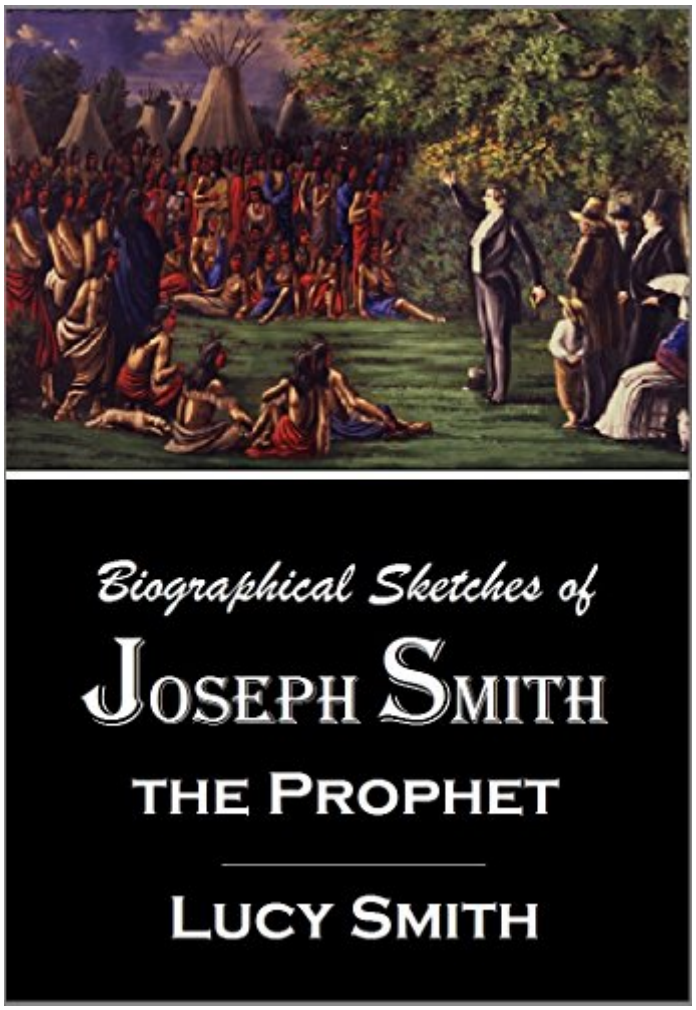
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Biographical Sketches Of Joseph Smith The Prophet And His Progenitors For Many Generations (1912)



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Synopsis

"History of Joseph Smith by His Mother" is a biography of Joseph Smith, founder of the Latter Day Saint movement, according to his mother, Lucy Mack Smith. It was originally titled "Biographical Sketches of Joseph Smith, the Prophet, and His Progenitors for Many Generations" and was published by Orson Pratt in Liverpool in 1853; it was republished in 1912 by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.Shortly following the death of Joseph Smith in 1844, and into 1845, Lucy Mack Smith dictated her recollections and family story to Nauvoo schoolteacher Martha Jane Coray. Coray worked with her husband to compile these books of notes and other sources into a manuscript, which was then copied.One copy was given to Brigham Young, and the other stayed with Lucy Smith in Nauvoo. Eventually, LDS Apostle Orson Pratt obtained Lucy’s copy and published it in 1853, to great controversy. After its publication, Brigham Young declared the book to be a "tissue of lies" and wanted corrections made.[In the Millennial Star in 1855, he said, "There are many mistakes in the workÃ¢â ¬Â¦ I have had a written copy of those sketches in my possession for several years, and it contains much of the history of the Prophet Joseph. Should it ever be deemed best to publish these sketches, it will not be done until after they are carefully corrected."In 1865, Young ordered the church members to have their copies destroyed. There was no "corrected" version until the church published a 1901 serialization and 1902 book, which were done under the direction of Joseph F. Smith, LucyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s grandson. Later historians theorized that Young opposed the book because of his own conflicts with its publisher, Orson Pratt, as well as the book’s favorable references to William Smith, Young’s opponent and Lucy’s son. Lucy Smith portrayed the Smith family as the legitimate leaders of the church, which Young may also have seen as a challenge to his leadership. LDS historian saw the book as "informative, basically accurate, and extremely revealing of Joseph Smith’s early life and family background," and felt it "perhaps tells more about Mormon origins than any other single source. It has been called one of "the essential sources for Mormon origins." Non-Mormon historians identifiy this history as being "of central importance in the Mormon historical corpus."The Kindle book presented here is the 1912 edition; the preface states in part: "At the time the book was first published it was spoken and written of quite highly, the preface having been written by Orson Pratt, then, as now, one of the ablest men among the Utah Mormons. Soon after its publication, and after a large number was sold, President Brigham Young, under the plea that it was a false history and would do mischief, ordered its suppression; the Saints were counseled to give them up, either freely, or in exchange for other works of the church, that they might be destroyed. Under this order large numbers were destroyed, few being preserved, some of which fell into the hands of those now with the Reorganization. For

this destruction we see no adequate reason; unless it be found in the fear that a plain story told by the mother of the first president of the church, might possibly convey views to the minds of its readers, opposed to the then ruling powers.The present impracticability of giving a more extended and satisfactory history of Joseph Smith, under the supervision of the Reorganized Church; in connection with the fact that Elder E. W. Tullidge's work, "Life of Joseph, the Prophet," has been put upon sale, have determined the Board to publish this work without change in the text. We quote:"This work will also include many remarkable events connected with the discovery and translation of the Book of Mormon, and the early history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, never before published."Kindle reformat version of 1912 publication; contain original

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Content great. Some formatting issues in the Kindle edition.

A very interesting account of how Lucy Mack Smith, mother of the LDS prophet, recalls the events involving her immediate family.

I found this book very informative, through the insight of his mother I learned much about the character of Joseph Smith. I would recomend this work to anyone interested to gain a fuller understanding of Joseph Smith and the LDS church.

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