**200 years ago today:**

**The defining moment in the Smith family’s life that forged an unbreakable bond of support and became emblematic of their life.**

On August 3, the Joseph Smith Sr. Family Association will celebrate the 1st miracle of the restoration with **Joseph’s Miracle Run**; a 5K run at *This is the Place Heritage Park* in Salt Lake City. The public is invited to run or donate. Proceeds will fund a scholarship in Joseph’s name to Dartmouth Medical School, founded by Dr. Nathan Smith. For more info visit:

[www.JosephsMiracleRun.com](http://www.JosephsMiracleRun.com)

In the early summer of 1813, 7-year-old Joseph Smith was suffering intense pain from typhus; first in his chest where the doctor lanced and discharged a full quart of liquid, and then in the bone in his leg. This deadly infection that killed so many, threatened Joseph’s life as well. The available option was amputation, but if he survived, he would surely lose any hope of independent life. But something had to be done immediately—the infection, known today as osteomyelitis, was literally crushing his bone from the inside out. And it was spreading.

In desperation, the Smith family reached out to Dr. Nathan Smith, founder of Dartmouth medical school. He was pioneering an experimental surgery to cut open the inner bone and leave it exposed while it gradually healed. Without anesthetic, the surgery was excruciating. But the long recovery was as severe, as 14 shards of broken bone slowly worked their way out through the flesh.

Day after day, young Joseph courageously fought to get better. To help relieve the pain, his older brother Hyrum spent months by Joseph’s bedside massaging his leg for hours each day. Surely this trial was the great defining moment in their life; Joseph developing the courage and character to battle overwhelming difficulties, and Hyrum gaining the love and support that would never leave his brother’s side. When the time came for the tremendous work of the restoration, including the onslaughts of the adversary, Joseph was ready. And that bond always kept Hyrum at Joseph’s side to strengthen and encourage him. Even when it would cost him his life, Hyrum could never leave.

Dr. Jeffrey O’Driscoll, in his biography, *Hyrum Smith, a Life of Integrity*, commented that seven year old Joseph’s leg surgery had a great impact on that bonding. O’Driscoll wrote that Hyrum’s response in the face of martyrdom was, “Joseph, I cannot leave you.” “Hyrum,” O’Driscoll said, “would not leave the side of his seven-year-old brother during Joseph’s painful leg infection thirty years earlier, and he would not leave him now.”

On August 3, 2013, the Joseph Smith Sr. Family Association is celebrating the 200th anniversary of Joseph’s successful leg surgery with **Joseph’s Miracle Run**: a 5K family run at *This is the Place Heritage Park* in Salt Lake City. Proceeds will fund a scholarship in Joseph’s name to honor Dr. Nathan Smith, surgeon who saved Joseph’s leg.

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