

"The Unknown Grave"  
by David Smith

There's an unknown grave in a lonely spot  
But the form that it covers will ne'er be forgot;  
There the heaven-tree spreads, and the tall locusts wave  
Their snow-white flow'rs o'er the unknown grave,  
over the unknown grave.

And near by its side does the wild rabbit tread,  
And over its bosom the white thistles spread,  
As if placed there in kindness to guard and to save  
From intruding footsteps the unknown grave,  
guarding the unknown grave.

And there reposes the prophet just;  
The Lord was his guide and in His was his trust;  
He restored the gospel our souls to save,  
But now he lies low in an unknown grave,  
low in an unknown grave.

God grant that we may watch and pray,  
And keep our feet in the narrow way;  
Our spirits and bodies in purity save,  
To see him arise from his unknown grave,  
rise from his unknown grave.  
God bless that unknown grave.

David Smith was the son of Joseph and Emma Smith, born the  
year of his father's murder. The song was published in 1909 in the  
Deseret Sunday School Songbook.

# Hancock County

Tim Slover



Staged Reading  
directed by  
Kathy Biesinger

April 20, 2001



## Characters



*Ann Fleming*, proprietress of Warsaw House

**KIM ABUNAWARA**

*Eliza Graham*, her relative

**JOYCE COHEN**

*Orville Browning*, attorney

**TIM THRELFALL**

*Richard Young*, Illinois Supreme Court Justice

**BOB NELSON**

*Josiah Lamborn*, attorney

**MARVIN PAYNE**

*Brigham Young*, leader of the Mormon Church

(also *William Daniels*)

**ERIC SAMUELSEN**

*Tom Sharp*, newspaper editor

(also *Frank Worrell*)

**TODD PARMELEY**

All also play neutral *Actors* and some occasionally  
take other roles for a few moments.

Most of us are accustomed to seeing a play far along the arc of its history: after its premiere in a distant theatre, after its publication, after critical opinion has settled the question of its success. But at the white-hot center, the crucible where a play is born, in places like the O'Neill Festival or Playwrights Horizon, or the National Theatre Workshop—places very similar to the space you are sitting in tonight—it looks like this: a staged reading. A staged reading is a unique form of theatrical art, one which eschews the normal accoutrements of set, costume, and properties so that the audience may concentrate exclusively on character and story, told through voices and faces directly across a short space of darkness. We sincerely thank you for joining us at the birth of this new play, and hope you find the experience rewarding.



The play was generously commissioned by a Discovery Grant, funded by Mr. Don Oscarson, a playwright and talented man of the theatre whose grace and enthusiasm have illuminated this project from the beginning. Its genesis was in *Carthage Conspiracy* by Dallin H. Oaks and Marvin S. Hill (University of Chicago Press, 1975).



My heartfelt thanks to these fine actors, who have donated their precious time for sheer love of play-making; to Doug Stewart and the Mormon Arts Foundation; to the Brigham Young University and University of Utah Departments of Theatre; and especially to Kathy Biesinger, producer and director of the play: her energy, selflessness, and deeply insightful directing have literally made tonight's performance possible.

- Tim Slover