

Doctrine and Covenants Revelation Sites



Sunlight breaks through clouds of darkness above the Sacred Grove.

Manchester (Palmyra), New York

Sacred Grove on the Joseph Smith Sr. farm

First Vision

Spring 1820

Scripture

". . . on the morning of a beautiful, clear day, early in the spring of eighteen hundred and twenty. . .

". . . I kneeled down and began to offer up the desires of my heart to God. . .

". . . I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me.

". . . When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other - This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!"

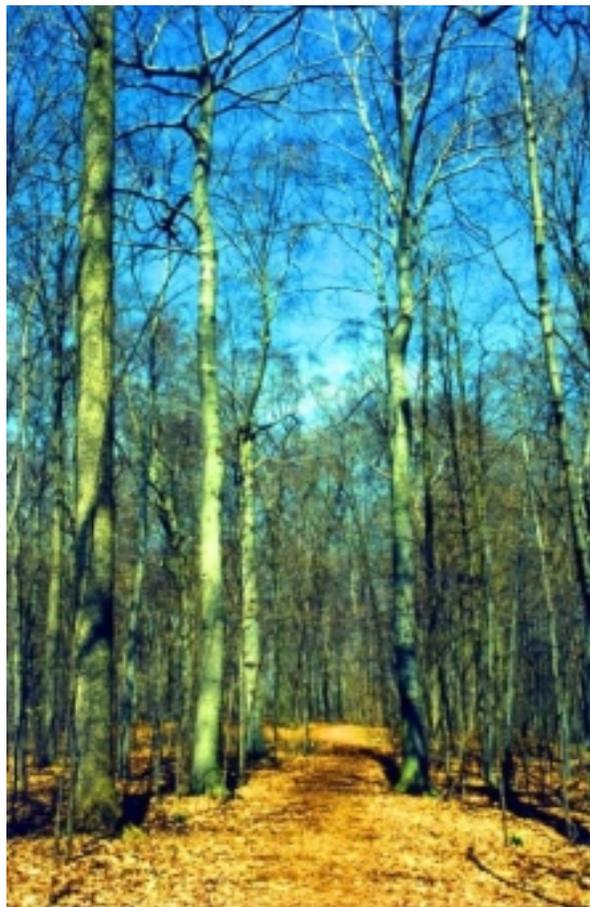
Joseph Smith History 1:14-17



The Sacred Grove is a place of peace and serenity, where the Spirit can readily be felt.

Key Events

- Within this grove, 14-year old Joseph Smith saw in vision God the Father and his son Jesus Christ in the spring of 1820.
- Here, Joseph showed the golden plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated to eight men in the summer of 1829. The testimony of these witnesses is included in the Book of Mormon.



How the grove often appears early in the spring, just after the winter snows melt.

Words of Joseph Smith

"I had actually seen a light, and in the midst of that light I saw two Personages, and they did in reality speak to me; and though I was hated and persecuted for saying that I had seen a vision, yet it was true; and while they were persecuting me, reviling me, and speaking all manner of evil against me for so saying, I was led to say in my heart: Why persecute me for telling the truth? I have actually seen a vision; and who am I that I can withstand God, or why does the world think to make me deny what I have actually seen? For I had seen a vision; I knew it, and I knew that God knew it, and I could not deny it, neither dared I do it; at least I knew that by so doing I would offend God, and come under condemnation." (Joseph Smith History 1:25)