



W. Mifflin Smith

William Mifflin Smith, Marklesville, Perry County, Pa., was born in Philadelphia, Pa., July 23, 1836. He is a son of **William T.** and **Mary (Grant) Smith**. His paternal ancestors came to America with the Swedes, in 1643, and settled along the Delaware River. His grandfather, **Thomas Smith**, a native of Delaware County, spent his life on the farm. He was first married to **Maria**, daughter of **Gov. Thomas Mifflin**. They had four children: **William T.**; **Maria (Mrs. Robert Ewing)**; **Israel**; and **Thomas M.** His second wife was **Miss C. Broome**. Their children were: **Aubrey**; **Maria**; **Henry**; **Edmund**; **Alexander**; **Elizabeth**; **Henrietta**; **James B.**; **Emily**; and **Francis**. They lived to a ripe old age. **Mr. Smith's** great-grandfather on the maternal side, **John Grant**, crossed the Atlantic with the Pilgrim Fathers in the historic "Mayflower." **Moses Grant**, one of his great-uncles, assisted at the Boston Tea Party, December 16, 1773. His maternal grandfather, **Samuel Grant**, was a native and a merchant of Boston, Mass. His wife was **Judith Richardson**, born on the Island of

St. Kitts. Their children were: **Mary**; **Julia**, wife of **Richard C. Moore**, D. D.; **Frances (Mrs. John S. Twells)**; **Sarah**; **Amelia (Mrs. Stephen S. Deblois)**; **Samuel G.**; **Louisa (Mrs. L. T. Salignac)**; **William S.**; and **Henry**. All except the last three are dead. The grandfather died in Philadelphia, aged ninety-four, and his wife aged seventy-six. Both were members of the Episcopal Church. **Mr. Smith's** father, **William T. Smith**, was a native of Delaware County. He received his education in the public schools, and while still a boy began to read law. In due time he was admitted to the bar, and devoting his life to the practice of his chosen profession, became prominent among the lawyers of Philadelphia. At the time of his death he was a member of the State Senate. **William T. Smith** was married to **Mary**, daughter of **Samuel** and **Judith (Richardson) Grant**, who was a native of Boston, Mass. They have two children: **Samuel Gr.**, of Philadelphia; and **William Mifflin**. **William T. Smith** died December 14, 1837, aged thirty three; his wife died March 28, 1896, aged eighty-seven. Both were members of the Episcopal Church.

William Mifflin Smith was educated at the Bolmar Academy, West Chester, Pa. At the age of fifteen he entered the Norris Locomotive Works, where he served a four years' apprenticeship. In the spring of 1855, he went to California and engaged in mining, he also dealt in cattle and

horses. In 1861, he enlisted in Company I, Fifth California Infantry, and served until April 8, 1865. Mr. Smith's courage and faithfulness were rewarded by regular and rapid promotion. He was corporal, sergeant, first sergeant of his company, sergeant-major of the regiment, second lieutenant, first lieutenant, and later captain of the First 'New Mexico Infantry. This captaincy he resigned to accept the office of first lieutenant of his old regiment. Shortly after he was made a captain and sent to southern New Mexico, where he remained until February, 1865. He resigned his commission, April 8, 1865, and returned to the mines, where he speculated until 1866; then returned to Philadelphia for one year. In 1867, **Mr. Smith** went to the West Indies, but remaining only a short time, he returned to Philadelphia, and was appointed chief clerk in the office of the assessor of the second internal revenue district. In 1872, he resigned his position, and for three years engaged in manufacturing. In 1877, **Mr. Smith** again went to New Mexico, and spent two years in speculating at the mines. Returning to his native city he lived in retirement until 1885, when failing health induced him to leave the city and try the invigorating air of the country. He went to Perry County, Pa., intending to remain three months, but he was so delighted with the place, and with his physical improvement, that he decided to make it his home. In 1887, he built a large and convenient dwelling and brought his family to their new home. **Mr. Smith** was his own architect; his house is one of the finest buildings in Perry County and has all the modern improvements. It stands on a hill, open on all sides to the pure fresh air. **Mr. Smith** is highly esteemed in the community. He was for one term a member of the legislature of California.

William Mifflin Smith was married, June 26, 1883, to **Mary**, daughter of **John** and **Ann M. (Sierer) Lash**, of Cumberland County, Pa. They have four children: **Jessie**; **William T.**; **John W.**; and **Anna**, who died in September, 1893, aged two years and six months.

www.theperryhistorians.org