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Where Are the Hills Ramah and Cumorah?

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Abstract: In an article published by the *Messenger and Advocate* in Kirtland, Ohio, July, 1835, a quote attributed to Joseph Smith appeared. It described the Hill Ramah as being about one mile west of the Hill Cumorah (in New York). Between these two hills was the final battleground of both the Nephite and Jaredite nations.

WHERE ARE THE HILLS RAMAH AND CUMORAH?

In the *Messenger and Advocate*, a Church periodical published in Kirtland, Ohio, there appeared a series of articles under the title, "Faith of the Church." They were written by Oliver Cowdery, but prepared in collaboration with the Prophet. In explanation Oliver writes, as an introductory, the following:

"That our narrative may be correct and particularly the introduction, it is proper to inform our patrons, that our brother J. Smith, Jr. has offered to assist us. Indeed there are many items connected with the fore part of this subject that render his labor indispensable. With his labor and authentic documents, now in our possession, we hope to render this a pleasing and agreeable narrative.

Then appears, under date of July, 1835, an article from which this excerpt is made:

"At about one mile west[of the Hill Cumorah] rises another ridge of less height, running parallel with the former, leaving a beautiful vale between. The soil is of the first quality for the country, and under a state of cultivation, which gives a prospect at once imposing, when one reflects on the fact, that here, between these hills, the entire power and national strength of both the Jaredites and Nephites were destroyed.

"By turning to the 529th and 530th pages of the *Book of Mormon* you will read Mormon's account of the last great struggle of

his people, as they were encamped around this hill Cumorah. (It is printed Camorah, which is an error). In this valley fell the remaining strength and pride of a once powerful people, the Nephites—once so highly favored of the Lord, but at that time in darkness, doomed to suffer extermination by the hand of their barbarous and uncivilized brethren. From the top of this hill, Mormon, with a few others, after the battle, gazed with horror upon the mangled remains of those who, the day before, were filled with anxiety, hope, or doubt. A few had fled to the south, who were hunted down by the victorious party, and all who would not deny the Savior and His religion, were put to death. Mormon himself, according to the record of his son Moroni, was also slain. . . .

"This hill, by the Jaredites, was called Ramah: by it, or around it, the famous army of Coriantumr pitched their tents. Coriantumr was the last king of the Jaredites. The opposing army were to the west, and in this same valley, or near by, from day to day, did that mighty race spill their blood, in wrath, contending, as it were, brother against brother, and father against son. In this same spot, in full view from the top of this same hill, one may gaze with astonishment upon the ground which was twice covered with the dead and dying of our fellowmen."



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