor could construe into treason, and thus have a shadow of excuse for his mob militia to destroy the Mormons.

Captain Dunn requested the company to return to Nauvoo to assist in collecting the arms, and pledged his word as a military man that Joseph Smith and his friends should be protected even if it were at the expense of his own life, and his men responded to that pledge by three cheers. Captain Dunn no doubt feared that the order of the Governor would excite the inhabitants of Nauvoo beyond endurance, and therefore chose rather to depend upon the well known integrity of Gen. Smith than to risk the chances of exciting the wounded feelings of a much abused people. At the same time Joseph sent a messenger to the Governor with the following letter:—

"Four Miles West of Carthage Mound, }  
Hancock co., Ill., Monday, 10 o'clock. }

His Excellency Gov. Ford:—

Dear Sir:—On my way to Carthage to answer your request, this morning, I here met Capt. Dunn, who has made known to me your order to surrender the State arms in possession of the Nauvoo Legion, which demand I shall comply with, and that the same may be done properly and without trouble to the State, I shall return with Capt. Dunn to Nauvoo, see that the arms are put into his possession, and shall then return to head quarters in his company, when I shall most cheerfully submit to any requisition of the Governor of our State.

With all due respect to your Excellency, I remain,

Your obedient servant,  
JOSEPH SMITH."

He also issued the following order:—  
"Head Quarters, Nauvoo Legion,  
Prairie 4 miles west of Carthage,  
June 24, 1844, 10 o'clock & 10 min."

To Major Gen. Jonathan Dunham and all commissioned and non-commissioned officers and privates of the Nauvoo Legion:—

You are hereby ordered to comply strictly, and without delay, with the within order of the Commander in Chief, Governor Thomas Ford.

JOSEPH SMITH,  
Lieut. Gen. Nauvoo Legion."

And requested that the State arms should be taken to the Masonic Hall without delay.

Hyrum then said to Abram C. Hodge, "You go on into Carthage, and see what is going on, and hear what is said on this matter"

Joseph and his company then returned with Capt. Dunn, and arrived in Nauvoo at 2½ p. m.

When Hodge arrived at Carthage he met with the Rev. Mr. Dodge, who had some time previously been very kindly treated by Hyrum; he warned Hodge that as sure as Joseph and Hyrum came to Carthage they would be killed. Hodge also saw Hamilton the innkeeper, who, pointing to the Carthage Greys, said, "Hodge, there are the boys that will settle you Mormons." Hodge replied, "We can take as many men as there are there out of the Nauvoo Legion, and they would not be missed."