

R E P O R T

of the

A S S O C I A T I O N

of

D E S C E N D A N T S
O F R A L P H S M I T H

of

Hingham and Eastham, Mass., Inc.

1939

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MASSACHUSETTS

On Sunday, June 27th, 1939, the Association of Descendants of Ralph Smith, held its third Annual meeting in Chatham, Cape Cod, Mass. The large family gathering sat down to a delicious dinner at the Hollyhock Inn, after which the business meeting was held at the old Congregational Church in the Town.

It was of the original congregation of this Church that Stephen Smith, the ancestor of so many attending the gathering, was Deacon. One hundred forty-seven members and guests were present.

The Invocation was given by Rev. Charles N. Thorp, present pastor of the Church, who gave the Society a most cordial welcome. Representative Edwin F. Eldredge of Chatham gave a welcome in the name of the Town of Chatham which was followed by a very interesting address, the text of which will be found in this issue.

The following Officers were elected:- President, Capt. Arthur N. McGray of Agawam, Mass.; Vice Presidents:- Joseph A. Smith, Groton, Mass., Eugene E. Smith, North Berwick, Maine; C. Austin Brannen, Washington, D. C.; Edith Wickens Brannen, Manchester, N. H.; Secretary-Treasurer, Georgia Mary Clark, Centerville, Mass.; Historian, Thomas E. Smith, Peabody, Mass.; Assistant Historian, Harvey Newell Smith, Somerville, Mass.; Chaplain, Beatrice Smith Hunt, Peabody, Mass.; President of Junior Group, Ena Smith Nickerson, Everett, Mass.; Auditing Committee:- Andrew T. MacCoy, Centerville, Mass.; Raymond I. Carter, Gloucester, Mass.;

Ella T. Noonan, Nashua, N. H.; Board of Directors:-
Officers and Andrew T. MacCoy, Caroline Atkinson
Carter, James W. McGray, Leonard A. Smith.

A most interesting greeting was read from Benjamin Hervey Doane of New York City and Barrington, N. S., who was too ill to attend the gathering. A poem, "A Friend or Two", by Wilbur D. Nesbit was sent in to be read as a greeting from Edna M. S. Carpenter, of Lancaster, N. H.

With the audience standing, a few moments of silent prayer was held in memory of J. L. Grant Smith and Lydia Ross Cunningham, who departed this life since the last meeting. After singing "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" the meeting was adjourned and a pilgrimage was made to the graves of Deacon Stephen Smith and his family. These old graves have recently been restored by the Town of Chatham, and as these people were buried without benefit of religious services in 1766 on account of the horrible disease from which they died, a service of appropriate Psalms and prayers was used and the place dedicated to the honour of those whose mortal remains were enfolded therein and to the Greater Glory of God. Before parting, the fine old hymn, "Blest be the Tie that Binds" was sung and farewells spoken in the hope of meeting again another year.

A WORD OF APPRECIATION

The heartfelt thanks of the Society are extended to Mr. Edwin F. Eldredge and his co-workers, the Selectmen of the Town of Chatham for their efforts

in obtaining for us the splendid work in renovating the old burying plot above mentioned, to Mr. Eldredge for coming to our meeting as our honored guest and presenting the fine address; to the Rev. Charles N. Thorp, who so graciously welcomed us into his Church and explained to us the paintings on the walls of the edifice; and to Dr. C. H. Keene, who brought our request for the use of the Church before the Church Committee. We truly appreciate the many valued courtesies extended and invite them to join us at our next gathering.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Chatham, June 26, 1939.

Mr. President:-

We are again gathered together with thankful hearts for our family reunion, and we have all been looking forward, counting the weeks, to this day.

Our Adult membership at this time is:-

Descendants	134
(A gain of 38)	
Associate members	39
Junior members	18

making a total number of 191

This number embraces residents of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, California, Indiana, Dis-

trict of Columbia, State of Washington, Cape Sable Island, N. S.; Quebec, Canada; British Columbia, Shelburne, N. S., and Yarmouth, N. S.

Our printed Annual Report has been sent to the following named Societies and Libraries:- Minnesota Historical Society; Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants; N. E. Historic Genealogical Society; New York Historical Society; Maine Historical Society; Long Island Historical Society and the Boston Public Library. These Societies have asked to be kept on our mailing list. The printing of the 1938 Report was far from satisfactory to your Secretary. On account of political campaign printing, the corrections made in the galley proofs were not made by the printer, hence mistakes were in the final printed copies.

On November 26th, 1938, the first meeting of the Junior membership was held at the home of Mrs. Arthur Forbes of East Boston. Seven Juniors, three adult and two associate members were present. Ice cream and cake was served and officers pro-tem were elected.

The second Board Meeting of the Society was held at the Hotel Westminster on Sunday, April 30, when plans were made for the present gathering.

One marriage has been reported, that of Miss Thelma Wolfson to David Butterfield, on July 9th, 1938.

Two of our members have entered into rest since our last meeting:- J. L. Grant Smith of Yarmouth, N. S., formerly of West Head, who answered the

Heavenly Roll Call March 13th; and Mrs. Lydia Ross Cunningham, an Associate Member. Letters of sympathy were sent to the families of these members from the Association by the Secretary.

As Secretary I would again request that all births, marriages and deaths, as well as changes of address be sent to the Secretary of the Association *at once*, that our records may be correct and up to date.

Dues are payable in September of each year according to our By-laws. See Article 5, page 6 of the same. If this matter is left over until the Annual meeting it causes much confusion owing to the lack of time for clerical work and the various interruptions which occur at that time.

It has been a great pleasure to serve the Society as Secretary and Treasurer during the past year and I thank all for the help and many kindnesses which have been extended to me.

Georgia Mary Clark,
Secretary-Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

From June 1938 to June 24, 1939.

Receipts

June 1938-	Rec. for dues	\$124 01
July "	" " "	
Aug. "	" " "	6 50
Sept. "	" " "	22 75
Oct. "	" " "	19 00
Nov. "	" " "	10 50
Dec. "	" " "	8 00
Jan. 1939-	" " "	1 50
Feb. "	" " "	4 75
Mar. "	" " "	2 00
Apr. "	" " "	3 00
May "	" " "	11 50
June "	Rec. for dues to the 24th	2 00
Total		\$215 51 \$215 51

Expenditures

Sept. 25, 1938	To Print. By-laws	\$10 50
" 26, "	" Postage	1 50
		<u>12 00</u>
Oct. 8, "	To Postage	1 00
" " "	" Stationery	70
" " "	" Metal Cash box	2 00
		<u>3 70</u>
Nov. 8, "	To Print. Reports & Memb. Cards	\$58 00
" 11, "	" Env. for same	1 00
" 12, "	" Postage	2 41
" 26, "	" Party for Juniors	2 55
		<u>63 96</u>
Apr. 24, 1939	To Postage	1 00
May 2, "	" Exp. of Board Meet.	5 20
" 7, "	" A. T. MacCoy for 1 Coat of Arms*	5 00
" 15, "	" 150 Reply Postals	3 00
		<u>13 20</u>
June 13, "	To Ad. in Shelburne Coast Guard	3 00
" " "	" Fee on Money Order	08
		<u>3 08</u>
Total expenditures		\$96 94 96 94

Balance on hand, June 24th, 1939 \$118 57

*Wedding gift from the Society to Thelma Wolfsen Butterfield.

REPORT OF THE AUDITING COMMITTEE

We, the undersigned, have examined the Accounts of the Treasurer of the Association of Descendants of Ralph Smith, Inc., and find them to be correct and in order.

(Signed) Louise S. Smith

Andrew T. MacCoy

Raymond I. Carter

ADDRESS GIVEN BY
REP. EDWIN F. ELDREDGE

June 26, 1939.

It is a great pleasure to me to have an opportunity to meet with the Smith Descendants on this occasion and pay a tribute to the memory of the Smiths who have gone before us. I feel highly gratified for the privilege of coming face to face and in touch with so many of their descendants.

I come in behalf of the most cordial invitation from your secretary, Georgia M. Clark, and I wish to impress upon you this thought, that your line of ancestors has no mean history. That, in the days of small things, in the midst of danger, hardships and privations they have stood for law and order, pronounced in their integrity, patriotism and religion. They stand today above suspicion as participants in any non-religious or socialistic form of government.

Your ancestors maintained a dignity and an almost absolute universal chastity. They were stern and unrelenting in their morals, God fearing and Sabbath observing people. Looking into your faces and measuring your calibre by your strong, stalwart ancestors, I am proud of this opportunity to congratulate you on carrying forward the traditions of the Smith ancestors. By their example you have been inspired with courage for the faithful per-

formance of life's duties. But, the precious influence of their lives shall abide with you until the end. Your eyes see them not but the wonderful gift of memory enables you to enjoy again their sweet companionship.

During the last three or four years, I have become interested in genealogy and the history of the Town of Chatham, and I want to take you back to the period of Rev. Stephen Emery's ministry of which most of you will recall. During that period many of the Ralph Smith ancestors emigrated from Chatham and other towns on the Cape to Nova Scotia. This was during the third emigration. Many of the Smiths remained in the Province and a careful search of the records there would disclose that many of the Smith descendants would be found there today.

A few years after this emigration an epidemic of smallpox stripped the town of much of its population and in spite of the precautions that were taken to prevent the spread of this disease many families were nearly wiped out and many of the Smith ancestors were victims of the disease. It appears that the disease originated in the family of Deacon Crowell, who at that time was one of the most respected citizens of the town.

In the month of December 1765 and January 1766 the records of the town show that 61 persons were inflicted with the disease and so far as can be determined only about 24 recovered. Those that are

buried on the Smith lot in the western part of our town are as follows:-

Jan. 6. Mercie, wife of Joseph Doane Jr.

Jan. 13. Deacon Stephen Smith

Jan. 16. Stephen Ryder

Jan. 16. Bathsheba, wife of said Deacon Smith

Jan. 18. Bathsheba Smith

Feb. 6. Betty the daughter of Deacon Smith.

During the time of this epidemic Dr. Samuel Lord who no doubt treated the Smith family while suffering from this dreaded disease became exposed to the affliction and died shortly afterward. His remains are buried along side of Training Field Road very near the old Smith burial lot. Later Mr. Thomas Freeman, who lived at the head of Pleasant Bay and was more or less skilled in medicine, rendered medical service to those inflicted with the disease and he too contracted the infection and passed away. The disease was not brought under control until February 1766.

In reviewing the short line of history which I have gathered from different sources I naturally secured the friendship of Miss Cora Smith and by her efforts, as well as my own, I was not only willing but anxious that the town take some steps toward preserving the burial lot of the Smith family and I feel it is one of the historical places of the community. The old burial lot which is located near the old training ground and is the resting place of some of the Smith ancestors, is a sacred spot and should not be neglected and I want to urge upon the

Descendants of Ralph Smith to entrust the town with funds for its preservation, and the town should transcribe and preserve the inscriptions on these slabs before it is too late.

If there is a more attractive and picturesque spot on Cape Cod than this location, I have never discovered it. I know this section as intimately as the squirrel or the woodchuck and it is a capital place to go when nature is at its best.

The burial lot is in an historical spot, being near where the first settlement of Chatham worshipped God. It lies in back of Great Hill, which was the first land sighted by the Pilgrims in 1620 and which was reported at one time as being occupied by the Indians as a lookout. And the section where this cemetery lies was a place of retreat when the Indians were pursued by the white men.

I again wish to say that it has been a great pleasure to me to have this opportunity of meeting with the descendants of Ralph Smith on this occasion and to pay a tribute to the memory of the Smiths who have gone before us.

IN MEMORIAM

Entered into rest, Sunday, August 13th, 1939, Joseph Ashworth Smith, son of Thomas R. and Margaret C. (Smith) Smith; born 1879. Joseph A. Smith was a charter member and First Vice President of our Association and his smiling countenance will be missed from amongst us. To know him was to love him and one felt they had been in contact with a choice soul who loved his fellow men and walked in the path of honor and justice. Our sympathy and love goes out to his widow, Phoebe M. Smith, and to his brothers and sisters, Mrs. Clarence Covell, Mrs. Beatrice M. Hunt, Mrs. Isabella J. Wolfson, Frank Morris Smith, Thomas Edison Smith and Clayton Trask Smith.

There is no death. The stars go down
To rise upon some fairer shore,
And bright in Heaven's jeweled crown
They shine forevermore.
And ever near us, though unseen,
The dear immortal spirits tread;
For all the boundless universe
Is Life; there are no dead.

(John Luckey McCreery)