

**CRAWFORD COUNTY
TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS**

SMITH GRAVES

William C. Cuthbertson

Crawford County Genealogy Society

SMITH GRAVE

Located SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sect. 6, Twp. 30S. Rge 23E

This is about 4 mi W and 4 mi S of Girard, Gregg School house stood on the SE cor of this farm.

The grave is that of Mrs. Adelia Bliss Smith, nee Wright, first wife of David H. Smith, and mother of Alfred M. Smith. No marker exists.

The following is from Miss S. Jane Smith of 4244 Holly St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111, 2-3-1972:

"The grave you speak of on the Lyle Shipman place, is that of our grandmother, Adelia Bliss (Wright) Smith. She was my father's mother and the first wife of our grandfather David H. Smith. This grave used to be marked by two poplar trees, one at the head and one at the foot. There was also a fence around the grave, but of course these marks are long since gone. I don't remember any other marker. There was just the one grave there.

There was a hedge fence separating the pasture land from the cultivated field, and it was along this hedge where the grave was located. I would say that it was in a north easterly direction from where the house now stands along the north line of the pasture. The house on this place used to be across the "draw" on the north side."

2-27-1972: Lyle Shipman who lives on this farm does not know the location of the grave, but believed the fence or hedge between the pasture to the S and the field to the N has not been moved. We did not visit the site, but he was quite sure there were no remains of the two poplar trees. The grave would probably not be too far from the house, and this would be generally in the central part of this $\frac{1}{4}$ section. Lightning creek runs through the extreme NE cor, and a spring over in the W part feeds the little "draw" that runs across to the E or SE, back of his house. The old house was on the N side of this draw. He had heard the story that somewhere along this draw, NW from the site of Gregg School, there was a cave, but he has never found the entrance. Miss Jane Smith says the original part of her grandfather's house was of logs, and both she and Lyle knew that some of it was torn down & used to build the back part of Lyle's present home, when Copenhagen's lived there.

Ralph Copenhagen, son of Charlie who lived here, said they had been told of several graves on this farm, believed them to be N of the school in a patch of woods they once cleared to farm, but found no trace of anything. Likely this was a rumor, and there was just the one grave.

David H. Smith (who with 2nd wf. is bur. Girard cem^(p. 90): David H. d 3-17-1890 age 79-7-5 and Louisa 1835-1905) purchased this SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of above description on 5-5-1870 from the U.S. Govt., by a land patent, the only one issued in this neighborhood. His son Alfred M. Smith, father of S. Jane, purchased the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of same sect. 6-21-1879 from the KCFS&G RR. Alfred & wife are bur. Myers cem. David gave the land for Gregg School.

I recall many years ago my father, Chas. A. Cuthbertson, told of someone buried on this farm over N of the little "draw".

1870 census Crawford Twp. Crawford Co. Ks.:

#228-210	Smith, David H.	58	3500	775	Massachusetts
	Charles M.	20	1500		"
	Alfred M.	21	1000		"
	David C.	27			"

SMITH GRAVES
(possibly removed)

Located NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sect. 10, Twp. 30S Rge. 24E

This is about 140 rods (less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mi.) E of the Harmony School corner, and about 100 ft. S of the road, in an area dug up by the steam shovel many years ago. Harmony School Dist. # 124 was located on the NE cor. of Sect. 9, which is $3\frac{1}{2}$ mi E and $\frac{1}{4}$ mi S of the highway intersection in Girard, or 2 mi S of Mt. Olive Baptist Church. The graves were on what was known as the Dietz farm.

11-9-1971 Elmer Mutch who grew up in this neighborhood knew of 2 graves located about 140 rods E of the Harmony School corner and about 100' back S in a field. Many years ago they were marked with a very large square wooden post. The steam shovel dug all this up some years ago, and he believed the graves were not removed. The family who lived on this place when Mr. Mutch was a small boy, and all of their children, are now deceased; however Mr. Mutch believed these graves were those of even earlier residents of this farm. He believed the report of graves at Harmony School was not correct, and that these were the ones referred to.

11-16-1971 Maurice Frazier knew of these graves, he moved into this neighborhood when about 6 yrs. old, c.1904. He believed there were 2 graves here, or possibly 4, and recalled that a Mr. & Mrs. Smith, parents of one Dan Smith, were buried here. He also recalled the coal company dug all this up before learning that there had been graves here, and an official became quite upset when he heard the report. However, according to Mr. Frazier, the graves of Mr. and Mrs. Smith had already been removed to another location before the shovel dug this up.

Land records show 8-15-1883 KCPS&G RR to Elizabeth M. Smith, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sect. 10
4-16-1891 Lewis S. Smith & wf. to Daniel F. Smith W.D. E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$

SMITH GRAVES (NO STONES)

located in SW of Sect. 29, Twp. 29S Rge. 23 E

Buried here: John Smith who d. 12-31-1869
wife Martha Ann who died between 1870-74.

The burial site was marked by hedge trees which were bulldozed out just a few years ago. It was a little less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mi N of the SE cor of section, and about 350 ft. W. near where the house had been where the Smiths lived. (The SE cor. of this section is 1 mi S and 3 mi W of the Girard cem.) We did not walk to this location, due to the fact that all evidence, if any, had been destroyed.

This info. obtained February 11, 1972, from Mrs. Bruce I. Jones, 210 E. 24th, Galena Illns. 66739. She stated that John & Martha Ann Smith were her great-grandparents, and parents of Merrit Wilburn Smith, born Kv., her grandfather, who moved to Mo. The father of John Smith was James who res. near Diamond Mo.; John had a brother James Eland Smith who was the father of Lum (a mile S) & several other children. Martha Ann Smith died in bed from being bitten by a copperhead snake. There were sandstone markers at the graves, but no other markers.

Albert Kirkpatrick who lives in the section E, recalled Wiley Smith telling him of the graves and that the name was Smith, but no relation to him.

This quarter section was from early days the farm of Ezekiel (Zeke) Smith whose wife was Martha Virginia Hewett. Her parents Rev. Collins A. Hewett & wf. Martha Moore Hewett lived across from the Zeke Smith house $\frac{1}{2}$ mi N, in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$. See Hewett-Coffey graves in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of this same section. Wiley Smith was a son of Zeke. The abstract showed John Smith to have been the first owner. Miss Nena Smith who has lived all her life across the road S from the Zeke Smith farm, and was a niece of Zeke, recalled her bro. Dan telling of this grave and he believed it had a marker, and the man's name was Smith, but not related to them, rather to the Lum Smith family.

Mrs. Ina Smith McElwain, dau. of Lum Smith, believed all her fam. was buried in Myers.cem. from early days, and had not heard of this Smith family before.

Mr. Hoyt Murphy, living a short distance E on S side of road, recalled Wiley Smith son of Zeke once showed him the location of the grave (one) and as he recalled it, a family was passing through the country in a covered wagon in the pioneer days and the man died and was buried there, leaving a wife and several children. The name was not recalled. It is entirely possible this story is true, and there is another grave here, but we have no other evidence. (recorded 6-9-1971)

Frank Adamson whose family were among the earliest settlers of this area, told that a slab school house once existed on this quarter section just E of Lightning creek along the N side of the road, and his a nt taught there. It was likely a subscription school, as it was discontinued when Slifer dist. was formed & the school built on the corner west. Mr. Adamson recalled that Lum Smith was said to have attended this early school. The site of the grave would likely have been some little distance NE of the school,

Land records show John Smith and wf. to J.D. Braley, mtg., 12-23-1869. (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of sect. 29)
5-10-1871 H. T. Coffman Sheriff to R. R. Buckley, S.D.
5-22-1872 R. R. Buckley to C. A. Hewett, W. D.
2-18-1876 Martha Hewett to J. S. Smith W. D.
Several QCD's from Smith family to J. S. Smith
1-11-1886 U. S. Govt. to John Smith Patent.