

THE JOSEPH AND HYRUM SMITH MEMORIAL

“CALM AS THE SUMMER’S MORNING”

NAUVOO, ILLINOIS
TEMPLE PLAZA WEST

On June 24, 1844, the Prophet Joseph Smith, with his brother Hyrum, and in company with seventeen other men, left Nauvoo for Carthage, on what would be his final horse ride, to answer charges against him for “riot.” When they arrived at the intersection of Mulholland and Wells, Joseph gazed at the beautiful Temple, then looked toward Nauvoo and the Mississippi River and said, ***“THIS IS THE LOVELIEST PLACE AND THE BEST PEOPLE UNDER THE HEAVENS, LITTLE DO THEY KNOW THE TRIALS THAT AWAIT THEM.”***

On June 27, 1844, Joseph and his brother Hyrum were martyred. His prophetic words, ***“I AM GOING LIKE A LAMB TO THE SLAUGHTER BUT I AM CALM AS A SUMMER’S MORNING. I HAVE A CONSCIENCE VOID OF OFFENSE TOWARDS GOD, AND TOWARDS ALL MEN. I SHALL DIE INNOCENT, AND IT SHALL YET BE SAID OF ME-HE WAS MURDERED IN COLD BLOOD,”*** BECAME A REALITY.



This magnificent bronze monument, crafted by LDS artists Stan Watts and Kim Company, is entitled ***“CALM AS A SUMMER’S MORNING.”*** The sculpture, more than 11 feet tall, stands atop a stone pedestal and depicts Joseph in peaceful conversation with his brother Hyrum.

The artists said they created the sculpture to demonstrate, *“Joseph’s concern for his brother, and Hyrum’s [devotion] to [Joseph]...and their willingness to do the Lord’s work.”*

• • •

*“My cousin John (son of Hyrum Smith) used to ride a large white horse named **“SAM,”** belonging to his father; and I used to ride the black horse named **“CHARLIE,”** belonging to my father.” Joseph Smith III*

NOTES OF INTEREST

- The artists began the statue early in 2003, often laboring 14 hours a day, six days a week. Mr. Stan Watts sculpted the human figures, while Ms. Kim Corpany concentrated on her specialty, the horses. *"I know I'm not capable of pounding as much clay as we have done. I know we've had help," she said.*

The Artists first created the statue in clay, then cast it in bronze.
Size: 11 ft. high – 10 ft. long – 6 ft. wide
Weight: 4,000 lbs.

- The sculpture was transported from Salt Lake City in one piece on a flatbed truck, arriving in Nauvoo at 9:00 AM on December 8, 2003. It was lifted with a crane onto the pedestal and secured. The project was completed by noon. The stone facing of the pedestal, with the sculpture in place, was then completed as you now see it.
- Are the positions of the hooves on the equestrian statues significant?

There is an Equestrian Military URBAN LEGEND that says:

Both front hooves in the air...rider died in battle
One hoof in the air...rider was wounded in battle
All four feet on the ground...rider died of natural causes later

Source: William H. Stauffer's....Round Table Talk...."There's No General Rule About Position of Feet on Equestrian Statues."
Civil War Times, vol. II (July 1960), p.6

About Joseph's Horses

Joseph had two horses: His favorite was *Charlie* a black horse with a prominent white star on his forehead. He was purchased in Kirtland, Ohio. *Charlie*, too was part of the move to Missouri and was mentioned as coming across the Mississippi with Emma and the children to Quincy at the time of the exodus. The Prophet often blackened the star, on *Charlie*, so he would not be so easily identified by his enemies. His other horse (a sorrel) was named Jo Duncan.

"...This horse (*Charlie*) was possessed of the spirit of ancient war horses. He was utterly without fear. Either that day or at another time I saw him ridden up to the side of a six-pound cannon. It was thought that he would run at the discharge, but he did not. He stood with his eyes blazing and his nostrils wide, without attempting to move away. When the smoke curled around his head, he raised it high, blowing the smoke from his nostrils with a snort. He was a striding illustration of the proverb about the horse when *"he smelleth the battle afar off."* I saw the man that beat the big bass drum march up to the horse until he fairly placed the drum against the horse's breast, without frightening him or disturbing him..."

Old Charlie had a deep-seated and unreasonable aversion for mules. If he were loose and could do so, he would always attack a mule on sight. One day he undertook to chase a young animal and galloped across the open lot after him. The ground had once been plowed and was uneven. He tripped and fell, doubling his head back under his neck in such a way as to break the spinal column, and died instantly. His passing seemed a decided relief, for times were very hard with us...money and means were very scarce. We had dreaded seeing the faithful creature grow thin and poor and useless. With his death coming in such a mercifully sudden manner, while he was still fat and sleek and well, our anxiety in regard to him was at an end. A team was hitched to the body, and it was drawn to the river, at that time the universal grave for most animal carcasses, and gently consigned to the flowing currents. **Joseph Smith III**