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Lucy Mack Smith/"Where Lucy Goes"

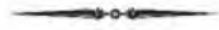
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Lucy Mack Smith



Lucy Mack (1775–1856) met Joseph Smith, Sr., (1771–1840) Senior while visiting in Tunbridge, Vermont. They were married the following year on 24 January 1796. Lucy’s life for the next twenty years can be chronicled by the various places they lived and the births of their children.

1. Child	<i>b.</i> in Tunbridge, VT	1797	<i>d.</i> 1797
2. Alvin	<i>b.</i> in Tunbridge, VT	1798	<i>d.</i> 1823
3. Hyrum	<i>b.</i> in Tunbridge, VT	1800	<i>d.</i> 1844
4. Sophronia	<i>b.</i> in Tunbridge, VT	1803	<i>d.</i> 1876
5. Joseph, Jr.	<i>b.</i> in Sharon, VT	1805	<i>d.</i> 1844
6. Samuel H.	<i>b.</i> in Tunbridge, VT	1808	<i>d.</i> 1844
7. Ephraim	<i>b.</i> in Royalton, VT	1810	<i>d.</i> 1810
8. William	<i>b.</i> in Royalton, VT	1811	<i>d.</i> 1893
9. Catherine	<i>b.</i> in Lebanon, NH	1812	<i>d.</i> 1900
10. Don Carlos	<i>b.</i> in Norwich, VT	1816	<i>d.</i> 1841
11. Lucy	<i>b.</i> in Palmyra, NY	1821	<i>d.</i> 1882

Six years after they were married, the Smiths moved from their Tunbridge farm to Randolph. While there, Lucy was diagnosed with tuberculosis and lay near death. Desiring to care for her husband and children, she prayed that the Lord would spare her life. She later recorded,

I made a solemn covenant with God that if He would let me live I would endeavor to serve him according to the best of my abilities. Shortly after this I heard a voice say to me, ‘... Let your

heart be comforted; ye believe in God, believe also in me.’⁸

The Smiths returned to Tunbridge for a short time and then moved to Royalton. Although they suffered severe financial setbacks, Lucy, true to her word, continued to examine the Bible and search for spiritual truth.

Joseph and Lucy next lived in Sharon and again in Tunbridge before returning to Royalton. In 1811 they moved their family to West Lebanon, New Hampshire. Here their children became ill with typhoid fever during an epidemic that claimed the lives of thousands. Although none of their children died as a consequence, Joseph suffered complications. The infection in his leg indicated that it would have to be amputated. Providentially, the Smiths were living near Hanover. At that time Nathan Smith, at nearby Dartmouth Medical College, was the only doctor in the entire United States who successfully operated for osteomyelitis. He performed an extremely painful, but successful, operation that made amputation unnecessary.

In April 1815 Mount Tambora in the Dutch East Indies erupted. The volcanic debris ejected into the atmosphere obscured the sun for months and affected weather patterns around the world. Between 6 June and 30 August, four killing frosts destroyed most of the crops in New England. This was the third year of successive crop failures in Norwich. The following year the Smiths moved to Palmyra, New York. Two years later the family purchased land in what would become the township of Manchester. The Lord had brought Lucy’s family to where they needed to be — near the Hill Cumorah, where in 1827 her son Joseph, Jr. would receive the gold plates.

Where Lucy Goes

Lucy goes to *Tunbridge*
and meets a tall, gentle man—
Joseph. Friendship deepens.
Wedding vows anchor affection.

In *Randolph*, stricken,
Lucy pleads for life to comfort
husband and young children,
promises God devotion, service.
Tunbridge. Royalton.
Honorable payment of unjust debt
leaves Smiths penniless.
Where is salvation?
Sharon. Tunbridge.
Remove once more to *Royalton*.
Bury baby Ephraim.
Goodbye to friends. Pack again.

Dear husband dreams
delicious fruit, felicitous family.
Dreaded typhoid rages
up the river valley leaving
thousands dead, Smith children ill.
In *West Lebanon*, Dartmouth doctors
save son Joseph's leg.

Norwich crops fail, fail.
Mount Tambora's ash
obscures the sun, darkens
prospects for prosperity.

In the year without a summer,
four times frosts flatten fields—
the final blow.

Ever-hopeful, Joseph
looks for fertile, watered lands.
Providence and Finger
Lakes point to *Palmyra*.
He sends for family.
Faithfully, courageously,
Lucy and eight children go.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Proverbs 3:5–6).