

“Charlie”

Daniel D. McArthur owned a beautiful black horse named Charlie of which he was justly proud, and the Prophet Joseph Smith was justly envious. At some point in time the Prophet Joseph and Daniel D. engaged in a conversation concerning the black horse and what price Brother McArthur would require for it. Daniel D. told Joseph that he would trade straight across for the watch fob. Other details of the conversation are not known, but after a time the trade was made. (*Daniel Duncan McArthur, Mormon Pioneer, p. 177*) We do not know where or when Daniel bought Charlie. It is assumed he may have brought him to Kirtland.

The watch fob remains in the family of Wilford McArthur's descendants. It has a moonstone on one side and a bloodstone on the other. It was left with this family with other artifacts when Mary Francis Callaway died 3 December 1928. She was the last of Daniel's wives to survive him.

This watch fob was presented to the Church historian's office for verification and dating. It was analyzed and the report stated it contained "a fake seer stone." It was said to have been made about the time of the translations of the Book of Mormon. The gold surrounding the fob was 24 carat rose gold that at the time of analysis would have dated back 150 years. The counsel of the historian's office was that the story and artifact should be used as part of Daniel D. McArthur's history and that if the family was ever willing to leave the watch and fob to the LDS Church it would become a prized artifact.

(*Margery J. Peterson, To Love and To Cherish, A history of the John McArthur and Margaret Aiken Family in North America, p.393-394*)



Watch fob which Joseph Smith traded Daniel D McArthur for Charlie. In the top photo the fob rests next to a stack of two quarters and two nickels showing its true size. The two additional photos are the front and back of the fob.

