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Smith Family Biographies

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Smith Family Biographies

Eliza Smith Butler

Eliza Smith Butler (1818-1858) was the daughter of Godfrey Smith, the wife of John Murphy Butler (1818-1864), and the sister of Isaac Smith (1816-1897) and Matilda Smith (1806?-1881). She married her husband in 1842 and they both elected to remain behind in Illinois when the Butler family moved to the Oregon Territory in 1853. They had seven children, six of whom survived childhood. Her sister Matilda Smith lived with her and her husband throughout the 1850s, and helped raise Eliza's children when she died in 1858. Eliza's death took a severe toll on her husband when she left him with a young three-week old son.

Children of Eliza Smith Butler:

- McDowell Butler (1842-1847)
- Lavina Matilda Butler (1844-1929); married William Ground
- Erastus Ewing/Edward Butler (1846-1928); married Margaret McHenry
- Granville/Granvil Ashburg Butler (1848-1901); married Agnes Kitt
- Isaac Smith Butler (1851-1932); married Emma Hattie Fleming (1860-?)
- Peter Franklin (Frank) Butler (1855-1927); married Lucinda Emmelline Day (?-1887) in 1881 and Dora Matilda Arp (1867-?) in 1888
- Ralph Otis Butler (1858-1940); married Josephine Floy Tracey in 1882

Matilda Smith

Matilda Smith (1806?-1881) was the daughter of Godfrey Smith and the sister of Isaac Smith (1816-1897) and Eliza Smith Butler (1818-1858). She did not travel with her brother to the Oregon Territory, but instead remained behind in Illinois, where she lived with her sister Eliza and brother-in-law John Butler. When her sister Eliza died in 1858, she took over the care of the surviving children, especially the youngest child, Ralph, who was only three weeks old when his mother died.

Isaac Smith

Isaac Smith (1816-1897) was born in Madison County Kentucky to Godfrey Smith and moved to Warren County, Illinois, in 1834. He married Margaret C. Butler (1822-1871) in 1840, the second oldest daughter of Peter and Rachel Butler and they had nine children. Isaac traveled with his family and in-laws to the Oregon Territory in 1853, leaving behind his sisters Eliza Smith Butler and Matilda Smith. Isaac served one term as Polk County Judge and two terms on the Oregon State Legislature. He died on April 29, 1897 and is buried with his wife in the Butler Davidson Cemetery.

Children of Isaac Smith:

- Rufus Marion Smith (1842-1920); married Irene Melissa Smith (1850-1924); buried at the Fir Crest Cemetery
- Silas Wright Smith (1844-1912); married Esther Barney in 1867
- Berryman Murphy A. Smith (1846-1906); married Sarah Nealy (1851-1943) in 1866
- Flora Alice Smith (1848-1907); married James P. Campbell (1844-1900)
- Mary Eliza Smith (1852-1858); married Napoleon Bonaparte Humphrey (1839-1917); buried in the Butler Davidson Cemetery
- Rachel Matilda Smith (1853-1936)
- John Butler Smith (1856-1905); married Maggie Smith (1867-1905)
- Ira S. Smith (1859-?)
- Isaac Lucas Smith (1862-1920)

Rufus M. Smith

Rufus M. Smith (1842-1920) was the eldest son of Isaac and Margaret Smith and married Irene Melissa Smith (1850-1924). He was eleven years old when he and his family moved to the Oregon Territory in 1853. He attended school in Monmouth, Oregon, where he boarded with Squire Stoten Whitman. He served in Vancouver, Washington, during the Civil War. He is buried at the Fir Crest Cemetery.

Children of Rufus M. Smith:

- Cora M. Smith (1873-1891)
- Roy M. Smith (1883-1938)
- Ida M. Smith
- Myra I. Smith
- E. M. Smith
- Rosa E. Smith

Berryman Murphy A. Smith

Berryman Murphy A. Smith (1846-1906) was the third son of Isaac and Margaret Smith. He traveled with his parents at the age of seven from Illinois to the Oregon Territory in 1853. He married Sarah (Nealley) Nealy (1851-1943) on September 27, 1866, and continued to farm his own land. In 1882 he moved to Dallas, Oregon, to become a druggist. He and his wife had five children.

Children of Berryman Murphy A. Smith:

- Ray Nelson Smith (1873-1939)
- Ralph Orin Smith (1875-1949)
- Margaret E. Smith
- Edith C. Smith
- Hettie Smith

Silas Wright Smith

Silas Wright Smith (1844-1912) was the second son of Isaac and Margaret Smith. In 1853 at the age of nine he traveled with his family to the Oregon Territory. On November 5, 1867 he married Esther M. Barney, and together they had six children. He co-founded a business in Independence, Oregon. His co-partners changed over the years, as did the company name (Cooper & Smith; McCord, Smith & Co.; and Vanduyn & Smith).

Children of Silas Wright Smith:

- Mary Ellen Smith
- Ephram H. Smith
- Otto B. Smith
- Lenna M. Smith
- Millen W. Smith
- Ralph C. Smith (died in infancy)