



Type: Book Chapter

Sharon, Vermont/"Birthplace"

Author(s): Sharon Price Anderson

Source: *Praising the Prophet: Joseph Smith and the Restoration in History and Verse*

Published: Orem, UT; Time-Lines Etc., 2005

Pages: 7-9

Sharon, Vermont



Joseph Smith was born at the time of the winter solstice, 23 December 1805, in Sharon, Windsor County, Vermont. This township is located in the central part of the state, not far from New Hampshire. The area is known for granite quarries and berries. Vermont is also the largest producer of maple syrup in the United States. The White River, tributary to the Connecticut River, runs through the township. The Green Mountains, about 20 miles to the west, became famous during the American War for Independence when the fiercely patriotic Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys took Fort Ticonderoga in May of 1775. Washington used the cannon taken from the fort to drive the British from Boston in 1776.

Birthplace

Not far from summer green
of Ethan Allen's mountains
and granite quarries
that will yield monuments
to famous men,
maples with bare branches,
recently ablaze
in crimson leaves,
stand with torpid sap
waiting for spring.

Where August berries
will bleed purple and scarlet
on hungry fingers,
snow-buried farms
and fields now sleep,
dreaming of new grass
and bleating lambs.
White River ice
reflects a feeble sun.
Vermont lies frozen
deep in weeks
of wool-white winter.

In the lowest rays of
December's shortest days,
a baby boy is born
and Earth bends toward light.

And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks (Isaiah 65:10).



The Lord raised up Joseph Smith He was ordained and appointed before he was born to come upon the stage of action in this age of God's mercy to man, ... to lay the foundation of this great and glorious dispensation — Wilford Woodruff⁷