Mormonism's Last Colonizer

Smart, William B.

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Selected Correspondence from
William H. Smart Papers

House of Representatives U.S.
Washington, D.C.

December 16th, 1899
W. H. Smart, Esq.,
50 Concord St., Brooklyn, N.Y.

My Dear Brother:-

Someone remarked to me many years ago that when fate denied me fortune, she would give me friends; and indeed I must needs think there was substance in that remark when I take into account your most kind offer in placing at my disposal $1,000, to aid me in the present conflict. I do not think that there will be any real occasion to draw upon the account, as I am still in hopes, and very stoutly believe, that I shall finally win this fight; but in any event, it is most delightful to receive such expressions of friendship, and meantime, if occasion should arise for drawing in part upon the amount that you have so generously placed at my disposal, I shall avail myself of it in the same generous spirit that it is tendered to me; for to act otherwise would be unworthy of your generous offer. But I am of the opinion that the only contingency that would make it necessary for me to do so, would be the temporarily with-holding of my mileage, amounting to nearly $1000, and my next month’s pay. My stationary appropriation is already refused me, and no action has yet been taken on the mileage. Thanking you for your kindness, and for the good wishes expressed by Elders Burton and Snow, and with kind regards to all, I am and hope ever to be,

Your friend and brother,

[Signed] B. H. Roberts

Dictated:-
December 22nd, 1899

My Dear Brother Smart,

I have about decided to come up to New York on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week for the purpose of spending a few days in the great City, with my daughter; stopping over until the Tuesday following. And, of course, shall pay a visit to you all, in Brooklyn, if agreeable? While in N.Y., in order to be centrally located and be prepared to take advantage of that situation, we will probably make our home at the Lincoln, and I suppose this daughter of mine will perhaps keep me on the go.

Now, why write you about all this? It is to tell you that these Philistines down here have sure enough held up my mileage, amounting to $1,000, until I am either sworn in, or kicked out; and consequently I find myself under the necessity of taking advantage of your very kind offer, or at least part of it, temporarily. Would you therefore kindly forward to me a check for $300., until my mileage comes to hand, about which I have no doubt, and that amount will tide me over.

Will I preach while in Brooklyn? Well, I’ll attend meeting and beak bread with you, but under the circumstances I think it would not be prudent for me to speak; and then, moreover, there is no telling just what kind of a discourse I might deliver if I attempted one as there would stand back of it the white-heat of suppressed rage and indignation rolling and tumbling about in the darker recesses of my consciousness. I confess that I have not of late entertained the very kindest and most Christian spirit; the fact is there has been a heap of old Adam bubbling up to the surface of my usual secrenity (sic). Love to all at the office, and believe me

Truly your brother,

[:[Signed] B. H. Roberts

Dictated

[Handwritten note]: ansd 12/23/99
Mr Dear Bro. Smart:-

Bro. Snow has doubtless told you my feelings in relation to undertaking the task of public speaking—my aversion for the present. I feel that I need a rest from the strain that has been upon me for the last 18 months. I feel sure you will see the necessity for this if not the propriety. But just the same I feel the kindness intended by yourself & your desire to aid the great cause in which both of us have so great an interest. But I must rest my Brother for a season after being trodden underfoot of the Gentiles for so long a time.

Have not been able yet to bring anything to a head relative to my salary and milage, now amounting to some $2,000. I cannot remain in Washington however more than two or three days longer. I lack about $100 to settle my bills here and reach home. And as you have extended a brotherly hand to me before, and as one good turn deserves another, I make myself bold to ask you to loan me that amount until I reach home. This will make $500 all told that you have advanced me. I shall be pleased to give you my note for that amount until either the government pays me or I can make other arrangements to raise it after getting home. Everybody here is of opinion that I will receive both my milage & per diem, but I shall be obliged to leave it in the hands of friends.

Of my defeat, I can say nothing. I had hoped for better results but hoped in vain. I take it, however, that it is nothing to a man’s discredit that he has been overcome by mob law, which is nonetheless real because the mobbing took place in the House of Representatives and under the thin guise of law.

Truly your Brother,
B. H. Roberts

[Handwritten note]: Answered affirmatively
Appendix B

First Council of Seventies
408–0 Templeton Building, Salt Lake City
Geo. D. Pyper, Secretary and Treasurer
Leo Hunsaker, Assistant Secretary
Members of First Council: Seymour B. Young, C. D. Fjeldsted, B. H. Roberts, George Reynolds, J. Golden Kimball, Rulon S. Wells, Joseph W. McMurrin

Elder W. H. Smart
Salt Lake City, July 31st, 1900
#50 Concord St., Brooklyn, N.Y.

My Dear Brother:—

For a long time I have had it in mind to write to you, but during that time have been anxiously looking for a remittance of the appropriation made to me by Congress, which, in part, would compensate me for my time and expense in Washington, as I desired to enclose with my communication a check for the full amount you were so very kind to loan me during the last weeks of my sojourn at the nation’s Capitol. I did not receive that remittance, however, until last Saturday, and now I hasten to fulfill what has so long been the desire of my heart, namely: To return to you the rather large sum that you, out of brotherly kindness and good fellowship, and under the spirit of the Gospel, advanced me last winter. You will find enclosed a check on Kountze Bros., N.Y., for the amount named—five hundred dollars. I do not add interest on the amount for the reason that when I suggested that you take a note of me for the amount you said that smacked too much of the spirit of the world, and was altogether too cold-blooded, and you did not wish the act of brotherly kindness marred by such an act; and, as likely you still entertain the same view, we will not make this a cold business transaction on the part of either of us. The interest on the amount shall be paid in my appreciation of your brotherly friendship, and in my prayers to Almighty God for you and for your great consideration of me when truly I was in sore distress and great need. I hope you have not been incommoded by your generosity, and that this shall remain a bond of friendship between us for all time to come.

I trust you are still enjoying your labors in the ministry, and that your health is improved and your family well. I think I may report for myself that I have recovered from the rather severe ordeals of last winter, and am beginning to enjoy very much indeed my labors in the ministry. I had a remarkable fine time last Sunday in Huntsville with one of the Quorums of Seventy, and the Spirit of the Lord which seemed to be manifested in my labors brings me the consolation that He is my friend and supporter.

Kindly remember me to Brother Snow, whom I love, as you perhaps know, together with any of the brethren who may be about your office, with whom I am acquainted, and especially remember me to Sister Smart. Believe me to be, now and always,

Your friend and brother

[Signed] B. H. Roberts

[Handwritten note]: Drew $500. Returned it in statements after returning home. Charged no interest.
November 19th, 1921
President Wm. H. Smart,
Roosevelt, Utah.

Dear Brother Smart:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 18th, and to thank you for the good intention which prompted you to send fifty shares of stock in the Salt Lake Knitting Works, to be used for the redemption of Zion. I certainly hope that your faith in this business may be realized, but am free to confess that I do not believe that stock will ever recover or have any actual value. However I know the generosity of your heart and your willingness to aid any enterprise for the upbuilding of Zion at home or abroad. I shall never forget while I live your splendid donation of five thousand dollars to save the Utah Loan and Trust Company from failure. This donation of yours and your partner, Bro. Webster was one of the important factors in helping to save that institution, and its failure would have reflected materially upon the good names of Presidents Joseph F. Smith and Francis M. Lyman.

Ever praying for your welfare, believe me to be,

Sincerely your brother,

[Signed] Heber J. Grant
Appendix B

Salt Lake City,
June 6th, 1922

President Heber J. Grant and Counselors,
City

Dear Brethren:

There has been a feeling growing upon my mind for some time—and therefore it is of no toad-stool growth—that the interests of the Lord in the Uintah Basin would be best subserved by a reorganization of the presidency of the Roosevelt Stake of Zion. I have thought and prayed, often, concerning it until it, finally, has become with me a settled conviction.

There are various reasons therefor, that have occurred to me, which however, I deem unnecessary to recite here, except to refer to one in bold relief in my mind. I went into the Basin quite a number of years since—even commencing from Heber as president of Wasatch Stake—as your humble representative, under very peculiar and trying circumstances surrounding the opening and partial settling of the former Uintah Indian Reservation. There came, for the more part, a non-homogenous [sic] population from various states and stakes with their respective personal ambitions and ideas, and many steeped in prejudices. I became a target as one inclined to get in the way of those ambitions and ideas; and while often upheld, I could not but incur many jealousies and even animosities, and through which, I feel assured, there are those scattered throughout the Basin—Mormons and non-Mormons—who would become more active and would also have a better feeling toward the Church were a change made. I am sure I have made mistakes through my mortality that have further given cause for such conditions. The main pioneer epoch is closing, although much is yet to be done, and in this the morning of what appears to me to be a new and more advanced one in the Basin, it would seem an opportune time for a reorganization. I feel also that the reorganization would afford opportunity for a rejuvenation and new zeal.

While the advisability of this matter has grown upon me, I must admit that the spirit of this presidency has waned until my present ministry is more or less mechanical, yet my interest in the further development of the Basin, both spiritually and temporally, has not diminished; and should the suggested reorganization be effected, as I now feel, it shall be my desire to second the efforts of those who will be chosen, in humbler ways according as they may desire, and so far as my poor ability may allow, if it be not averse to my heavenly Father’s wishes for me to continue in this field of action.

As I believe it to be an economical policy to make any contemplated change, in either spiritual or temporal organizations, so soon as practicable after such has been decided upon, so as to avoid the waning of interest and consequent retarding of progress, I therefore strongly and respectfully recommend that should you decide upon making this reorganization, it be effected at the Stake
Quarterly Conference to be held the 17th and 18th inst; and that the brethren who are appointed to attend be given authority to act in any organizations that may be affected in a stake, ward bishopric, or seventy quorum capacity, as it is likely that some of them may be disturbed.

I trust I may not appear officious by expressing my conviction that this reorganization could be successfully made in the persons of local brethren whom I believe to be full of loyalty and integrity [sic], experienced, intelligent, and have a grasp and spirit of the past, present and future of the Basin’s spiritual and temporal development as well as the work of the Lord in general. However should the Spirit indicate it to be the Lord’s will that a brother be sent to us, I feel safe in pledging to him our support and fellowship.

I desire in conclusion to assure you that the suggestion herein is not under the spirit and letter of retirement—a word I have learned much to dislike. And now having done here what I felt my duty, as your representative, thus clearing my skirts of the responsibility of carrying in my own bosom unexpressed that which I feel vitally effects the welfare of our Father’s Cause there, I will add that should you feel it to be the Lord’s will for the organization to stand as now, I shall endeavor to get back so far as may be, the former spirit of the work, although it may be difficult without a special blessing, but which I should expect could I rise to my own part.

Your brother in the Gospel,
[Signed] Wm. H. Smart
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Office of Trustee-in-Trust
Salt Lake City
Joseph F. Smith
Trustee-in-Trust

President Wm. H. Smart,
Roosevelt, Utah

My Dear brother Smart:

Your esteemed favor of Dec. 13th, in acknowledgment of the receipt of my short note, is duly received.

I feel that I cannot do less, after reading it, than to acknowledge its receipt and my appreciation of the very kind and most welcome sentiments expressed therein, and also to congratulate you on your attainment of your fiftieth year, from the summit of which you can look back over the half century that has passed with the satisfaction of knowing that your life and time has been a willing sacrifice in the great arena of human endeavor to benefit, bless and uplift mankind; and if only the Lord has preserved your life and given you strength equal to the tasks imposed upon you, and brought you to the midway of your active life in reasonable possession of mental physical strength with which to enter upon the beginning of the next half century with accumulated experience and reasonable hope for future success, you, as well as any of us, having travelled the same road, have great cause for gratitude to the giver of every good and perfect gift.

Again I thank you, brother Smart, for the confidence and love you have ever manifested toward me and my kindred; and I sincerely hope that the rich blessings that you deserve, for your integrity and unselfish devotion to the cause of truth hitherto, may continue to abide and abound with you throughout a long successful and happy future.

I desire to assure you that your brethren here have entire confidence in your integrity and look with satisfaction upon the monuments you have left behind, which testify of the excellent foundation you have laid all along your ministerial career from the early labors in the missionary field to the higher responsibility of presidency over the Wasatch, and later the Uintah Stakes of Zion, and we believe that the fruits of your future labors will again testify of your integrity and fidelity to the cause of Zion in the new stake to which you have been assigned.

I wish you and your associates every increasing prosperity and satisfaction in your labors; and that the Lord will make your paths pleasant and your journey onward and upward more and more agreeable in every way.

May you never lack for the blessings and comforts of life and may your strength never fail you.

With love to yourself and family and associates, believe me,

Your friend and brother in the cause of truth
[Signed] Joseph F. Smith
Office of Presidency  
Duchesne Stake of Zion  
Roosevelt, Utah  

August 6, 1913  

Prest. Joseph F. Smith and Counselors,  
Salt Lake City, Utah.  

Dear Brethren:  

We respectfully submit the following for your information.  

Six years ago last winter, after having the matter approved by you, the citi- 
zens of the western and eastern divisions of Wasatch county, through their rep- 
resentatives and committeemen, succeeded in getting a law passed by the State 
Legislature providing for the creation of new counties, this especially for the 
purpose of permitting a new county to be created out of that portion of Wasatch 
county lying, for the most part, within the Uintah Basin. The Attorney General 
holding that the State Constitution does not admit of such a law, the governor 
 vetoed the same.  

Prior to the above action joint committees, men from the two sections named, 
among whom were Pres. Jos R. Murdock and myself, decided upon a boundry 
line, running north and south on the range line between townships 9 and 10 
west. This line is about three miles west of the most westerly agricultural section 
on the Uintah Basin side.  

Four years ago last winter a bill providing for a constitutional amendment 
authorizing the creation of new counties became a law, but failed to carry in the 
following election.  

Its being still the view of citizens generally of our county, and many of the 
prominent attorneys of the state, as well as many other prominent citizens, that 
no constitutional amendment is necessary, there being at least a strong implied 
authority given for the creation of new counties, after again obtaining your 
approval, we had another bill introduced in the Legislature last winter, which 
became a law.  

This law provides for at least 25% of the electors in each division to petition 
the County Commissioners for an election to be held to ascertain whether a new 
county shall be formed. We complied with this provision, about 85% of the elec-
tors in the eastern division and about 60% of the electors in the western division 
signing the petitions.  

The petitions were to designate the proposed boundry line dividing the two 
counties. Prior to the circulation of the petitions committeemen from each sec-
tion were chosen by the citizens to act as a joint committee to decide upon the 
boundry line. This committee met in Salt Lake City during last April conference 
and could not agree. The two Stake Presidencies being in touch in the matter, in 
harmony with your suggestions in the past that we be so in matters of joint inter-
est, we held a council and concluding that it would be impossible for the citizens 
to agree upon the range line between townships 9 and 10 west, formerly decided 
upon, and which we were still united upon, we decided to suggest a compromise
line three miles east of the above line. This line would throw all possible grazing land in the west section and yet leave the agricultural lands within the Uintah Basin in the new county, thus not compelling citizens to cross the Wasatch range to the county seat.

We were agreed that in order to admit of such convenience, and also believing that the new county would again be divided that the line could not, in justice and propriety, go farther east.

In harmony with the law the Commissioners called an election for the 3rd day of July on the basis of the above compromise as to boundary line.

Citizens on both sides who were actuated by selfishness felt to oppose this line. Many of our citizens felt that the water shed should be the division, and many in the west contending for a line much farther east. The latter class were for the most part lawyers who did not care much whether a division be made, they doing business in both sections, and certain stock men who had purchased Indian lands and desired it to be in the old county. These were practically all either non-Mormons or luke warm and they, together with what we are informed is now known as the pool element of Heber, succeeded in causing such a passionate and inconsistent consideration of the question that the election failed to carry there. President Murdock and counselors felt assured of sufficient of the cooler and more solid citizens being favorable to insure the election and sent us word to that effect but a few days prior to the election.

The trouble we encountered on both sides is the ignorance of the people generally as to the country and this left them open to persuasions of the above class of men.

In the eastern section the class of citizens who opposed it most were like the class of those in the west section. However, I am pleased to say, that after meetings were held wherein explicit explanations were made, our citizens have as a rule accepted the compromise line with a fair degree of good feeling.

I am pleased to state there has been no inharmony between the two Stake Presidencies over the matter.
Following is the result of the election by precincts:

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<th>For</th>
<th>Against</th>
<th>East Division</th>
<th>For</th>
<th>Against</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Utahn</td>
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<td>Boneta</td>
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<td>Midview</td>
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Should you now, or in the future, have any instructions to give us regarding this question we shall be pleased to receive the same

Your Brother in the Gospel,
In behalf of the Stake Presidency
April 16, 1921

President William H. Smart,
107 2nd Ave., City.

My dear President Smart:
I have already told you by word of mouth how much your recent letter meant to me. It was not merely that I wanted to be congratulated upon the call in the Priesthood which had come to me, but I did need the good will and good words just at that time, of men like yourself, whom I love and whose good will I earnestly desire. You have done much for me in my life. I remember with pleasure and affection the help that you gave me when you were my teacher. I remember with equal delight the many occasions when you have spoken wise and helpful words to me. I shall do my best, with God’s help, to render worthy service in this new calling, and, because of my good labors, to retain the abiding friendship of you and other good men with whom it has been my privilege to associate during these years.

I am proud of your life-long service, so full of sacrifice and self-forgetfulness. I hope that after these many years of service under very difficult conditions, you may win a new ease and satisfaction throughout the many years which I believe still await you. I shall keep your letter long to comfort me. My wife and I extend to you and yours our sincere and hearty good wishes. May every good thing that you desire be yours.

Sincerely your friend and your brother,

[Signed] John A. Widtsoe

[Handwritten note:] My letter was regarding his call to apostleship