

THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

Search

Enter search terms:

in this series

[Advanced Search](#)

[Notify me via email or RSS](#)

ScholarsArchive ISSN: 2572-4479

Browse

[Collections](#)

[Disciplines](#)

[Authors](#)

BYU Links

[Scholarly Communication](#)

[Additional Collections](#)

[Academic Research Blog](#)

Author Corner

[Author FAQ](#)

Hosted by the
[Harold B. Lee Library](#)

History of Four Mormon Landmarks in Western New York: The Joseph Smith Farm, Hill Cumorah, the Martin Harris Farm, and the Peter Whitmer, Sr., Farm

 [Download](#)

INCLUDED IN

[Cultural History Commons](#),

[Mormon Studies Commons](#)

SHARE



[Rand H. Packer, Brigham Young University -](#)

[Provo](#)

Abstract

As the church returned to Western New York in the early 1900s there was much prejudice against Mormonism. The twenty-four year mission of the Willard Bean family was instrumental in establishing a friendly atmosphere in the Palmyra, New York area and in regaining four historic land marks to the ownership of the Church.

It is still uncertain if the present Joseph Smith Sr., home was completed enough for the family to live in by the time the Angel Moroni visited Joseph Smith. Since 1881 the Sacred Grove was considered the woods where Joseph Smith had his First Vision. The term "Sacred Grove" became widely used after January 1906. The Church has restored the trees on the Hill Cumorah, and it has become the site for a yearly reproduction of the history of Mormonism. The original Martin Harris home burned and was replaced by the present cobblestone house. The original Peter Whitmer, Sr., cabin, where the Church was organized, was destroyed and later the present house was built.

Thousands of tourists visit these historic landmarks every year.

Degree

MA

College and Department

Religious Education; Church History and Doctrine

Rights

<http://lib.byu.edu/about/copyright/>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Packer, Rand H., "History of Four Mormon Landmarks in Western New York: The Joseph Smith Farm, Hill Cumorah, the Martin Harris Farm, and the Peter Whitmer, Sr., Farm" (1975). *Theses and Dissertations*. 5009.

<https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/etd/5009>

Date Submitted

1975

Document Type

Thesis

Handle

<http://hdl.lib.byu.edu/1877/etdm556>

Keywords

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, History, Guidebooks

Language

English

contradict what Mormon Church founder Joseph Smith said. Mormon Church Canon. And again, what do we hear? A member of the church (Ronnie Sparks) inquired of the First Presidency back in 1990 where the location of Cumorah and the final Nephite battle was. Brother Sparks received a reply on official letterhead that identified the hill in Palmyra as “Cumorah,” location of the final Nephite battle. It said: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Lucy Mack Smith reported that Joseph Smith Sr. had the tree of life dream. June 18. 1812. Popular history of New York published, relating tradition of Seneca Indians, highly civilized white race totally destroyed, built fortifications against savage red Indians.” (History of State of N.Y. Including its Aboriginal and Colonial Annals, 40). May. 1824. John Greenwood, New York lawyer, received power of attorney over Smith’s farm, 18 months overdue mortgage payment. Note deferred until Dec 25, 1825. Sept. Smith tells of second attempt to get plates from Hill Cumorah, again denied. Sept 29. 1824.