

Russell E. Smith

Medicine Lake, MT – Thompson Falls, MT
Palouse, WA - North Africa and Italy
Kansas City, MO - Lee's Summit, MO
(1916 – 2003)

Our mother (**Ruth [McKendry] Smith**) and father (**Russell Earl Smith**) enjoyed spending time researching our family genealogy during their retirement years. There were many car trips to county courthouses and public libraries, and letters written to other family members and government agencies in search of information. To their delight, their research uncovered a civil war diary by John Law Erwin, one of Russell's great uncles. The diary had been handed down for several generations before being transcribed in 1985 by H. Robert Erwin, Jr., John Law Erwin's great grandson.

ERWIN SURNAME

The genealogy of the Erwin family can be traced to the mid-1700s where Russell's 4th great grandfather named Robert Erwin fought in the American Revolutionary War (Private in the Fifth Battalion of the Cumberland County Militia, State of Maryland). Mary Louise Erwin Horn, a descendant of Robert Erwin, successfully applied to become a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution in March 1903. Based on the documentation in this prior application, Russell successfully applied to become a member of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (Missouri Society). His certificate of membership (National No 121893, State No 1479) was dated March 17, 1983. Russell's framed certificate was proudly displayed in our family home.

Russell made copies of John Law Erwin's civil war diary and distributed them to other family members. He also encouraged them to put pen to paper and write their own family history.

Russell took his own advice and began writing his family history during his retirement years in the mid to late 1980s. When he abruptly stopped writing,

he had completed nearly 150 handwritten pages. His writings focused primarily on his early life growing up in Montana and his experiences in the Civilian Conservation Corps and as a member of the United States Army Air Corps in World War II. His oldest brother, **George Smith**, and an older cousin, **Ethel Marie Bell Thiel** also wrote about their family history which they provided to Russell. A letter authored by Russell's younger sister **Margorie (Smith) Cummings** (provided by Russell's niece, Myrtle Hawkes, daughter of Azila Asenath Smith) also provided information on the Smith and Erwin family history.



Russell and Ruth (McKendry) Smith (c. 1980)
Lee's Summit, Missouri

The Smith family history presented in this document makes extensive use of Russell's handwritten history supplemented by information from his older brother George, sister Margorie, and his cousin Ethel. Background information has been added to the individual sections to provide historical context.

In his handwritten pages, Russell acknowledged the need to correct misspelled words, punctuation and grammar. As such, his text has been edited and consolidated by subject matter in hopes of making it more readable.

Parents and Grandparents: Russell's father was Robert Erwin Smith. Robert was the oldest son of

John Edward Smith and Asenath Amanda (Erwin) Smith (Russell's grandparents). John Edward Smith's parents were John and Barbara Smith (Russell's great grandparents). Census records indicate that John Edward Smith's father (John) was a shoemaker. John Edward Smith's grandparents were named John and Francis Smith (Russell's second great grandparents). Census records indicate that John (b. 1780) and Francis (b. 1780) were farmers.

RUSSELL'S GENEALOGY AT A GLANCE

Parents

Robert Erwin Smith (1875-1929)
Myrtle (Hartwell) Smith (1884-1952)

Paternal Grandparents

John Edward Smith (1849-1934)
Asenath Amanda (Erwin) Smith (1855-1939)

Maternal Grandparents

Richard Hartwell (1848-1926)
Sarah Ann (Harms) Hartwell (1853-1931)

Great Grandparents

John (b. 1817) and Barbara Smith (b.1822)
Robert Erwin (1812-1886) and Rebecca (Law)
Erwin (m.1838)/Louisa (Vickers) Erwin
(m.1845)

Timothy Harms and Lora (Schenney) Harms

2nd Great Grandparents

John (b.1780) and Francis Smith (b.1780)
Robert Erwin and Jane (Frazier) Erwin
John Vickers (1788-1868) and
Harriet (Howard) Vickers (1806-1856)

3rd Great Grandparents

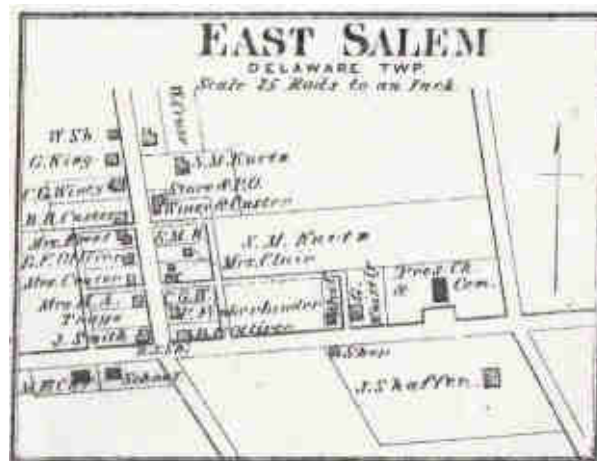
Andrew Erwin (1745-1791) and
Sarah (McCullough) Erwin (d.1821)

4th Great Grandparents

Robert C. Erwin (d. 1808) and Margaret (?)
(Veteran of the American Revolutionary War,
Pvt – Fifth Battalion of the Cumberland County Militia)

John Edward Smith had three older siblings: Sarah (b. 1842) Andrew (b. 1844), and Frances (b. 1846). John Edward Smith and his siblings spent their childhood years with their parents in East Salem, Juniata County, Pennsylvania. Juniata County is in east-central Pennsylvania. The town of East Salem had an estimated population of 186 in 2018.

"I know very little about the Smiths beyond my grandfather. Grandfather was John Edward Smith. He was born June 18, 1849 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He was Pennsylvania Dutch and a Quaker."..... Margorie (Smith) Cummings, May 1962.



1877 Map of East Salem, Pennsylvania
(Note the location of the J. Smith residence in the lower left corner of the map) (Source: unknown)

As an adult, John Edward Smith relocated to Missouri where he met and married Asenath Amanda Erwin, daughter of Robert Erwin and Louisa Elizabeth (Vickers) Erwin (Russell's great grandparents). Robert Erwin was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania. Louisa was born in Harrison County, Ohio. Robert and Louisa were married in Harrison County, Ohio on August 21, 1845. Their family included seven children (listed from oldest to youngest): Harriet Ann Erwin, Jane Erwin, Albert V. Erwin, Mary Elizabeth Erwin, **Asenath Amanda Erwin** (Russell's grandmother), David Chalmer Erwin, and Julia Josephine Erwin.

Louisa (Vickers) Erwin (1825 – 1863) was Robert Erwin's second wife. His first wife was Rebecca Law.

Robert Erwin and Rebecca (Law) Erwin had several children including John Law Erwin who was Asenath's stepbrother (Russell's great uncle).

"Grandmother (Asenath Amanda Erwin) was born in Cadiz, Ohio on July 24, 1855. She was Scotch-Irish and English. There were ten (?) children in the Erwin family, but only four lived to be grown. Great grandfather (Asenath's father Robert Erwin) was well-to-do. One of grandmother Asenath's brothers was a doctor, the other a lawyer. Her father, Robert Erwin, bought grandmother (Asenath) a farm in Missouri and fixed the house nice for her." Margorie (Smith) Cummings, May 1962.

John Law Erwin (Russell's Great Uncle) served in the American Civil War as a member of Company F, 98th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He enlisted for service in August 1862 and served until March 1865 where he mustered out near the Clay Monument at Louisville, Kentucky. During his two and a half years of service, he saw action in several battles including Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and the Atlanta Campaign.

JOHN LAW ERWIN'S DIARY

"In March of 65 I was mustered out near the Clay Monument at Louisville. Here I met my Father and we took a boat to St. Louis and up the Missouri River to Calloway County where I acted as a U.S. Marshall to receive the oath of allegiance from the Confederates, before they were permitted to vote. While stationed at a point on the river near St. Aubert, a man rushed in and told me that a mob was gathering to hang me and he urged me to take his offer. I thanked him but declined his offer. Shortly, the mob gathered on horseback. The leader, with rope in hand, spoke up. 'Erwin, anything you wish to say.' 'Yes' I said. 'I was on Sherman's march to the sea. It left a path of ashes in route. Men, the war is over. If you do this, this valley will be in ashes within 24 hours. You still have your homes - think it over boys.' In five minutes - not a man in sight. And I may add, some of my closest friends of later years, were those who wore the Grey."



John Law Erwin (1840 – 1925)
(Source: 1884 History of Callaway County, Missouri.) His gravestone is inscribed:
"He went about doing good."

After the war, John and his wife (Elizabeth Ellen Birney) relocated to Fulton, Calloway County, Missouri where they established a successful dairy farm (North Fulton Dairy).

FAMILY NAMING PATTERNS AND TRADITIONS

For many European countries and the United States, it was not unusual for families to use the same names repeatedly in successive generations. For many families, parents named their children in honor of grandparents and other ancestors. For the many branches of Russell's family, certain first and middle names are repeated in successive generations. The repetition includes first and middle names as well as surnames used for middle names. For example: as noted above, there were three successive generations of family members named John Smith. Russell's grandparents, John Edward Smith and Asenath Erwin Smith, named their first child Robert Erwin Smith to honor Asenath's father (Robert Erwin).

John Edward Smith and Asenath Amanda [Erwin] (Russell's grandparents) were married on November 27, 1873 by George M. Penn, Minister of Gospel, at the farm home of Asenath's parents (Robert and Louisa [Erwin]) in Fulton, Missouri.

John Edward and Asenath lived on a 160-acre farm near New Bloomfield, Missouri in Calloway County (Section 22, Township 46, Range 10). Historical tax receipts from Calloway County show that the Smith family paid \$18.48 in real estate taxes and \$2.16 in personal property taxes in 1876.

John Edward and Asenath had eight children, all born in Missouri:

- **Robert Erwin Smith** (Russell's father)
(b. July 4, 1875 – d. Sept 19, 1929)
- Edgar Wesley Smith (1879 – 1918)
(Spouse: Grace Reynolds)
- Harriette (Hattie) Mary Smith (1880 – 1956)
(Spouse: William Carson Bell)
(Daughter: Ethel Marie)
- Julia Smith (1881 – 1888)
- Clara B. Smith (1883 – 1966)
(Spouse: Paulson)
- Albert Bruce (Bruce) Smith (1886 – 1949)
(Spouse: Johanna Martha Grellong)
- Alberta (Bertie) Ann Smith (b. 1890)
(Spouse: Mason)
- John C. Smith (1892 – 1898)

As a young adult, Robert Erwin Smith (Russell's father) worked in the coal mines in Macon County, Missouri near the town of Bevier. Among the coal miners he worked with were Richard Hartwell and his son Walter. Richard's daughter, Myrtle, would become Robert Smith's wife (Russell's mother). The Hartwell family included Richard (b. 1848 – 1926) and his wife Sarah Ann (Harms) Hartwell (b. 1853 – d. 1931). Richard and Sarah were Russell's maternal grandparents.



Children of John Edward and Asenath Smith:
(L-R) Harriette, Clara, Robert (Russell's father)
(L-R, sitting) Bruce, Edgar, Alberta (c. 1910)

"Richard Hartwell, Myrtle's father, was born in Indiana. He was English. He came from a large family. His father and older brothers fought in the Civil War. Richard's mother tried to care for them (her younger children), but couldn't so he (Richard) was sent to live with a German family. He was ten years old. The Germans were so mean to him, he ran away three times to an older sister. The third time she hid him under a featherbed and he almost smothered while they were searching the house for him. They never came for him again. I don't know anything about the rest of his family."
Margorie (Smith) Cummings, May 1962.

Henry Hartwell was Richard Hartwell's older brother. The National Park Service Civil War Soldiers Database includes a listing for Henry Hartwell who served in the Union Army, 40th Regiment, Indiana Infantry.

“Grandmother Hartwell was born Sarah Jane Harms. She was Irish. She was born in Indiana. Her (Myrtle’s) mother (Sarah) lived in Missouri when Mom (Myrtle) was a girl. Mom talked about staying with her. Mom said the thing she remembered most about her Grandmother’s house was the kitchen and the wonderful smell of all the spices in it. She said she was a little woman with a twinkle in her eye and very jolly.” Margorie (Smith) Cummings, May 1962.



Macon County, Missouri
(Image Source: Wikipedia)

Richard and Sarah Hartwell (Russell’s maternal grandparents) had nine children, all born in Missouri. Flora and Florence were twins.

- Flora Hartwell (b.1870)
(Spouse: Lewis Larson)
- Florence Hartwell (1870 – 1959)
(Spouse: Elmer Stevens)
- Walter Hartwell (b. 1874)
(Family history indicates that Walter died from a coal mining accident as a young man)
- Nellie Hartwell (b. 1877)
(Spouse: Meyers)
- Sylvia Hartwell (Spouse: John Walton)
- Otice Hartwell (b. 1882)
(Spouse: Lola Burkhart)
- **Myrtle Cora Hartwell** (Russell’s mother) (b. July 9, 1884 – d. May 30, 1952)
(Spouse: Robert Erwin Smith)

- Logan O. Hartwell (1886 – 1942)
(Spouse: Jesse)
- Lela B Hartwell (b. 1893)
(Spouse: John Coleman)

Robert Erwin Smith and Myrtle Cora Hartwell (Russell’s parents) were married on May 18, 1901 in Dixie, Missouri (near Bloomfield, Missouri). Myrtle was 17 years old and Robert was 26 years old.



Map of Callaway County, Missouri
(Image Source: USGenWeb Archives Digital Map Library – Missouri State)

Robert and Myrtle continued living in Missouri after their marriage. It seems likely that Robert continued working as a coal miner in northern Missouri (Macon County) to provide for his family.

Robert and Myrtle had their first child, Azila Asenath Smith, born on May 29, 1902. Their second child, George Robert Smith, was born on August 4, 1904. Their third child, Alice, was born on October 28, 1907.

As time passed, several of Robert’s siblings married and resettled in the early 1900s including his sister Hattie (Harriette) (Robert’s sister and Russell’s aunt). Hattie married William Carson Bell and they relocated to the Sand Hills of western Nebraska where William worked as a farm hand on the 101 Ranch. Their first child, a daughter they named Ethel Marie Bell (Russell’s cousin), was born at the ranch on January 9, 1903.



Robert and Myrtle Smith
with son George and daughter Azila (c. 1906)

The Smith Family Relocates from Missouri to Montana: Ethel's writing about the Smith family history tells the story of how the John Edward Smith family came to relocate from Missouri to Montana in the early 1900s.



Ethel Marie Bell Thiel (c. 1985)

I was born on January 9, 1903 at the 101 Ranch in the Sandhills of Nebraska. There were no doctors any closer than Valentine, Nebraska so I was delivered by a mid-wife, a Mrs. Babcock who lived at Pullman, Nebraska, the Post-office near the ranch. She lived in a sod house just up the Valley.

The spring after I was born, my Mother was tired of cooking for all the ranch hands and wrote to her Father John Edward Smith back in Missouri and told him that she wanted to go to Montana and find a homestead as she saw an advertisement in a magazine where land was going to be opened up for homesteading and wanted to know if he would come and go with them. He thought it was a good idea for his boys (Robert, Bruce, Edgar) to obtain land, as there wasn't anything in Missouri except small acreages.

MONTANA'S HOMESTEAD BOOM

Montana, the Treasure State, was organized as a territory before becoming the 41st state to be admitted to the Union on November 8, 1889. The "Homestead Boom" between 1900 and 1918 was an important period in its history. Spurred by railroad development, promotional advertising, and changes in public land law, settlers filed over 114,000 homestead claims on approximately twenty-five million acres during the period between 1909 and 1923. John Edward Smith and his adult children were among the settlers that relocated to Montana during the "Homestead Boom."



Sheridan County, Montana
(Image Source: Wikimedia Commons)

Grandfather (John Edward Smith) came to Nebraska shortly after that and my father (William Bell) got busy and they prepared a covered wagon for the trip to Montana. They left Nebraska in May (1904) and arrived in the flats 12 miles east of Flandrem in Valley County, Montana. They squatted on land They lived in a tent until they got our sod house built. They

also built a sod house for Grandfather (John Edward Smith) in 1904. (Note: Sheridan County was established in 1913 when the boundaries of Dawson and Valley Counties were redrawn.)



Map of Northeast Montana showing the locations of Plentywood, Medicine Lake, Froid and the Fort Peck Indian Reservation
(Image Source: Unknown)

Grandfather (John Edward Smith) went back to Missouri and brought Grandmother (Asenath), and their children Clara, Alberta, Bruce, and Edgar to Montana. Robert and Myrtle (Russell's parents) remained in Missouri until relocating to Montana in 1907.



A sod house on the American prairie (c. 1901)
(Image Source: Wikipedia)

They bought 1,650 sheep from Peter Morrow, on the Morrow ranch near where Plentywood now stands. Grandfather had two sheep herders, Harry Curtis and Harry Richwine and bought two sheep dogs, Ring and Puddin were their names. Everyone helped with the sheep and Grandmother Asenath did the cooking. I can remember her baking bread almost every day. She spanked it and I asked her why. She said spanking

made the bread good and spanking made little girls good too! I must have been good ... as I seldom got spanked.



Asenath Amanda (Erwin) Smith (c. early 1900s)

In 1907 there was around 7,000 sheep on the ranch. The winter was cold, and the snow was waist deep. Then there was a blizzard that lasted three days. The snow drifted over the shed tops and over 3,000 sheep were smothered, but they kept on with the sheep until they got on with the cattle and horse business.



Sheep ranch near Butte, Montana (c. early 1900s)
(Image Source: Montana Historical Society Photograph Archives)

Uncle Bruce (Robert's brother, Ethel and Russell's uncle) and Grandpa (John Edward Smith) had over one hundred horses at one time. When I got old enough, I used to help them wrangle the horses. There was open range, so they let the horses run over the sand hills

south of the ranch. I often wondered how the horses survived the cold winters on the prairie, pawing deep snow in winter with no water and just prairie grass. When people started farming, they sold quite a few (horses).

In 1907, Uncle Robert (Russell's father, Ethel's uncle) and his family moved out of Missouri. They (Robert and Myrtle) had three children: Azila, George and baby Alice. Uncle Robert brought three spans (teams) of mules from Missouri.

In 1908, Uncle Robert, Uncle Bruce and Aunt Clara filed on homesteads close to each other near the tiny town of Flandrem, Montana. (When railroad expansion in northeast Montana by-passed Flandrem, the recently established small town of Medicine Lake became the closest town to the Smith homesteads.) They all built houses. Uncle Robert and Clara each built a frame house; Uncle Bruce built a log house. Uncle Edgar homesteaded northwest of Dagmar and built a nice house and barn.

Uncle Robert helped Aunt Clara build her house. Uncle Edgar built Grandpa's frame house in 1906. I was only three years old then. I remember upsetting Uncle Edgar's keg of nails as they bought nails in keg's those days.

There were no other children around until Uncle Robert (Russell's father) came and we had a good time playing hide and seek. Uncle Robert would play "Turkey in the Straw" and "Howling Taters" on his violin and we would dance and play "Drop the Handkerchief" and "Ring around the Rosie."

In addition to their three oldest children (Azila, George, and Alice), Robert and Myrtle Smith (Russell's parents) had ten more children after relocating to Montana:

- Walter C. Smith (October 14, 1910 – October 14, 1910)
- Herbert Wesley Smith (February 24, 1912 – January 24, 1984)

- Marvin Otis Smith (August 17, 1914 – October 16, 1968)
- **Russell Earl Smith** (August 23, 1916 – July 6, 2003)
- Richard Rolly Smith (April 13, 1919 – October 15, 1966)
- Marjorie (Margie, Dot) Doris Smith (October 5, 1921 – May 27, 1979)
- Wayne E. Smith (August 29, 1923 – August 29, 1923)
- Betty J. Smith (June 27, 1924 – June 27, 1924)
- Harry (Bud) J. Smith (September 2, 1925 – July 23, 1987)
- Howard C. Smith (September 4, 1929 – September 4, 1929)

TURKEY IN THE STRAW LYRICS

(from Wikipedia)

Turkey in the straw
Turkey in the hay
Turkey in the straw
Turkey in the hay
Roll 'em up and twist 'em up
A high tuck a-haw
And hit 'em up a tune called
Turkev in the Straw

Large families were not unusual in rural areas across the United States in the early 1900s. As described in "Childbirth and Maternal Health in Early-Twentieth Century Montana" by Women's History Matters, maternal and infant mortality were serious problems among rural women in the early 1900s, especially in central and eastern Montana. These families often lived in remote areas which lacked access to reliable health care. Harsh weather, poverty and cultural taboos contributed to high rates of maternal and infant mortality.

The Robert and Myrtle Smith family experienced the loss of five children during childbirth or early childhood: Alice (two years old), Walter (childbirth), Wayne (childbirth), Betty (childbirth), and Howard (died young). The death of Alice left

a lasting impression on the family as Ethel, George and Russell each told of Alice's death in their recounting of the Smith family history.

From Ethel's family history: *Grandfather (John Edward Smith) bought all of his groceries from Tanner & Best when he was on the ranch. He would take a team and wagon and be gone for three days. He would go as far as the Cartwright Farm east of Froid and go into Culbertson the next day – load up and come back as far as the Cartwrights and come home the next day. It was 30 miles from the ranch to Culbertson.*

He bought 200 pounds of sugar; 800 pounds of flour; several cases of corn, peas and tomatoes; 25 boxes of dried fruit such as dried apples, prunes, raisins and apricots; 10 pounds of coffee; crackers came in big wooden boxes; bologna in kegs; jam in large cans. They raised their live meat, and Grandfather had a smoke house. At butchering time, he would butcher five or six hogs and smoke the hams and bacon. Grandmother (Asenath) and Aunt Alberta would fry the sausage and render lard all day. They packed the sausage in crocks and run lard over it, tied in clean sugar sacks and paper over the crock and that was kept down in the cellar. When you wanted sausage, you had to dig it out of the lard and warm it up and was it ever good. There was a lot of work attached to everything those days.



Ethel Marie Bell (c. 1918)

Then tragedy struck in 1909. Alice drown in a test hole that Uncle Robert (Russell's father) had drilled hoping to have a water well near the house, as it was quite a distance to the (Cottonwood) creek, and water had to be carried in pails for washing dishes and clothes. There was a well, but it was up by the barn where they got their drinking water.

Alice was laid to rest on the homestead as there was no cemetery then close-by When the Volmer Church was built, they had a cemetery across the road from the church. Alice as well as two baby brothers were moved up to the cemetery. There are five of Uncle Robert's children buried in the Volmer Cemetery.



Robert Smith and His Young Children's Gravesite
Volmer Cemetery located near Dagmar, Montana
(Image Source: Photo submitted to "Find A Grave Website" by Bruce Smith, Russell's second cousin)

My mother went along with Grandfather in the Spring of 1910 to get some supplies and buy me a pair of shoes. They stopped at Cartwright's Farm and that's how she met Al Cartwright. (Although no mention is made in Ethel's family history, her father had deserted Ethel and her mother). He had a nice buggy and a horse named Sailor. After that initial visit, he came to our house often to see Grandfather (so he said at first), then it was Mother he came to see. In 1911, he hauled the lumber for our frame house – and he helped Joe O'Brien build it. We moved in that Fall and I got to sleep upstairs. In 1914, my Mother married Alphonse J. Cartwright. He died in October 1914 at Bintry, North Dakota while he was down there looking after his farming interest. My brother Alva was born on March 7, 1915, and we moved our house up on the hill

in 1916. Uncle Robert (Russell's father), Fielding and Jordan Bush built our barn which is still standing. Mother brought all of Alphonso's horses up from Nilak, and I broke all of them to ride. I could ride across the prairie as fast as a horse could run.



George and Verna Smith (c. 1970s)
Missoula, Montana

Memories of Farm Life (by George Smith, Russell's Oldest Brother): *One of the few memories I have of Missouri is a woman named Lane who took my sister Azila and me fishing. (George was about four years old when the family relocated from Missouri to Montana.) She was a good person and we liked her very much. She chewed tobacco and spit, that's probably why I remember her.*

We had a dog in Missouri. We fed him persimmons; he liked them. If we gave him green ones, he had a fit. When we moved to Montana, we had to give him to some neighbors. They sure liked him.

Dad (Robert Erwin Smith) went to Montana to file on a homestead in 1908. The homestead was 320 acres; it was his if he improved it within three years. Dad came back to Missouri and prepared to move to Montana. We had three horses, Kate, Queen and Molly, and a mule named Jack, a walking plow, disc, household furniture, and hay for stock. I especially remember the blackberry bush we took along. Dad went on to

Montana and Mother, my sisters Azila and Alice, and I went to visit Grandma and Grandpa Hartwell before joining him in Montana.

We arrived in Montana (by train) in August 1908. We left the train in Culbertson, Montana where we spent the night and left for my Grandpa's (John Edward Smith) ranch. It took all day to get there. Grandpa had a sheep ranch. They lived in a sod house and had several thousand sheep. Several men worked for Grandpa. He had two sheep dogs, Ring and Pud.



John Edward Smith (c. 1910)

We moved to our homestead. It was a small house with one bed. The five of us (Robert, Myrtle and their three children Azila, George and Alice) slept in it. We had a modern house. When it rained, we had running water. Later Dad built a bigger house. It had two rooms. Dad built a big barn. It held ten horses and six cows.

ROBERT E. SMITH HOMESTEAD

File information dated May 4, 1913 from the Register of the Land Office at Glasgow, Montana contains the legal description of the Robert E. Smith homestead: "Northeast quarter of Section twenty, and the northwest quarter of Section twenty-one in Township thirty-two, north of Range fifty-eight, east of the Montana Meridian, Montana, containing three hundred twenty acres." (see p. 18)

The Robert Smith homestead was located south-southeast of Katy Lake and north of Cottonwood Creek (see map on page 18). The homesteads of his brother (Bruce) and sister (Clara) were located immediately east and south of Robert's homestead.

ROBERT E. SMITH'S HOMESTEAD DESCRIPTION

"I established residence on this land on August 21, 1908. I broke 21 acres in 1909; 38 in 1910; 50 in 1911; and 9 in 1912 and I have now under plow 118 acres. In 1909, I had some wheat, oats and flax, threshold only the flax, 15 bushels. In 1911, I had 248 bushels grain from 52 acres. In 1911, I had 570 bushels of grain from 108 acres, I had corn too. In 1912, I had 1410 bushels of grain from 118 acres besides some corn and millet. Frame house 21 by 22; two barns; granary; chicken-house; well; and 78 acres The farm is all fenced in. My improvements are worth about \$1300.00. I keep 8 horses, 6 head of cattle, 4 pigs. I have agreed to secure a loan of \$700.00 with Security State Bank of Medicine Lake, Montana for to make improvements on the land. Signed:

Robert E. Smith

(Source: Records on file at the U.S. Land Office in
Glasgow, Montana dated November 23, 1912.)

George's story continues: *We went to Grandpa's where he was sheep herding. He lived in a wagon when he was herding sheep. Grandma (Asenath) Smith and Ma (Myrtle) cooked a good dinner. It was canned stuff, corn, beans, fried potatoes, ham, biscuits and coffee. We ate off the tail gate of the wagon.*

The Indians were camped on Lake Creek hunting ducks. They came by Grandpa's to talk him out of some sheep, they were tired of eating duck. (The 2.1-million-acre Fort Peck Indian Reservation is located west of Medicine Lake.)

Riders would come by Grandpa's ranch and stay two or three days. One day while eating supper, Grandma

(Asenath) said they were getting short on meat. The next day there was a hind quarter of beef and no one around to ask where it came from. We had beef steak for dinner.

Dad (Robert) built a barn for Aunt Clara on her homestead. Uncle Bruce built a log house on his homestead. He hauled the logs from the river. While hauling logs, he shot a deer and gave us some meat. It had a sweet taste. Ma didn't like it.



John Edward Smith (left) (c. 1910)
(The building is believed to be the home of John and
his wife Asenath near Medicine Lake, Montana)

Our first crop was thrashed by a steam outfit. Our first crop was two stacks of oats, four stacks of wheat, and one stack of flax. One stack caught fire, but was put out with water from the engine.

Brother Herbert was born in 1912 and we kids were pretty happy. He was a big baby.

Settlers started moving in to homestead. They started building a schoolhouse.

We went to a wedding of a neighbor girl. I'll never forget, an old gander bit my ass and held on to me. The neighbors had a new barn and after the wedding, they had dinner for all the people in the barn. After they got done eating, they passed the cigars and the preacher took one and smoked it. I thought he was a funny preacher that would smoke.

The schoolhouse was built. There was a Christian preacher that helped build the school and he was the first teacher. He was a good teacher and at the end of

the month he would give us candy. A big boy started to steal the candy and that was the end of the candy. The school was also used as a church.

A Brethren Church was built and had a new preacher. He did a lot of baptizing. He baptized Grandma and Grandpa, Clara and Aunt Alberta.

Uncle Bruce Smith and Johanna Grellong were married in 1913. They drove to Culbertson about 40 miles to catch the train to Glasgow. When they came back, they had a wedding party and dance. Also had a keg of beer.

I was ten years old in 1914 when I got a job herding cows for Uncle Bruce for five dollars a month. I had three dogs. Aunt Alberta herded cows for Grandpa. She had a horse, I walked. Uncle Ed came by in a car. He turned it over in the creek. Uncle Bruce took a team of horses to pull it out and let it set for a couple of weeks to dry.

In 1916 Brother Russell came around. That year Grandpa moved to Washington, sold everything. Uncle Bruce lived on his ranch. Dad (Robert) rented Clara's place and farm. We had a sow and eight pigs.

In 1917 we got a new car. It was an Overland. We had a fellow working for us, his name was Bill Gray. We had another fellow working for us. His name was Charles Matthew. He had his fingers froze off. He broke a horse to ride, but the horse bucked every time he tried to ride him.



1916 Willys Overland Model 75

(Image Source: Dealer Sales Brochure - Model 75, Troxel's Auto Literature)

The year 1918 was a bad year. Uncle Ed got killed in a coal mine. Another fellow was with him and the mine caved in on them. Aunt Hattie moved to Canada and homesteaded. Ethel got married in Canada to a fellow named Anderson. Aunt Grace's mother and her brother Fred Reynolds came to help. They had an auction sale and sold horses, farm machinery, house and furniture.

From Ethel's family history: In 1916, Grandfather (John Edward Smith) sold all of his livestock and moved to Vancouver, Washington. Aunt Clara also sold her homestead, Aunt Alberta went too! Grandpa came back in 1917. He sold 80 acres to my mother (Hattie Smith Bell) and the rest to Peter Miller of Dagmar. In 1918, Grandma (Asenath Amanda Smith) came back for a while and was in Montana when Uncle Edgar (Robert's brother, Russell's uncle) was killed in the coal mine. Grandpa was going to lose his 80 acres up on the hill, so my mother took that over. Aunt Clara sold her homestead just before moving to the West Coast, but the buyer couldn't pay for it and Aunt Clara wanted her money out of it, so my Mother took over the mortgage and foreclosed on it, and she later deeded it to me. That's how I happened to have Aunt Clara's 320-acre homestead.

Living in Montana: The information in the sections that follow were taken from Russell's written history of his life experiences. Section headings have been added to organize his writing.

The Homestead and Housing: *My father, Robert Erwin Smith homesteaded in Montana. The family farm was located about 10 to 12 miles east of Medicine Lake in Valley County located in the northeast corner of Montana. Valley County later became Sheridan County. The county borders North Dakota on the east and Canada on the north.*

There was no town named Medicine Lake when my parents and older siblings arrived in Montana. The town of Flandrem was located near the farmstead. When the Great Northern Railroad built their rail system in Valley County, the town of Flandrem moved

and the name was changed to Medicine Lake. Later, the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railroads merged with Burlington Northern Railroad and became the Burlington Northern Railroad.

During the early 1900s, the Great Northern advertised all over the world that land was available for homesteads in Montana and the Dakotas.

MEDICINE LAKE, MONTANA

“The town takes its name from nearby Medicine Lake, a body of water so named by Indians because they found many of their medicinal herbs and roots around its shores and because the water had medicinal qualities.”

(Source: www.railroadsofmontana.com)

“The town began in 1910 with the arrival of the Bainville-Scobey branch of the Great Northern Railroad System. The first school building was built in 1911. By 1914, that town’s buildings included an opera house, clothing stores and four lumber yards. The population grew to 300 in 1920 and peaked at 454 in the mid-1950s. The population was estimated at 241 in 2016.” (Source: News article for the Medicine Lake Centennial Committee in 2010.)

Some of the houses on the Missouri River in Montana were made of logs and had dirt on top of the roof. I remember seeing only one sod house. The soil in Montana had too much sand in it to support a sod house.



Medicine Lake, Montana
(Image Source:
www.fws.gov/refuge/Medicine_Lake)



Medicine Lake, Montana (c. 1920s)
(Image Source: Newspaper article for Medicine Lake Centennial Committee.)

The house on the family homestead was a four-room house. I don’t have any memories of the house.

The house caught fire and burned down in about 1919 when I was three years old. I talked to my oldest brother George about it. He indicated the fire started when he and Azila were looking for something and went into the back bedroom to look for it. To look under the bed, they struck a match on the floor and the head of the match flew into the straw tick (mattress) and set it on fire.

Ticks (mattresses) were often stuffed with straw, all you could get in it. Then you slept on the tick with a homemade quilt. If you were lucky, there would be just two siblings in a bed. Lots of times there were two of us asleep at the head of the bed and one or two asleep at the foot of the bed.

The neighbors saw the flames when our house caught fire and came from miles around to help. Then, they went home and brought us food, clothes and furniture. That helped. I was too young to remember it.

It was nice of the people to give these things to us, but the bedding came with lice and bed bugs. There was some kind of powder used to get rid of lice and bed bugs. It would take a long time to get rid of these pests.

Dad took a granary (wood frame structure used to store grain) and put a roof on it and then he placed a

lean-to on the front and rear. That made a three-room house.

We had a small four pane window in the shack/house. I remember standing on a chair and pulling myself up to look out the window.

The room that was used for the kitchen had a cellar under it. There was a hole cut in the floor of the kitchen to access the cellar.

We were lucky that we had a floor in the house. Some families didn't have floors. Just the dirt or earth. There was tar paper on the outside. The tar paper was fastened to the exterior walls with round discs about the size of a quarter or half dollar. In the winter, manure was piled all around the house.



Farm Scene – early 1900s
Art Print from Russell and Ruth's Living Room
(Artist: James Ross)

My sister, Alice E. Smith, was born on 28 October 1907. When Alice was a young child, my father constructed a water well using a hand auger. Groundwater was 15 to 20 feet below the surface. Alice drowned in the well. She was buried on the homestead, then later moved to the Volmer Cemetery.

We would get water from the well, a bucket full at a time. If the weather got very cold, the well would

freeze. Then, we would melt snow or get water from the (Cottonwood) creek.

Keeping warm during the winter was a problem in Montana. Lots of times, families didn't have the money to buy coal (\$1.50 - \$2.00 per ton). The coal usually came from a mine in Coalridge. There were other coal mines in the area. A farmer would wait in line at the mine until the coal was dug. Some of the mines were shafts and some were tunnels in the side of a hill. There was natural gas in some of the mines which was called Black Damps.

The miners would light a kerosene lantern and lower it into a mine shaft with a rope to see if the flame would go out. Sometimes this didn't work.

The people were poor and lots of times they would steal coal from the schoolhouse. They would use empty black powder cans as coal buckets. The farmers would use sleds to haul coal if there was enough snow. Wagons were also used to haul coal.

When it snowed, the wind would blow the snow into drifts. The wheels of the wagon would squeak as it went through the snow. The squeaking sound could be heard a long way off. It would get on your nerves.



“Farmers getting out a winter’s supply of fuel” from strip mine in northeast Montana.

(Image Source: The Scobey Lignite Field, Valley, Daniels, and Sheridan Counties, Montana by Arthur J. Collier. Published in early 1900s.)

We used buffalo chips for fuel. The chips were also called cow chips, cow pies or organic pies. We would

gather the chips in the summer. If it looked like it might rain, we would put the chips in the barn so they wouldn't get wet.

We used to catch suckers and carp out of the creek. It didn't happen very often. We tried making a trap to set in the creek, then we would go up the creek and hit the water with a pole to drive the fish into the trap.

We didn't have an outside toilet. We went to the barn or out of sight of the house. We used pages from the Sears or Montgomery Ward catalogs for toilet paper. If a catalog wasn't available, we used corn cobs, grass or hay. I thought not having an outside toilet was awful, but it was quite common not to have one. I've talked to other families from Kansas and Missouri and they didn't have an outside toilet either while growing up. In the winter, the White Owl came into use. It was a pot.

Farming, Tractors and Cars: *My father, Robert Erwin Smith, broke up the land on the homestead with a walking plow and mules.*

It was rough when there would be drought. It seemed like a long time when there was no rain. Then, the wind would blow and create a dust storm.

Lots of times the wheat would not grow very tall and it was called gopher wheat. A gopher could sit on his butt and eat the wheat out of a head of grain.

There were a lot of gophers and their tales were worth one cent each. We would snare the gophers using Bender twine. We would make a loop in the twine and put it around the gopher hole in the ground. The gopher would come up out of the hole and we would jerk on the twine. They would get loose once in a while, but we would get them most of the time.

In the early 1920s, a lot of families had automobiles. My Dad had an Overland. It was a four-door sedan. It had a cloth top which would fold down. The gasoline tank was in the rear of the car. The car would not suck the gas from the tank to the carburetor. No one knew how

to fix it. So, my Dad carried a can of gasoline and a funnel. When the vacuum tank on the front of the dash ran out of gas, he poured some gas from the can using the funnel. The car would go a short distance and stop again. He repeated the process.



Farm Scene – early 1900s
Art Print from Russell and Ruth's Living Room
(Artist: LaVerne Alvestad)

Uncle Bruce, Dad's brother, had a car at that time and I think it was a Whippet. Then, there was a time when Bruce's family didn't have a car. During those times, if they went to town, they traveled with horses and a wagon or buggy.



Bruce Smith and Whippet(?) (c. 1928)

One of the first tractors Dad had was a three-wheel tractor called a Ford. It wasn't made by Henry Ford.

Clothing: My Dad had a 6th grade education and my Mother had a 4th grade education. Dad was the first born in his family. He was kept out of school to work on the family farm. Lots of children didn't go to school because they didn't have decent enough clothes to wear to school. Most clothes were hand-me-downs. If one didn't take the hand-me-down clothes, they would be used for rags.

Our neighbors gave us clothes. When school was out for the year, the clothes were set aside and saved until a new school year began. We went barefoot in the summer. If we got anything new to wear, it was a big deal. Rags and more rags.

My mother washed clothes on a wash board and a tub. We had a washing machine that worked by hand. We didn't have many clothes, so it wasn't unusual to take your clothes off and wear some rags while your clothes were being washed and dried. The soap used for washing the clothes was homemade lye soap. It was made from Lewis lye and animal fat.



Washboard and Tub. (Image Source: Pixabay)

Grasshoppers, Gardens and Food: We had to raise a garden so we could eat. We hauled water with two horses pulling a skid constructed of two small logs or 4 foot by 6-foot boards nailed together. The skid held two barrels to haul the water. The skid was also used to haul stones out of the field. The larger, heavier stones could be rolled on to the skid without lifting the stones.

Grasshoppers were thick some years, gathering in swarms that were several feet long. There were stories that the grasshoppers would eat the wooden handle of a garden hoe. I don't remember seeing this. Some stories told of grasshoppers eating clothes. I never saw this. Other stories told of catching grasshoppers in containers with used crankcase oil. Not enough grasshoppers were caught to do any good.



Trees killed by drought and grasshoppers at farm in North Dakota.

(Image Source: Arthur Rothstein, Farm Security Administration, 1936)

Arsenic was tried as poison to kill the grasshoppers, but it didn't do much good. One time, Uncle Bruce (my Dad's brother) carried a sack of arsenic on his shoulder to a straw pile to burn it. The fumes from the fire made him sick and he just about died.

The government came out with a mixture of bran, molasses and poison. It killed a few grasshoppers. There were too many to do any good.

We tried to herd the grasshoppers out of the garden. The garden is what kept us going. We grew cabbage to make sauerkraut. First the cabbage was cut on a kraut cutter. Then it was put into a wooden 30-gallon barrel while adding salt. A potato masher or something similar was used to pack the kraut in the barrel until the juice came to the top and covered the kraut. It would ferment for a few days giving off an odor that smelled. The kraut was good, and we ate a lot of it.



Robert and Myrtle Smith Family (c. 1925)
 Back Row: Azila and her husband Olaf Carlson;
 George, Myrtle and Robert Smith
 Front Row: Russ, Marvin, Herb, Dick and Margie

We planted a lot of navy beans in the garden. When ready, we pulled the bean plants and put them in the hay loft. When the beans were dry, we would put the beans on a piece of canvas and tramp on the bean plants with our feet. The beans would come out of the pods, then collected for food.

We also raised pumpkin and Hubbard squash which when picked was placed in the cellar under the house.

There were times in the winter when the food supplies from the garden had been eaten and we began eating ground wheat and homemade bread. Sometimes the bread would get cold and the yeast wouldn't work, making the bread soggy. We ate it anyway. We were tickled to death to have anything to eat.

Sometimes in the winter when it got cold, we would butcher a steer for beef and let it freeze. The meat would last all winter.

There were times when pigs were butchered, and the meat was fried and put into jars and covered with lard. The hams were put in salt and boxes and stored in the hay loft. The grease from frying the meat wasn't fit to eat. It was mixed with lye and used for soap.

There were occasions when someone would steal some of the salt pork. Sometimes all of it.

We picked wild cherries (called Choke cherries) in the summer. We washed the cherries, then boiled them in water on the stove. When done boiling and cooling down, the juice would be drained off to make jelly. The boiled cherries were run through a colander pan, then the pits or seeds were removed, and the cherries were cooked, and the jam was made. Sugar was added. The jam was good eating.



Farm Scene – early 1900s
 Art Print from Russell and Ruth's Living Room
 (Artist: Felix Summers)

Health and Medicine: *From time to time, one of us would get a cut or laceration. The first thing to treat the wound was to get a pan of water and add some Lysol to disinfect the cut. Dad would then sew the cut up with needle and thread.*

If anyone got a cold or sore throat, we would mix skunk grease, goose grease and kerosene, then rub the mixture on our neck. Sometimes we would take two drops of turpentine with a teaspoon of sugar. We didn't know that turpentine could make you sick or kill you. Vicks and Mentholatum ointment were available if we had money to buy it.

If anyone got chest congestion, a mustard plaster made of mustard and a cloth was put on your chest. Some type of medicine called Denver Mud could be bought

and rubbed on your chest as a plaster. We also gargled with lots of saltwater for a sore throat.

My brother Dick stepped on a nail and got an infection in his foot. My mother had Dick soak his foot in a bucket with hot water and Epson Salts. It was so hot he could hardly take it. It took longer than a week before the infection and spot on his foot began healing.



1930's Mentholum Drug Store
Advertising Ink Blotter
(Image Source: rubylane.com)

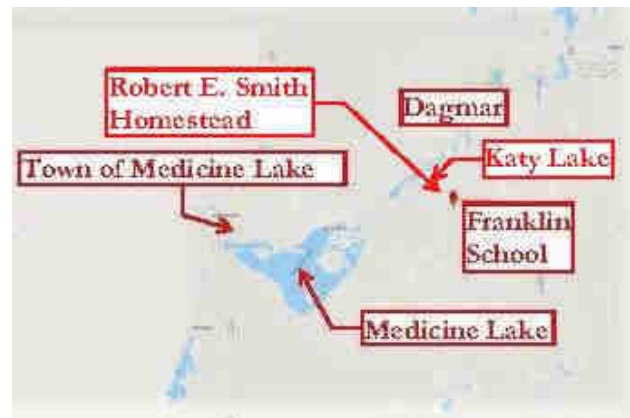
School Years and Teachers: *We went to Franklin School. The school was located about a mile or mile and a half from our house. There were three rooms - one for the coal, a classroom, and a room to hang coats. The coat room included a shelf for lunch pails. The school had outside toilets.*

The lunch buckets were an assortment of different cans. Some kids carried a square tin box that tobacco came in. There was also a peanut butter pail and a coffee pail with a picture of an Indian chief.

The classroom had a wood burning potbellied stove used for heat. The teacher would put a pan of water on the stove and you could put your beans or whatever you had and have a hot lunch. It was a problem in the winter to have the water.

There was a barn at the school for horses if a kid rode a horse to school.

My first teacher at Franklin School was Miss Rasmussen or Miss Christian.



Franklin School and R. E. Smith Homestead
(Image Source: Google Maps)

There was a creek that ran through our homestead. It was called Cottonwood Creek and sometimes it was called Smith Creek because of all the Smith homesteads in the area.

When we went to school, we had to cross the creek. When the water was high and the creek was flooded, we would stay overnight at Uncle Bruce's house. We would get along okay with Uncle Bruce's children, but sometimes there would be a hassle. Aunt Johanna (Bruce's wife) would have to intervene. She was fair and would not favor her kids. She was a good aunt and a great lady, fair and honest.

From what I've been told, my mother wanted to move closer to Medicine Lake so we could go to school there. Our homestead was about 10 to 12 miles from the Medicine Lake School. When my parents decided to move to Medicine Lake, they stopped paying the mortgage on the homestead property and let the homestead be foreclosed on.

I was in fourth grade when we stopped going to Franklin School late in the school year and began going to school in Medicine Lake in the fall. Because we did not complete the school year at Franklin School, we had to repeat a grade level at Medicine Lake.

When we moved closer to Medicine Lake, we lived about four miles from town. We traveled to school by horses and wagon. During the winter, we went to school by horses and sled. We had a box fixed to the wagon and sled which served as a windshield. There were holes in the box for the reins that went out to the horses. In the winter, we would cover our legs with a quilt and place a kerosene lantern under it. It would keep us warm.

We paid Joe Lasmacdeer(sp?) about three dollars a month for space to put the horses in a barn. We hauled our own hay.

I remember the names of most of my teachers:

Fourth grade – Miss Ferguson

Fifth grade – Bea Britlinger(sp?)

Sixth grade – Miss Clifton. She could not handle the class and was replaced by Miss Kellar(sp?) who finished the year.

Seventh grade – Miss Higgins.

Miss Higgins was the worst teacher I ever had. If she didn't think you were studying, she would sneak up on you and slap you on the side of your head. She disliked boys and she beat on everyone, but for a few pets. They were the sons of men who had a business of some kind.

Miss Higgins wore a white sweater to school. She put it on the back of her chair. The school had outside toilets. Some of the kids who lived in the country brought their lunch to school. When Miss Higgins wasn't looking, they would smear just a little mustard on the inside of her sweater. Miss Higgins, seeing that her sweater was dirty, would roll the sweater up and take it home to wash it. Then, it would be smeared again. This went on all year long.

When I was young, I had to wear a pair of pants that were a hand-me-down from a neighbor. The legs came down only to my knees. I told Mom I wouldn't wear those pants. I got whipped and had to wear the pants. Every kid in school made fun of me. I went home and

told Mom what happened. She said they would stop making fun of me. My older brother Marvin took my side and said they would not leave me alone. Mom had a change of mind and I never wore those short pants again.



Marvin, Russell and Herb Smith (c. 1922)

During seventh grade, Dwight Frederick found a bottle of whiskey on the school grounds after there had been a dance. We all took a drink and became silly. The teacher sent us home, but no one was punished.

There were a lot of people against having dances at the schoolhouse, but they continued having more dances.

When there was a school dance, I began getting up early to see if there were any empty bottles along the roads and at the school. The going price for empty bottles was one cent for a beer bottle and five cents for a whiskey bottle.

There were trees planted on the north side of the schoolhouse for a wind break. When there were dances, we would hide behind trees and watch what would happen – love making, fights and drinking.

During seventh grade, there was a muskrat on the school grounds. I stepped on its tail, grabbed it and put the muskrat in a box. I told everyone that I was going to take it to the creek, but I took it to a guy who killed it and skinned it for its hide. I got a dime for the muskrat.

The next morning, I went into the doorway of the school building and Miss Higgins was standing there waiting for me. She grabbed me, started pulling my hair and beating on me. I had to write on the blackboard 1,000 times that I would not step on a rat's tail. I would write it on the blackboard at recess, then erase it and go to the outhouse and not take too much time. I wonder what she would have done had she knew that the muskrat got killed.

Miss Higgins married a guy named B. Smith. She didn't teach after she got married.

Prohibition: *There were lots of bootleggers during Prohibition. For some, that was about the only way they had to make money to buy food.*



Newspaper Headline for January 16, 1919
(Image Source: <https://study.com>)

The hidden places in town that sold booze were called Blind Pigs. The Blind Pigs were behind stores and in the alleys. One Blind Pig was in a coal shed. One was in the rear of a store building next to a pool hall. There was a wooden fence around it. One place was a car garage. There was a secret password, knock or peep hole required to enter a Blind Pig.

PROHIBITION

“The ratification of the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution—which banned the manufacture, transportation and sale of intoxicating liquors—ushered in a period in American history known as Prohibition. The result of a widespread temperance movement during the first decade of the 20th century, Prohibition was difficult to enforce, despite the passage of companion legislation known as the Volstead Act. The increase of the illegal production and sale of liquor (known as “bootlegging”), the proliferation of speakeasies (illegal drinking spots) and the accompanying rise in gang violence and other crimes led to waning support for Prohibition by the end of the 1920s. In early 1933, Congress adopted a resolution proposing a 21st Amendment to the Constitution that would repeal the 18th. It was ratified by the end of that year, bringing the Prohibition era to a close.” (Source: [history.com](https://www.history.com))

There was a wild cherry that grew in the Sand Hills called choke cherry. Some people would make wine out of the cherries and sell it. The wine was put in fruit jars. When people drank out of the jars, the wine left a red spot on their nose.

Whiskey could be bought from a drug store with a prescription from a doctor.

There was a bootlegger called ‘Heavy.’ He was the distributor of whiskey to the bootleggers. I don’t know where he got his booze.

Some people thought that the bootleggers told on each other to the Federal men (Feds). There was a raid at the Blind Pig at the rear of a store building.

The Feds placed all the bottles of booze in a pile and broke them. The bootlegger was taken away in handcuffs along with enough booze for evidence. Afterwards, some guys dug into the broken glass hoping to find bottles that didn’t break.

There were a lot of people that made homemade beer with fruit pits in it which increased the alcohol content. **An Unexpected Death:** My father, Robert Erwin Smith, died in September 1929 from erysipelas (an acute infection of the skin and underlying tissue). I had just turned 13 years old in August.

The infection started in his left arm. There was no medication at that time that could stop it. There was a doctor named Dr. Cloud in Medicine Lake at the time. Another doctor from Grenora, North Dakota who was thought to be an expert came to the house. He charged \$35 and did nothing. My father was sick for about three weeks before he died. He was buried in the Volmer Cemetery. If I remember right, the casket cost fifty dollars. There was some kind of association that made caskets.

NEWSPAPER NOTICE: R. E. SMITH DEAD

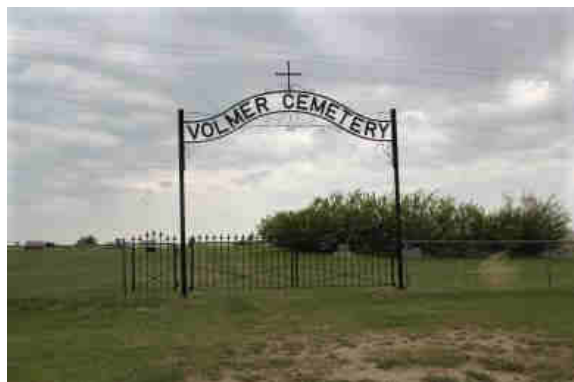
A brief notice of Robert Smith's passing was reported in the local newspaper: "Just as we go to press this Friday morning, we learn that R. E. Smith died at his home north of town early this morning from the effects of blood poison. We have been unable to learn any particulars as to funeral arrangements."

"The sudden taking away of the deceased is indeed very sad as he leaves behind a wife and large family of small children and at present Mrs. Smith is also quite ill. The sincere sympathy of the entire community is extended to the bereaved wife and children."

When someone died, the neighbors got together and dug the grave. In those days, there weren't any funeral homes. The man that owned the hardware store in Medicine Lake, Harry Sparling, was also an undertaker. There was a large sign 'UNDERTAKER' painted on the rear of his store.

About the only thing the undertaker did in those days was wash the deceased's face and give them a shave if necessary, put clothes on the deceased person, and place

them in the casket. The body remained in the home until the funeral. My father's body was taken to the Volmer Cemetery in a truck owned by a neighbor. There was a hearse, but it was horse drawn.



Volmer Cemetery (Image Source: <https://montanahistoricellandscapes.com>)

Foreclosure: My mother and oldest brother, George, decided to stay on the place until next spring and school was out. George was talking about farming.

DROUGHT AND DEPRESSION

After World War I and continuing into the 1920s, a severe drought and declining farm prices created a serious depression in Montana. The "Homestead Boom" became an economic bust. Plagued by gophers, grasshoppers and declining land prices, approximately 20 percent of the state's farm properties were vacated between 1919 and 1925. Risky lending practices lead to a large number of bank failures and approximately twenty thousand mortgages were foreclosed on. About half of Montana farmers lost their land during this period. About 60,000 people left Montana. A brief period of improved economic conditions followed in the late 1920s, only to be followed by severe drought and depression in 1929 – 1930.

One Sunday we all went some place – I don't remember where. When we got back home, all the farm machinery was gone – two tractors (M&M and Fordson), a separator, two binders, a seed drill, two plows, a wagon, tools and some other things. The cattle were gone. Even the milk cow was gone. Mom said that all

that was owed on the machinery was \$500. They (the bank holding the mortgage on the farm and loans on the equipment) stole some things they shouldn't have, items that weren't mortgaged.

There was a disk that had not been taken. Mother sold it for forty dollars. The man that bought the disk wouldn't pay for it. He worked for Sheridan County. Mother got a lawyer and garnished his wages. He paid for the disk.

With no farm machinery, we moved to Medicine Lake. Mom bought a three room shake for three hundred dollars. We took a small building from the farm that was a chicken house, so we had chickens at the new house. All too often, someone would steal our chickens when we were not at home.

Mother got a fifteen dollar a month widow's pension from the county. The county was broke, so the grocery store would charge 10 percent to cash the check.

We didn't have electric lights in the house. We still used kerosene (lanterns). The mortgage payment on the house was ten dollars a month. I don't remember what the interest was.

It was rough growing up. We did not have anyone to teach us the things of everyday life – like driving a car and how to work.

My younger brother Dick and I milked cows at a dairy. We were there at four o'clock in the morning and four o'clock in the evening. We milked three cows each night and morning. Then, we hauled manure on Saturdays. We did this off and on for some time. We got paid two quarts of milk each day. Sometimes we would be paid in money.

When we had problems with our school lessons, our older brother Marvin helped us. If Marvin didn't know how to help, we were out of luck.

If you got a job, there were always men hanging around hoping you would goof-up so they could get your job.

Russell's Memories of The Great Depression:

There were hard times in the late 1920s and 1930s when the Depression came on. There was little or no rain and the grasshoppers were in swarms eating all the crops if there were any. Then, the wind would blow creating a dust storm.

Herbert Hoover was president. The jack rabbit was called a Hoover Hog or Hoover Ham. Very few rabbits were fit to eat. After a rabbit was cleaned, it was inspected for disease. If there were spots on the liver, it was buried for it had some type of disease. Once in a while a young rabbit would not have spots on the liver.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

"The Great Depression was a severe worldwide economic depression that took place mostly during the 1930s, beginning in the United States. The timing of the Great Depression varied across nations; in most countries it started in 1929 and lasted until the late-1930s. It was the longest, deepest, and most widespread depression of the 20th century." (Source: Wikipedia)

"In Montana, a severe drought began in 1929 and continued through 1931. Twenty-eight of Montana's 56 counties applied for aid from the Red Cross. The Montana Governor wrote that the people were 'in a desperate condition. The grain crops and feed crops are practical failures.' Historians commented: Slowly, inexorably, the rural depression squeezed the lifeblood out of the parched Great Plains." (Source: Montana – A History of Two Centuries by M. Malone, R. Roeder and W. Lang.)

There were rabbit drives where the farmers would get together and take sticks and make a big circle and drive the rabbits into pens and kill them with clubs. I don't know what the farmers got for the rabbits when they sold then. If I remember it was three to ten cents for each rabbit. When sold, the rabbits were taken to Chicago by train.

People did a lot of walking or riding a horse.

In 1932, Franklin D. Roosevelt became president. His campaign was the “New Deal.” Herbert Hoover was defeated at the election (22.8 million votes for Roosevelt and 15.8 million votes for Hoover).

When Roosevelt became president, Prohibition went out and the bootleggers had to stop because the bars were selling beer. The beer was 3.2 percent, 5 percent beer came later.



Franklin D. Roosevelt
32nd President of the United States
(Image Source: U.S. Library of Congress)

Then came “Relief” which is called “Welfare” now. People could get an order (from the government) to buy coal and food. Then came along canned commodities which was canned meat with rice and barley in it. People would have to go to Plentywood which was the county seat in Sheridan County.

Now they have food stamps. Back then they called them a “grocery order” or “coal order.” Each order would be for so much money according to the size of the family.

The Public Works Administration (PWA) was created in 1933. Its purpose was to increase employment by building roads, bridges and other projects.

The Work Progress Administration (WPA) came along in 1935. Its purpose was to provide work for needy people. An example of a WPA project would be construction of a new water line. In those days, there

weren’t backhoes used for excavation. Instead, a crew of men would string out and start digging to put in the water pipe. They also dug wells and put in fire hydrants.

WORK PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

“During its eight-year existence, the WPA put some 8.5 million people to work ... at a cost to the federal government of \$11 billion. The agency’s construction projects produced more than 650,000 miles of roads; 125,000 public buildings; 75,000 bridges; 8,000 parks; and 800 airports.” (Source: Encyclopedia Britannica)

There were a lot of jokes about the WPA. One joke involved a lady who called up and said she wanted her lawn mowed. The foreman said okay, I will send eight men. The lady said I don’t need eight men to mow a lawn. The foreman said oh yes you do – two coming, two going, two sitting, and two mowing.



Poster by Vera Beck for the WPA (c. 1936 – 1941)
(Image Source: WPA Collection
U.S. Library of Congress)

Civilian Conservation Corps: *In 1935, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was created. Its purpose was to fight forest fires, make trails in the forest, and plant trees.*

I dropped out of school in my junior year. It was one of the most stupid things I ever did. I went into the CCC at Fort Missoula, Montana on May 17, 1935. I was 19 years old. After joining, we were sent to Thompson Falls, Montana. (Russell's writings indicate that his brother Dick also joined the CCC.) Company 1998 was located about seven miles from Thompson Falls on the Thompson River. We were supposed to fight fires and build roads. (Thompson Falls is located about 725 miles west of Medicine Lake. This is likely the farthest distance Russell had been from his family home.)

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

"The CCC ... was established to relieve unemployment during the Great Depression by providing natural conservation work for young unmarried men. Projects included planting trees, building flood barriers, fighting forest fires, and maintaining forest roads and trails. Recruits lived in work camps under a semi-military regime. The CCC ... provided work for a total of three million during its existence." (Source: Encyclopedia Britannica)



Map of Montana
(Image Source: Google)

There were about 200 hundred boys in camp. There were eight barracks, one latrine, a mess hall, a hospital, officer quarters, a PX and a meeting room. The men or boys were paid \$30 per month. The assistant leader was paid \$36 per month. A leader got paid \$45 per month.

The men and boys in camp were all poor kids whose folks were on Relief.



Russell's CCC Memory Book

(Note: Among the personal items that Russell passed on to his children was a photo album titled "CCC Memory Book." The photo album includes approximately 56 photos of the boys/men in the CCC as well as their camp and work equipment. The photos seem to match Russell's description of the CCC camp at Thompson Falls. The source of the photos is unknown. No photos of Russell could be clearly identified. Selected photos have been used to add to the descriptions in Russell's writing. The latter portion of the photo album includes Russell's family and military service. None of the photos are labeled.)



CCC Camp – Thompson Falls, Montana
(Image Source: Russell's CCC Memory Book)
(The photo is not labeled, but seems to match with Russell's description of the camp. Another photo shows signage for Copper King Camp, a National Forest Service facility near Thompson Falls.)



Inside the Camp Barracks
(Image Source: Russell's CCC Memory Book)

There were several Forest Service foremen at the camp. Each foreman would be assigned so many boys. The foremen were paid \$100 a month or a little over. They would buy a green uniform and wash their necks. Some were good and smart. There were some

There were a lot of boys that would not stay at camp, but for a short time. We each signed up for six months at a time. Of the \$30 per month that we were paid, \$25 was sent home to parents. We each had \$5 per month to blow.



Going to Work at Camp
(Image Source: Russell's CCC Memory Book)

The Army officers were okay. There was usually a captain and a lieutenant.

The Forest Service foremen were always raising hell about something. Some of the boys would just walk away.

There were several veterans of World War I. They would tell some hairy tales. The head leader which would be a 1st Sergeant in the Army was a World War I vet. He could curse a blue streak. His name was Tarpy and he didn't like the Forest Service foremen. The first captain was named Saunders. He and Tarpy were buddies.

The camp at Fort Thompson was a new camp, it was just starting out in 1935.

The head man of the Forest Service was Ole Johnson. He was a dozer operator. Pat Duffy was the senior foreman and in charge of the crew that operated the jack hammers and blasted rock and stumps. Swanson was in charge of the sawmill. Shindle was foreman of the brush cutting crew. He was a CCC member promoted to foreman. Milt Southerland was a good guy. Another foreman was a big red nose wino that everyone disliked. Wayne Weeks was a dozer operator.

The men and boys were assigned to the different crews – jack hammer and powder crew, the crew that used the bulldozer, and the shovel crew. The shovel was a Lima with a one cubic yard bucket. The crew cutting the trees was located a mile or so ahead of the road builders. The crews worked in two shifts: morning and evening.

The Army had one truck with a cover on it. It would go to Fort Missoula for food and supplies. The mail was delivered to Fort Thompson and would be picked up every day. The Forest Service men would furnish the truck to haul the men to work and take them to Thompson Falls.

Sometimes, we would walk from camp to Thompson Falls. It was seven miles. Sometimes, someone would give us a ride.



Excavator (Shovel) and Dump Truck
(Image Source: Russell's CCC Memory Book)

For the evening meal, we would get in line at the mess hall and someone would sound taps. The men stood at attention or hand over chest while the Army officers saluted as the flag was lowered. There were tables in the mess hall reserved for the Army and the foremen.



Evening Meal
(Image Source: Russell's CCC Memory Book)

There was one man or boy who was assigned to be the fire guard. He walked around the camp twice every hour all night long.

There were a couple of tents set up close to the work area for use as a mess hall. The food for the noon meal

was cooked at the main camp and hauled to the work area.

There was a large pit dug to put the garbage in. There was a bear that would always get into the pit. He was a small bear, so some of the boys thought they could catch him. They got ropes, made loops, and practiced throwing the rope. The bear went into the pit and the boys tried to rope him. The bear came out of the pit and the boys ran.

There were a lot of forest fires in the area. Some were set and lots were caused by lightning. There were lookout towers on the higher mountains. A man lived in each tower. They would use telephones to report seeing a fire. Eventually, radios were used for communication.



Lunch Break at Work Area
(Image Source: Russell's CCC Memory Book)

When we went to fight a fire, the Forest Service were in charge. We went by truck as far as we could, then walked. Sometimes it would take several hours to walk up a mountain to the fire. If we were there for several days, the pack train would bring food and sleeping bags.

We went as far as Whitefish and east to Great Falls to fight fires. We spent about 12 hours a day on the fire line. If the fire was large, the Forest Service would stop freight trains and get the bums on the trains to help fight the fire.

The turnover of boys in the camp was great. Most of them would just stay the six months they signed up for.

Some of the guys from the plains would get the best jobs. There was one foreman with a grandson at the camp. The grandson learned how to operate a bulldozer.

There always seemed to be some kind of hassle going on in camp. I've never seen so many guys get angry and just walk off.



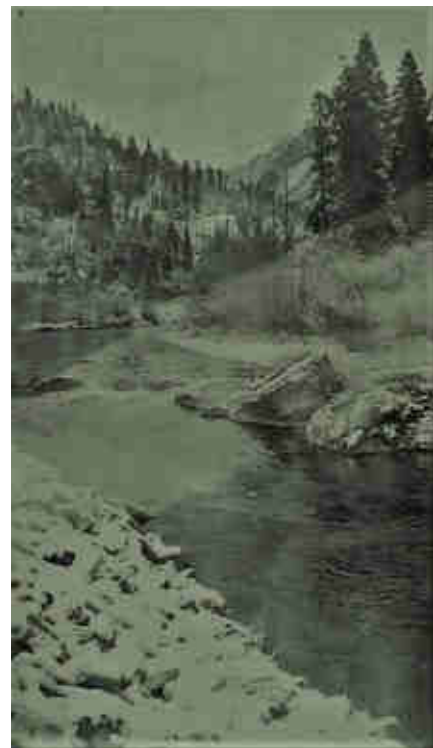
Young Men and Boys at Camp
(Image Source: Russell's CCC Memory Book)

There was a team of horses that were kept close to the work site. Tucker and Collins lived there in a shack on wheels. A man named Paddy McLindon (sp?) used the horses to drag logs. The three of them would go fishing and catch fish. One time, the three of them went fishing. When they cast their lines into the water, a game warden was hiding and waiting for them. They each had to pay a \$10 fine. A foreman had reported them. The foremen had their spies in camp.

Some of us would go swimming in the Thompson River. There were only about eight or ten of us that would do it. There was a large boulder in the river that we used to dive into the river. The water was cold and swift. We had to sneak away from camp to go swimming. We never talked about swimming in camp.



Entertainment at Camp
(Image Source: Russell's CCC Memory Book)



Thompson River
(Image Source: Russell's CCC Memory Book)



Road Construction

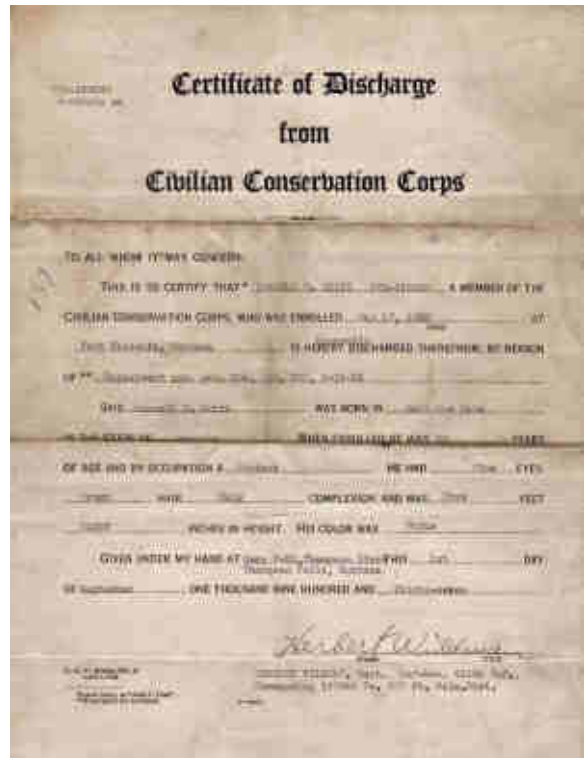
(Image Source: Russell's CCC Memory Book)

There was a rule that you couldn't stay in the CCC for more than two years. I had two years in. I took a 30 day leave and worked the harvest in Palouse, Washington. My older brother Herb and I talked things over and decided we could make it. So, I didn't go back to camp, but to be decent about it I wrote a letter to Captain Wildman and said I wouldn't be back. Captain Wildman wrote me a letter saying that the rule had changed, and I could stay longer than two years. The two letters passed in route. I would have stayed longer.

Russell received an honorable discharge from the CCC which showed his period of service from May 17, 1935 to September 1, 1937. A summary of his record of service was provided on the back of his Certificate of Discharge with the following comments by Mr. H. F. Johnson, Project Superintendent:

"Mr. Smith arrived at Thompson River Camp F-52 on May 17, 1935. From his time of arrival in camp until July 20, 1935, Mr. Smith worked clearing right of way for a road. From July 21, 1935 until January 20, 1936, he worked as a jackhammer operator.

From January 21, 1936, to August 15, 1936, he worked on Army Project Work. From August 16, 1936 to May 20, 1937, he worked as dump boss, working under the shovel. From May 21, 1937 until the time of his discharge, Mr. Smith worked as powder man. Mr. Smith's services were excellent."



Russell's Certificate of Discharge
from Civilian Conservation Corps

The Certificate of Discharge was signed by Herbert Wildman, Capt. Inf-Res. 416th Inf, Commanding 1998th Co. CCC Ft. Msla. Dist.

Railroads and Riding the Rails: *Herb and I moved to Palouse (Washington) where we did anything and everything to make a dollar. We worked on road construction. We worked on railroad construction. When you worked in the summer, you saved all the money you could so you could buy food and have something to eat in the winter.*

It was rough in Washington, but we lived better there. Herb and I bought a house that I believe we paid \$500 for. The monthly mortgage payment was \$10.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows that Myrtle, Marjorie and Harry (Bud) had moved from Wolf Point, Montana to Palouse, Washington to live with Herb and Russell at their home on Union Street. There are several family photos of Myrtle, Marjorie and Harry (Bud). The second photo shown below was labeled “Mother, Marjorie, and Bud as they are leaving Montana.”



Bud, Myrtle and Marjorie Smith (c. late 1930s)



Myrtle is on the far right with Marjorie to her right and Bud, a young boy, in the front row (c. 1938)

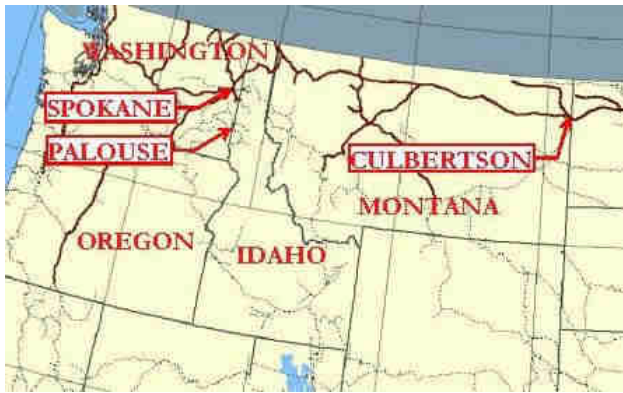
Russell’s family history continues: *I worked on the railroad a lot. I picked up old railroad ties and burned them for firewood in our house. The creosote would build-up in the chimney and burn out, shooting up into the air about 10 feet above the roof of the house.*



The Smith Brothers (c. 1937)
(L-R) Herb, Richard (Dick), Russell (Russ), Marvin and Harry (Bud) [Older brother George or sister Marjorie was likely behind the camera and took this photo.]

Most of the railroad companies operating in Montana had passenger trains. There was a train car for people to ride in and there was a baggage car that carried baggage, mail and small packages (US Mail and Railway Express). The mail clerk would sort the mail for each town along the way. The railroad stopped at some towns to let passengers off and drop off and pickup mail. The train would also pickup cans of cream from the area farmers and drop off empty cans. The cans of cream were not refrigerated and some of the cream might spill out of the can and smell like sour milk. The cans were shipped by the farmers to a creamery where they made cheese and butter. There was “milk” after the cream was churned to make butter. It was called butter milk and was sour. The farmers mixed the butter milk with grain to make hog feed.

A cream separator was used to remove the cream from the milk. There were handles on the cream separator with a bell on it. When turning the handle to churn the cream, you reached a speed fast enough for the bell to stop ringing. When the bell stopped ringing, you knew you were churning fast enough for the cream to separate from the milk.



Routes of the Great Northern Railway (c. 1920)
 (Image Source: Adapted from
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Northern_Railway)

There was an open tank on top of the cream separator. When the speed was fast enough, the spigot was turned on at the tank and the contents in the can went through the separator. The cream went into one pan and the skimmed milk called Blue John went into a bucket. Blue John was used to feed calves or pigs.

Some farmers would make butter out of the cream and sell it. There were lots of kinds of churns, some homemade, used to make the butter. The butter was packed into a mold, then sold to a grocery store. Sometimes the butter was so old, it had a strong odor and wasn't fit to eat. The cream check from selling the cream and butter was what a lot of people lived on.

The railroad locomotives were steam engines which used coal or oil as fuel. There was an engine and tender (or coal car). The coal car had water in a tank in the bottom of the car and coal on top. There were two people in the cab of the engine, the engineer and the fireman. The fireman would shovel the coal in the fire box on the engine. The fire made the steam that propelled the engine. There was a steam whistle and when the engineer was going to take the train to the next town, he would give two short blasts with the whistle.

There was a water tower ever so often along the railroad tracks where the train could stop and refill the water tank. At some locations, the water tank was located between the rails and the water could be scooped up.

In additions to the engineer and fireman, the trains had a brakeman and conductor. The conductor was the "boss" of the train.



Logo of the Great Northern Railway
 (Image Source: discussions.mnha.org/collections)

Each town had a building that was used as a freight house. The building included an office for the depot agent. The Western Union telegraph was operated by the depot agent. The telegram was used to keep track of all the trains.

The trains that served as passenger trains had a passenger car and a car that carried mail and Railway Express packages, cream, eggs, chickens, etc. The passenger trains traveled faster than the freight trains which had more cars than the passenger trains.

When times were hard, people would get on the coal car of a freight train and throw coal off the car, then go back and pick up the coal.

Top speed for most trains was about 45 miles per hour, but the tracks were often not in good shape and the trains traveled at slower speeds.



Freight Train in the late 1930s
(Image Source: wx4.org)

The trains had maintenance crews that each looked after about 20 to 25 miles of track. The crews were usually two men and a foreman who was boss of the section crew. The members of the crews were called Gandy Dancers. They would replace the cross ties and line up the rails.

Once in a while, there would be broken rails that needed to be replaced. The section crew had a hand car with a one-cylinder engine on it. The hand car would travel down the track and the engine could be heard making a “put, put, put” sound. There were places where the hand car could be taken off the railroad tracks to let passing trains go by.

The early hand cars (without an engine) were operated by two men. They would push the levers up and down to make the car move. The gasoline engine replaced the manually operated hand car.

During the Depression in the 1930s, there were a lot of people riding freight trains from town to town looking for jobs. The travelers hitching rides on the trains were called bums, tramps, bundle stiffs and other names. Sometimes whole families were riding the freight trains including mother, father and kids. They carried their bed robes, clothes, skillet and coffee pot. They wrapped their blankets and clothes in a piece of canvas tied with a rope.

Some made their cooking pans out of anything they could find. They would usually cook in the stock yard which they called a “jungle.” The railroad police or Railroad Bulls usually had their hands full.

RIDING THE RAILS

“During the Great Depression, people went across the country in search of work, but without a job, they didn’t have enough money to pay for transportation. The only way to get across the country, and potentially get the job, was riding the rails”

Of the “... thousands of men and women who rode the rails are the names of many who later became famous:

- Novelists Louis L’Amour, Ernest Hemingway, Jack London and James Michener
- TV host Art Linkletter
- Oil billionaire H.L. Hunt
- Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas”

(Source: <https://sheilaingle.com>)

Eating was a problem for people riding the rails as it was hard to get food. Some resorted to begging and would go from house to house to ask for something to eat or beg for money. They called this “pan handling.” If you gave them something to eat, the pan handlers would put some type of sign or marker on your place, then more people would come and ask for something to eat.

Some people resorted to stealing by digging potatoes from gardens, stealing chickens and taking corn from fields.

There was an area at each rail yard where sheep and cattle from the stockyards were loaded on to the trains. The cars were called cattle cars. One time my Dad’s brother, Uncle Bruce, shipped a load of cattle to Chicago. When the cattle were sold, the proceeds weren’t enough to pay for the freight. Uncle Bruce had to pay seven dollars and some cents more.



Bruce Smith Family (March 12, 1938)
 Standing (L-R?): Alberta Sarah, Violet, Zeta
 Seated (L-R): Art, Hannah, Bruce, Edward (Ed)

Grain was shipped in box cars. The doors were filled up with grain doors. The grain doors were used to hold the grain in the box car.



A family riding the rails, Washington (c. 1939)
 (Image Source: U.S. Library of Congress)

When you were going to ride a freight train, you would always try to ride in an empty box car. If you couldn't find an empty box car, you would try to ride in a gondola, coal car or oil tanker. If you were going west, most of the time you could ride in an empty box car.

One time in Spokane (Washington), I caught a freight train as it was pulling out in the evening. I went the length of that train one end to the other looking for a

gondola or oil car, but there were none on this particular train. So, I rode on top that night. I laid down on the catwalk and tied myself to it using the rope I had around my bed roll.



Riding the Rails (c. 1930s)
 (Image Source: U.S. Library of Congress)

There were ropes hanging from a post to let you know when the train was going to enter a tunnel. The steam locomotives were either coal fired or oil fired. If the tunnel was very long, the smoke was heavy and you would get hot, then freeze when the train emerged from the tunnel. It was a long cold night and the train stopped in White Fish. I decided right then that I would never catch a freight train unless I could ride in a coal car or an oil car or a box car.

Most of the time I had someone with me I could trust. If I didn't and it was time to sleep, I would slip off to some spot when it was dark. I always slept with my clothes on. It was hard to try and sleep and be alert. One time I had a dog lick my face and lay down beside me while I tried to sleep. He growled a couple of times that night.

Family Transitions: As the Smith family children grew older, they married and started family life.

Azila Asenath Smith – Azila married Olaf Theodore Carlson on October 11, 1924 in Plentywood, Montana. Azila's brother, George, was the best man. Azila was 22 years old when she married.

Azila and Theodore had one child they named Myrtle (b. 1925). Azila died as a young mother on July 27, 1934 in Potlatch, Idaho at the age of 32, and was buried in Palouse, Washington. (Source: Ancestry.com entry by Keith Hawkes, husband of Myrtle Carlson Hawkes [daughter of Azila and Theodore].)

George R. Smith – George moved to Wolf Point, Montana in 1934 where he met and married Verna Winship on October 27, 1934. George and Verna had eight children: Georgia (b. 1935), Carol (b. 1936), Robert (b. 1939), Evritt (b. 1941), Roger (b. 1943), Patricia (b. 1946), Kay D. (b. 1947), and Lori Ann (b. 1954). The family lived in Wolf Point, Colfax (Washington), and Hamilton (Montana) before moving to Missoula, Montana in 1951.

Marvin O. Smith – Marvin married Charlotte J. Shaffer in about 1937. Charlotte was from Potlatch, Idaho which is where they made their home when first married. They raised three sons: Robert Erwin (b. 1938), Michael Eugene (b. 1940) and Marvin Harvey (nicknamed “Skip”) (b. 1947). As the family grew older, they also lived in Moscow, Idaho and western Montana.



Robert and Myrtle Smith Family (c. early 1940s)
(Top: L-R) Harry (Bud), George, Richard (Dick) and Russell. (Bottom: L-R) Herb, Myrtle, Marjorie (Dot), and Marvin (This photo is believed to be pre-WWII, perhaps a family gathering before Myrtle's sons began their military service for their country.)

The Smith Brothers Military Service: “The Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 was passed by Congress on September 16, 1940, establishing the first peacetime conscription in United States history. It required all men between the ages of 18 to 64 to register with the Selective Service. It originally conscripted all men aged 21 to 35 for a service period of 12 months. In 1941 the military service period was extended to 18 months; later that year the age bracket was increased to include men aged 18 to 37.” (Source: Wikipedia)

Russell's story continues: *We had to register for the draft. Herb, Dick and I talked it over. Dick and I had been in CCC camp. We had an idea what it would be like to be in the Army. It was decided that I would enlist first, then Dick if the draft got close to him.*

We understood that we could pick the branch of service if we volunteered. We thought that would be the best. (It wasn't long before the Smith brothers would put their plan into action.) December 7, 1941 will be

WORLD WAR II

“World War II ..., also known as the Second World War, was a global war that lasted from 1939 to 1945, although conflicts reflecting the ideological clash between what would become the Allied and Axis blocs began earlier. The vast majority of the world's countries—including all of the great powers—eventually formed two opposing military alliances: the Allies and the Axis. It was the most global war in history; it directly involved more than 100 million people from over 30 countries. In a state of total war, the major participants threw their entire economic, industrial, and scientific capabilities behind the war effort, blurring the distinction between civilian and military resources. World War II was the deadliest conflict in human history, marked by 50 to 85 million fatalities, most of whom were civilians in the Soviet Union and China. It included massacres, the genocide of the Holocaust, strategic bombing, premeditated death from starvation and disease and the only use of nuclear weapons in war.” (Source: Wikipedia).

forever remembered as the date of a surprise attack by Japan against the U.S. Naval Station at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Territory. The attack came as a surprise to the American people. Japan's hope of damaging the spirit of the American people and the U.S. military strength failed. The U.S. declared war on Japan on December 11, 1941. Soon after, Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S. The U.S. responded with a declaration of war against Germany and Italy. American involvement in World War II was only beginning.

Russell voluntarily enlisted for military service on December 23, 1941, sixteen days after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Before the war ended in 1945, his brothers Richard (Dick), Herbert (Herb), Marvin and Harry (Bud) would also serve their country.

Russell's account of his life experiences during World War II continue in the next section of this document. A brief summary of his brothers' military service, adapted from a newspaper article in the Palouse Republic dated July 6, 1945 and information from the website Fold3, is provided below.



Left to right: Herb, Marvin, Russell, Dick and Bud dressed in their military uniforms

(Note: Russell had a photographer combine individual photos of his brothers in their military uniforms into a single photo display which he framed and hung on his bedroom wall.)



Richard Rolly Smith (c. 1942)

Richard (Dick) was the second Smith brother to enlist for military service. He enlisted in the Army in Spokane, Washington on September 5, 1942. He was stationed at several Army bases in California and Texas before receiving a medical discharge in March 1943. After his military service, Dick married May Siggaard on September 27, 1945 in Wolf Point, Montana. Dick and May had three children: Marjorie (b. 1946), Richard (Jr.) (b. 1950) and Linda (b. 1955). The family lived on a farm near Ronan, Montana.



May and Richard (Dick) Smith Family (c. 1961)
L-R: Rick (Jr.), May, Richard and Linda
(Older daughter Margorie not shown)



Herbert Wesley Smith (c. 1942)

Herb enlisted in the Army shortly after his brother Dick. Herb enlisted on September 25, 1942 in Spokane, Washington. He was assigned to the Medical Administrative Corps. He served six months at Laurel Field, California before receiving a medical discharge in March 1943. Herb's first wife was named Mary and they had one son, Herbert W. Smith, Jr. Herb remarried later in life (1979) to Ester Carver. Herb and Ester lived in Reno, Nevada and Coburg, Oregon. Herb was active in civic affairs and served on the Coburg city council.



Harry (Bud) Erwin Smith (c. 1943)

Bud was the youngest in the family and had just turned 18 years old in September 1943 when his mother consented and he enlisted in the Army (much to Russell's dismay) on November 24, 1943 in Spokane, Washington. As noted in the Palouse Republic newspaper article: "He is with the 27th Infantry Division and took part in the Okinawa (Japan) campaign. A B.A.R. (Browning Automatic Rifle) man, Pfc. Smith has served 10 months on overseas duty, and is entitled to wear the prized Combat Infantryman's badge, the Asiatic Pacific ribbon with one campaign star, and the War Department's newest award, an arrowhead given to troops making an assault landing. Mrs. Smith (Myrtle, Bud's and Russell's mother) recently received word from Pfc. Smith that he had been wounded on Okinawa, but that he was "...doing all right." Bud was likely discharged from the Army in late 1945. He married Mary Bonnie Queener on February 22, 1946. Their first son, Larry, was born in 1947 in Spokane, Washington. Their second son, Mitch was born in 1949 in Moscow, Idaho. Bud remarried later life (1968). Bud and his second wife Willie lived and worked in Anchorage, Alaska before resettling in Reno, Nevada.



World War II Asiatic Pacific Ribbon



Willie and Harry (Bud) Smith (1982)

BATTLE OF OKINAWA

“The Battle of Okinawa was the last major battle of World War II, and one of the bloodiest. On April 1, 1945—Easter Sunday—the Navy’s Fifth Fleet and more than 180,000 U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps troops descended on the Pacific island of Okinawa for a final push towards Japan. The invasion was part of Operation Iceberg, a complex plan to invade and occupy the Ryukyu Islands, including Okinawa.

Both sides suffered enormous losses in the Battle of Okinawa. The Americans bore over 49,000 casualties including 12,520 killed. Japanese losses were even greater - about 110,000 Japanese soldiers lost their lives. It’s estimated between 40,000 and 150,000 Okinawa citizens were also killed.

Winning the Battle of Okinawa put Allied forces within striking distance of Japan. But wanting to bring the war to a swift end and knowing over 2 million Japanese troops were awaiting battle-weary American soldiers, Harry S. Truman chose to drop an atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6. Finally, Japan had had enough. On August 14, 1945, they finally surrendered, marking the end of World War II.” (Source: Battle of Okinawa – <https://www.history.com>.)



Marvin Otis Smith (c. 1942)

Marvin served in the Merchant Marines during WWII. The U.S. Merchant Marines were largely

comprised of civilian volunteers who were tasked with hauling important war cargo for Allied forces. As noted in Smithsonian.com: “Merchant marines were the supply line that provided virtually everything Allied armies needed in order to survive and fight on foreign battlefields. The seaman had no military standing or government benefits, but they possessed an unusual variety of courage and gave their lives for their country as valiantly as those in the armed forces did.” Marvin was likely discharged in late 1945. As noted earlier, Marvin married Charlotte Shaffer and they raised three sons: Robert, Michael and Marvin (Skip).



Margorie Smith (c. 1940)

Records for Russell’s younger sister, Marjorie, have been more difficult to locate. Marjorie married Gib Cummings in the mid- to late 1940s. They raised two children, Claudia and Terry, while living near Eugene, Oregon.



Gib and Margie (Smith) Cummings (c. 1960s)

Russell's Memories of World War II: Russell served in the Army Air Corps from December 23, 1941 to September 3, 1945.



Russell Earl Smith (c. 1941)

Russell's family history continues: *After Pearl Harbor, ... I went into the Army (Army Air Corps). I went to Spokane first, then to Fort Lewis and Camp Murray where we were given a uniform and a shipping tag which we put in the buttonhole on the collar of our shirt. It didn't take long, and we were put on kitchen patrol or KP that night (KP is work assigned to junior staff under the supervision of experienced kitchen staff). The evening meal was spaghetti and meatballs. There was a lot of it left over after dinner. So that night, the meatballs were cut and smashed to use as SOS the next day. The next day, some guy, a regular soldier, said it wasn't fit to eat. A Lieutenant called us together and chewed us out. We worked all night on KP using some thickening to improve the leftovers. The next day, the same soldier that complained was served the SOS. He took his plate, walked over to the garbage can and walked out. It didn't take me long to learn that it was better to go hungry than eat some of the food.*

The next night, I was on fire line guard. I had four barracks to walk around and watch for fires. There were electric power transformers on the south end of the area I walked around. There was a soldier with a

rifle walking around the power station. Every time I walked around, he would start yelling: "Halt! Halt!" I would stop and he would recognize me and say carry-on. I never could get around without being stopped. I was on the fire line guard for four hours, then someone else replaced me.

In a few days, we were loaded onto a train and went to Sheppard Field in Wichita Falls, Texas. The first night we sat up the latrine. Then, we were assigned a barracks. We had the barracks from six o'clock at night until six o'clock in the morning. Then, other soldiers would have the barracks and sleep all day, leaving at 6:00 pm.



Sheppard Field, Wichita, Texas
(Image Source: defensestudies.net)

The mess hall always had a line of soldiers waiting to eat. There were several attempts to make it faster to get in and get out. The mess hall would fill with soldiers, then a whistle would blow, and everyone would sit down to eat for about 15 minutes. Then, the whistle would blow, and everyone would get up and go. This didn't work very well, and they stopped it.

We were told that we had to eat all the food served in our mess kits, except bones. There was an officer watching us eat our food. Some guys were taking the fat and skin from the food and sticking it in their pockets to get rid of it. We were being watched so closely that you couldn't throw the fat and skin under the table.

We did a lot of drills. There was a ditch in the area where we drilled, and we would take turns getting in the ditch and throwing rocks at each other.

CHANTING DURING DRILLS

"In the days we were taking basic training, we marched a lot and there was a lot of chanting: 'Gee I wish I had a dollar bill and I would go over the hill. The Sargent is crazy, and the Captain is lazy.' There were more verses to the chanting that I don't remember."

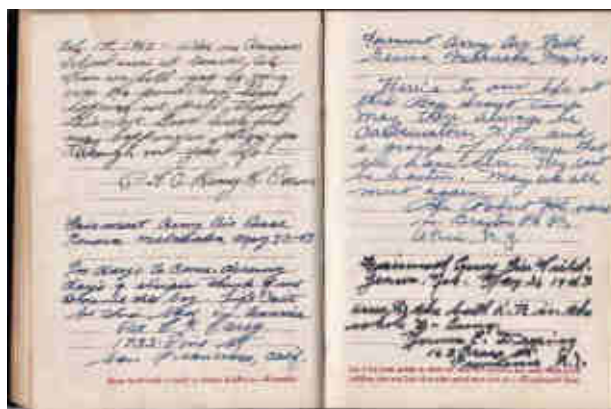
We had a captain that was potbellied and didn't have all his uniform yet. He was likely appointed by a politician. Most of the officers that were appointed by politicians were captains. Ronald Reagan was appointed, and he was a captain.

The second and first lieutenants (Lewies) worked more with the soldiers than the captains.

Shortly after Russell joined the army, he purchased a small book with blank pages entitled "My Life in the Service." Throughout his early years of military service, he passed the book to other servicemen who wrote their name and address in the book along with a brief wish or memory of their time together. There are over 85 entries in the book along with occasional entries by Russell. Selected entries are shown in highlight boxes included in this section of Russell's life history.



Russell's "My Life in the Service" with names, addresses and hand-written entries by the men he served with during World War II.



Handwritten entries in Russell's
"My Life in the Service"

A bunch of us were sent to Brookley Field in Mobile, Alabama. We set up tents and did a lot of cleanup work as the airfield was under construction and not in use.



Brookley Field, Mobile, Alabama
(Image Source: Wikipedia)

Brookley Field is located along the coast. One day, we were told that there was a German U-boat in the harbor, and the Germans might send soldiers ashore and sabotage the airfield. So, we were put on guard duty and positioned around the air base. It was raining and we had to watch out for alligators as they would eat us if given the chance. There was a shot every once in a while. I called out and a guy answered. We got together, sat down and let it rain. When we got cold, we walked to get warm. We were happy to get the night over.



U.S. Air Corps – Brookley Field
Source: Pillowcase from Russell's Mementos of Military Service

I don't remember, but I believe in the Spring of 1942 we got paid \$17.50 per month for four months, then we got paid \$21 a day once a month. In June or July of 1942, we started getting paid \$50 a day once a month. We didn't do much of anything at the airfield, guard duty and cleanup.

I was eventually sent to machinist school at the National School of Aeronautics in Kansas City, Missouri. We stood around a lot while listening to instructors lecture from a book. We were allowed to work the levers on the machines, but weren't allowed to turn them on. We figured that over the six months that we went to school, we spent three minutes working on a machine. Everyone was glad to get out of there.

It was during Russell's time in Kansas City that he met Ruth Elizabeth McKendry, daughter of Harry and Zelma McKendry. The McKendry's along with Ruth's older sister, Zelma Lee ('Sis'), lived at 3913 Chestnut Street, Kansas City, Missouri. It's uncertain how Russell and Ruth met. Several entries in Russell's "My Life in the Service" indicate that a small group of Russell and Ruth's friends became acquainted and socialized. Ruth was a graduate of Central High School and worked at an engine plant in Kansas City operated by North American Aviation.

July 3, 1942. Kansas City, MO. *"To the best soldier in the U.S. Army. Remember me along with all the other things you don't like about Missouri. We've had lots of fun together and you are one soldier I'll never forget, and don't you forget the date we have."* Signed: Ruth McKendry. P.S. *"I hope they send you to Alaska. The girls aren't very cute up there, I hear."*



Ruth McKendry (right) with friends (c. 1942)

July 17, 1942. Kansas City, MO. *"By hook or by crook, I'll get my name in your book."* Signed: Your pal, Francis E. Gebhart, Dayton, Ohio.

Next, we were sent to Mobile, Alabama and from there we were sent to Savannah, Georgia. We were assigned to work in the machine shop at night. We weren't allowed to touch any machines. The weary war workers and civilians were always giving us a bad time. They were afraid that they would be drafted into the Army. All we wanted was more experience. We kept our mouths shut.

"Well Russ, I can't think of much to say but we have become pretty good friends in the short time we have known each other. As things look now, we will see plenty of action together. I hope things go O.K. with both of us If you ever get in Penna after the war and get in Lancaster County look me up." Signed: Your friend, Sgt. E. R. Houser, Christiana, PA.

After Savannah, we were sent to South Carolina. Shortly after we arrived, a woman came and told us that because of us she was being transferred. So, here we go again. None of the civilian workers would let us touch a machine. It wasn't long until a First Lieutenant called us together and told us we were going to be shipped out as we were needed at another base. I asked him if I could talk and he said 'yes.' I told him about the civilian workers and how we weren't allowed to work on the machines. He said he couldn't stop the transfer, but he would watch the civilian workers more closely in the future.

"Well Smitty, I really don't know just what to write only to wish u lots of luck here in the service, and when this treachery is over ... you and I can still sing 'America the Free.' I wish you lots of luck on the Outside or in the service. A pal." Signed: Pvt. Victor A. Maguar. "God's Country," Oregon.

Next, we were sent to Greenville, South Carolina where glider pilots were being trained. The airfield had a bunch of small cottages and a mess hall. We watched a lot of gliders take off.

I got assigned to a machine shop that was run by all soldiers. I wrapped copper on a ninety-degree elbow, then soldered wire on. Then, I would turn them down on a lathe. I did this for two or three weeks while learning to do other things. I liked it.

I heard rumors that there was a bunch of us that were going to be shipped out. I asked the Sergeant if I was going to be shipped out and he said I wasn't. Soon, a list of men being shipped out was put on the bulletin board. My name was not on the list.

June 13, 1943. Greenville, S.C. "Sadie, Oh Sadie with her body so free, which reminds me of a Washington tree." Signed: Andrew Imbrescia, Monessen, Penna.

The next day, I was put on guard duty from 6 pm to 6 am. I was to guard a tent that had a table in it. I stayed there that night and all day until 6 pm. When they came to post guards, I halted them. The rule was to look the sergeant over who posted you on guard duty for he was the only one that could remove you from guard duty. After halting the troops, I did not recognize them and would not let them relieve me. They went and found the sergeant who I recognized, and he relieved me of my guard post. He said I was right in what I had done, but someone had me down as AWOL. It was a hell of a mess. The captain came and chewed my butt. He had been drinking.

"Well Smithy, after several separations, we have finally got together again. I hope for good this time. has left us far behind and where they are no one will know. But one thing we do know, we can't forget the good times we had in K.C. and now in Ga. If you and I ever get separated again, just look at this page and remember me as a real pal Good luck Pal." Signed: John E. Williams, Clarksburg, W.Va.

Next, I was put on a shipping list, but it was going to be some time before a group of us would be shipped out. While waiting, we were asked if anybody wanted to go to Denver, Colorado. A bunch of us talked it over and decided maybe we could go to Denver and get out of our current outfit. We were all disgusted. Denver would be closer to home for me.

We went to Denver and were assigned to armor school. It was another school of limited training. When we were about to finish our training, we all got another physical. I found out that I had trouble identifying green and blue colors. I was told that I would not go overseas because of this. I didn't really give a dam if I ever went overseas. I was instructed to tell the next outfit I was assigned to that I was color blind.

When armor school was over, everyone was sent to Salt Lake City where there was a base that reassigned personnel to other locations. Salt Lake City was a poor

outfit. The sergeants and officers would watch you constantly. There was a buck sergeant that spit while he was in line for inspection. They called him up front and cut off his sergeant stripes. They would find all kinds of reasons to cut the stripes off. I had little respect for the officers at this base.

June 13, 1943. Greenville, S. Carolina.
"May many happy days soon be ours after this war is over which is God's wish for peace among all machinists of N.S.A. where the chow was terrible."
Signed: Pvt. Rondo Ash, Marshalltown, Iowa.

We stood for inspection morning and night. We were never allowed to go to town. We had to eat everything that was put on our plates, except the bones. The cooks at the mess hall would take a cleaver and chop a chicken up and make chicken ala king. There would be splinters of bone and lots of fat. I got out of the mess hall as fast as I could.

April 21, 1943. Salt Lake City Air Base. "We sweated out the armament school at Lowry together and had a lot of fun. I hope wherever we go, we keep on having fun. Good luck Smitty."
Signed: Pvc. Jim Raftery, Cincinnati, OH.

After Salt Lake City, a bunch of us were shipped out to an air base in Fairmont, Nebraska. We didn't do much at the base as it was still under construction.

I helped Charlie Agold string the wires to light the airfield. The water tower on the base already had lights on it. The tower was about 60 to 70 feet tall; some thought it was 100 feet tall. The tower lights and wiring were such that if one bulb burnt out, the other bulb would remain lit. Charlie was married and lived off the base. If the lights would go out at night, we knew that both bulbs had burned out and we would climb the tower and replace the bulbs.

While at Fairmont, we did a lot of guard duty and KP. Some of the guys on KP would steal food (cold cuts) and help themselves to the ice cream.



Geographical Map of Nebraska showing the location of Fairmont (Image Source: ezilon.com)

There was a rule that when you were working on the job you would salute the officer when you reported and when you left at the end of the day. One time I was on KP and the mess sergeant says to me "if you will clean out the water heater and get the hot water flowing to the kitchen, you can have the day off with no KP." The water heater was a coal fired boiler. It had a lot of soot in the pipes that carried the smoke from the fire box to the smoke pipe and out. I just got started working on cleaning the pipes when the mess officer came by. I saluted him and he looked things over and said the pipes were awful dirty. I worked on getting the water out of the pipes and removing the soot and ashes. I got the hot water flowing to the kitchen, so the mess sergeant was happy.

It wasn't long and the mess officer and a second lieutenant came by. I didn't salute him. He chewed me out and told me to be in Lt. Wiley's office at nine o'clock Monday morning. Lt. Wiley was a good guy and was fair about everything.

The mess sergeant said to me "I saw you salute the mess officer, but I have to get along with him and I can't help you." First Sergeant Barnum was with the mess sergeant and told me that he would talk to Lt. Wiley.

Monday rolled around and I went to the orderly room and into Lt. Wiley's office. I saw that the mess officer was already in Wiley's office. I finally got my turn to enter and talk to Lt. Wiley. Sergeant Barnum came

into the office and told me to take company punishment. I explained that I had saluted that morning and had soot on my hands when the mess officer and second lieutenant came by. I didn't want to get any dirtier than I already was. Lt. Wiley asked some additional questions, then I was excused to wait outside his office. After a while, I was called back into the office and asked by Lt. Wiley if I would take company punishment. I said "yes." I was confined to the base for the next two weeks. I wasn't going any place, so that was OK.

From time to time, the soldiers would play pranks on each other. One time, a cow pie was put in another soldier's bed. When he got into bed, he got the cow pie all over his legs. There was a lot of hell raised about that.



451st Bomb Group Insignia

When the runway was completed, the 451st Bomb Group (Heavy) came to Fairmont to fly and practice bombing in North Dakota and South Dakota.

I received a ten-day furlough. I used some of the time to work with the guys in the Bomb Group. When the guys with the Bomb Group got leave, some of them went AWOL. So I and several others were put into the 451st Bomb Group (H). We knew we would be going overseas. My clothes were inspected and a lot of them were replaced. I was in the 725th Squadron. Jack Davies (Smiling Jack) was the squadron commander.

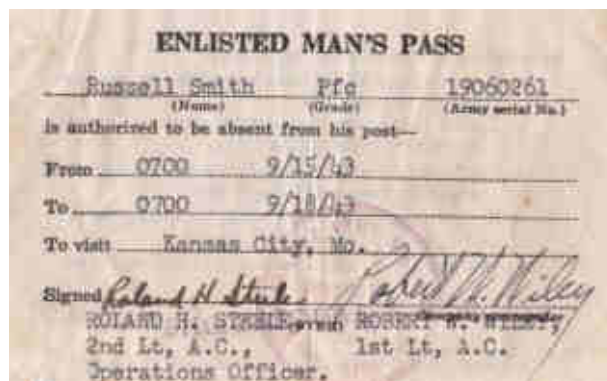


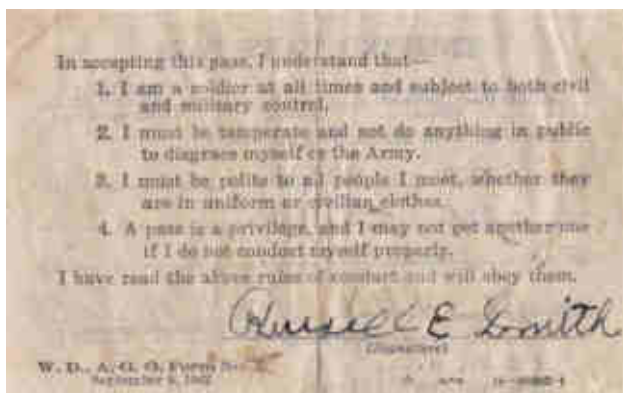
Fairmont Army Air Field (c. 1943)
Image Source: Nebraska State Historical Society

Marriage: Russell's assignment to Fairmont Army Air Field may have been by chance, but it allowed Russell and Ruth to continue their relationship which resulted in their marriage on September 15, 1943. Russell was 27 years old. Ruth was 21 years old.

"Marriages were common during the war. Men married quickly before being shipped out. And when they returned, they expected to get their jobs back, buy homes, and raise their families." (Women and World War II by Dr. S. Hartman Strom and L. Ward [1995]).

Russell received an "Enlisted Man's Pass" beginning at 0700 on Wednesday, September 15, 1943 (see below).





Russell and Ruth had a small wedding at the McKendry family home (3913 Chestnut Street, Kansas City, Missouri). Ruth's grandmother Anna (Mell) DeWitt was an active member of the Unity School of Practical Christianity. A Unity minister, Louis E. Meyer, presided over the ceremony. Ruth's older sister, Zelma Lee (McKendry) Cook and her husband, Scott E. Cook, served as witnesses.



When Russell and Ruth married in 1943, Franklin D. Roosevelt was President and Henry A. Wallace was Vice-President. Popular movies in 1943 included *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, *I Walked with a Zombie*, and *Heaven Can Wait*.

Overseas Duty – North Africa and Italy: After a brief honeymoon, Russell returned to the Fairmont Army Air Field. It wouldn't be very long before the 451st Bomb Group would be on the move and Russell and Ruth would be separated for over a year.



Russell and Ruth Smith (September 1943)

Russell's family history continues: *There was a meeting held with the members of the 451st Bomb Group. I didn't get to the meeting until everyone was being dismissed. I asked some guys what the meeting was about. They said the officers asked who was afraid. Several responded that they were afraid. I don't know what happened after that.*

As part of our training, we were required to walk through a tear gas tent with our gas masks on. We also wore coveralls that were supposedly treated with chemicals that would protect your body.

As part of our clothing and equipment, each soldier was issued two bags marked "A" and "B" with a serial number. Both bags were crammed full of clothing, gas mask, belt canteen, carbine, 40 rounds of ammo, helmet and Musette bag (backpack).

When it came time to leave Fairmont (late November 1943), we were loaded into passenger cars and taken to the railroad depot. We were told not to tell anyone that we were going overseas. When we boarded the train,

we had our helmets, gas masks and carbines hanging by the windows in the train. These things were easily seen from outside the train.



Nebraska Historical Marker
Fairmont Army Air Field

Image Source: Nebraska State Historical Society

We traveled on the train for about four days although I'm not sure. We got stiff and sore necks from sleeping in the seats of the passenger cars.

We had C rations to eat and I believe we had a box lunch a few times. We heard stories that some guys took off. I don't know.

We arrived at New Port News, Virginia and Camp Patrick Henry. I don't remember how long we were at the camp. I think it was five or six days.

We had a lot of lectures while at camp. The food was mostly C rations. There were bed checks and roll calls several times a day. There were different officers in charge of us while at the camp. They also sat through a lot of lectures.

We were glad when it came time to load up on the ship.

We went by railroad car from the camp to the dock. When we were loading on the ship, named USS Pillsbury, the Red Cross gave us two cartons of cigarettes. We were loaded with our A and B bags, gun and other supplies. Now, we carried our mess kit in our bag over the shoulder. We had to wash the mess kit after each meal.



USS Pillsbury (c. 1943)
(Image Source: Wikipedia)

After the ship was loaded, it was pulled out into the river by tug boats. We sat there in the river all day. None of us were allowed on the deck. That night when it was dark, the USS Pillsbury began to move. The ship traveled by itself that night and the next day. Unknown to us at the time, we had joined a convoy of ships. Soon, we were allowed on deck. When I eventually went up on the deck, I'd never seem so many ships in all my life. We were traveling in a large convoy of ships. There were aircraft carriers, destroyers and many, many other ships.

We spent time on the deck at night. We were required to wear a life jacket. We all had to take turns taking care of the curtains on the deck, so there could be no lights seen from the outside.

There were about 500 (estimated) of us placed in the front compartment or hold of the ship. The bunks were five feet high with hardly enough room to roll over.



Allied Convoy Headed Toward North Africa During World War II (c. 1942)

(Image Source: *The North African Campaign* by Alan Taylor, September 4, 2011)

Joe Martin found the deodorant for the urinals and tried to sell it for saltwater soap. One dollar per cake. It didn't sell, so he tried to sell it for ten cents each. Still no takers. We were supposed to have turned in all our money, but no one did. Most of us kept some.

There was a PX on one side of the ship. There was always a line of soldiers waiting their turn to enter the PX. It wasn't long until the PX ran out of stuff to sell including candy.

There was an uneasy feeling and tension with lots of the troops while traveling on the ship. The only food we had was C rations. The C rations typically included a can of stew or a can of hash. There was also a can with a biscuit. The rations included coffee or lemonade and two pieces of candy. There were steam cookers to warm the food and tables to sit at. The food tasted better when it was hot.

There was a garbage can full of hot water to wash our mess kits. After washing a lot of mess kits in the water, it didn't take long for the water to look like slop. Some soldier said it would be cleaner to urinate on the mess kit to clean it.

The Merchant Marines would sell us a sandwich for one dollar each. The sandwiches were mostly ham. One dollar was high when you would typically pay ten to 25 cents for a hamburger.

The USS Pillsbury was one of many Liberty ships, a class of ships that were quickly built for the war effort.

The troops passed time by playing cards, shooting craps and writing letters. Eventually, the card games and crap shooting boiled down to where just a few men had any money.

While on the ship, we talked about where we were going. We decided it was Africa or Italy for if we were going to the Pacific we would have loaded on the west coast. None of the officers would tell us where we were going.

I think we had Thanksgiving while on the ship.

It took us about 28 days to get to our destination which we learned was Oran, Africa. Oran is a coastal city in northwest Algeria. (Travel distance from Medicine Lake, MT to Oran, Algeria is 4,976 miles.) We were loaded onto trucks and drove to a camp about 20 to 40 miles from where we docked. Some soldiers claimed they had seen a goat near the camp. From then on, the camp was referred to a Goat Hill Camp.



French North Africa – Oran, Algeria (c. 1942)

(Image Source: <https://www.combinedops.com/Torch.html>)

The weather was chilly during the nighttime. I remember that we were given two or three more blankets after spending several nights in camp. I think we each had four blankets. I got some of the paper the blankets were wrapped in, took it to my cot, and used the paper to sleep warmer. Some guys burned the paper to warm up. I learned when I rode freight trains that paper would make a bed a lot warmer.

We had Christmas 1943 at Goat Hill Camp. We had turkey. It was a nice break from C Rations.



Western Union Telegram – December 30, 1943
From Russell to Ruth: “ALL WELL AND SAFE,
BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE
NEW YEAR. LOVE AND KISSES.”

After five or six days in camp, we were told that we would be moving. The trucks came to camp and we loaded up and went to Oran. We went to the dock and unloaded. (Note: About this time, the 451st Bomb Group [H] became part of the 15th Air Force which had been activated in November 1943.)

We waited at the dock for a long time before being told we needed to move to another location. After slinging our gear over our shoulders, we started walking. There were men strung out along the dock from one ship to another. We walked about a half mile, maybe more.

There was a rumor that we were going to have something good to eat when we got to the ship. The rumor was probably intended get us to move a little faster. I was with the first group to board the ship. We were afraid we would have to help carry the bags for the other soldiers. Once we checked in, we stayed to ourselves.

We loaded onto the HMS Jonathan DeWitt. It was a British ship with a mixed crew from England, India, Dutch and maybe other countries.

Our bunks were located two or three flights of stairs below the deck. We were told we could get something to eat on top of the deck. We grabbed our mess kit and canteen cup and went up on the deck and got in line. The cook was slicing loaves of bread down the middle, then putting grease on the bread and cutting it into chunks. We each received a chunk of bread and a canteen cup of hot tea with sugar. It was the first bread we had ate since we left the states. The soldiers were hungry and many of them went back in line for seconds.

At nighttime, we used our own blankets. If I remember right, our A bag stayed with us and our B bag was put in the hole elsewhere.

WORLD WAR II C RATIONS

(Reference: <https://heatermeals.com/world-war-ii-c-rations/>)

- Package of Biscuits
- Package of Graham Crackers
- Package of Sugar Tablets
- Meat Can of Ham (Breakfast), Chicken (Dinner), Turkey (Supper)
- Fruit Bar (Breakfast), Caramels (Dinner), Chocolate Bar (Supper)
- Powdered Coffee (Breakfast), Bouillon (Dinner), Lemon (Supper)
- Piece Chewing Gum
- 4-Pack Cigarettes
- Package of Toilet Tissue
- Wooden Spoon
- Matches
- A P-38 can opener

We figured our bunks were about even with the water level on the outside of the ship. We could walk from one compartment to another on the same floor. When the whistle blew, we had to settle into the compartment where our bunk was located. Then, the door closed, and we could only go up or down the stairs.

Later in the day, we were served hot, burnt chocolate and three or four pieces of hard tack. We had to clean off the cobwebs on the hard tack before eating it. One

guy claimed he saw "1914" printed on the hard tack. Another guy claimed he saw "1491 Santa Maria" printed on the hard tack box.

We left the Oran harbor. None of us knew where we were going, but speculated we were going to Italy. It's January 1944.

451st BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)

The 451st Bombardment Group (Heavy) was constituted on April 6, 1943 and activated on May 1, 1943. The group prepared for combat with B-24s and moved to the Mediterranean theatre from November 1943 to January 1944, with the air echelon training in Algeria for several weeks before joining the remainder of the group in Italy. The 451st operated with the Fifteenth Air Force from January to May 1945, functioning primarily as a strategic bombardment organization. The 451st was comprised of three squadrons: the 725th, the 726th and the 727th. Russell was a member of the 725th squadron.

I believe we were on the ship for three days. We ate hash or beans once a day. We had hard tack and burnt chocolate to drink once a day. The food was brought to our compartment and served to us.

We were all in different compartments. F. M. Farrier said he found a loaf of bread and that is all he ate while on the ship. Jack Lampkin said his compartment was served smoked rotten fish to eat.

There was a speaker in each hole where music was sometimes played. I remember hearing the songs "Roll Out the Barrel" and "Rollover and We'll Do It Again." The music went on like that about every day.

The soldiers on the ship were parts of the 451st Bomb Group, 725th Squadron and another squadron.

The weather was cold and rainy most of the time.

The ship arrived at the harbor of Naples, Italy. A tugboat pulled us to the dock. We unloaded off the ship and boarded a train. The train was Italian with doors that opened on the side. The train took us to Count

Ciano College which was used for a billeting area for Allied troops.



Insignia of the Fifteenth Air Force
(Source: From Russell's WW II Memorabilia)

Count Ciano was the son-in-law of Mussolini, the dictator of Italy. There were three or four large buildings at the college. None of them had windows.

We entered one of the buildings and went up to the second floor carrying our A and B bags with us. We had some C Rations to eat that evening. We were told to sleep on the concrete floor. The floor was hard and cold.

Joe Martin and I went back to the corner of the building. This avoided having anyone needing to walk over us.

Then came the French troops with World War I helmets and old Springfield rifles. That is what some of our troops said they were. Then came along Indian soldiers wearing turbans on their heads.

It was awfully cold that night laying on the concrete floor. I was glad when morning came. We had some more C Rations for breakfast. We did a lot of running around the college grounds.

That night when it got dark, we loaded up onto trucks. Some guys claimed they could hear the guns at the front line. We arrived at Gioia dell Colle air base the next morning.

Every eight men were given a tent to setup. It was flat land with standing water all over. We setup our tent and dug a ditch to collect and bale the water out. Someone got a barrel from the fuel dump, then cut a hole in the side and top of the barrel. A gallon can with a rock and gasoline was placed in the barrel. The fuel was lit with a match and the top of the tent was taken off to let the smoke escape. We would crawl into the tent because the smoke was too thick to stand up.

The troops got 5-gallon fuel cans from the dump. The cans were laid flat and used to sleep on. In a day or two, we got boards to sleep on. Eventually, we got straw for mattress covers, then we got cots to sleep on. It's February 1944.

For a latrine, we had a straddle trench about 100 feet long. The officers had the Italians dig holes and make 4-holers.

Several men got sore knees and hips from sleeping on the ground. It was always raining. Another soldier was sent to the hospital because of arthritis.



Gioia del Colle Airfield, Italy
(Image Source: World Aero Data)

The ground crews would work on the planes during the day and everyone, but the officers and Master Sergeants would guard the planes at night. Someone was always around each plane when it was on the ground.



Russell Smith (c. 1944)

There was one soldier that laid his gun on the ground while guarding the planes. He left the gun on the ground when he went back to the tent and fell asleep. I never saw him after that incident.

There was rain just about every day. Because of the rain and the heavy traffic on the runway, there were a lot of potholes.

When we were assigned to a plane, we stayed there until it would take off and then return.

The crew on a B-24 Liberator included 10 men. The pilot, co-pilot, navigator, and bombardier were officers. The rest of the crew were enlisted men ranging in rank from corporal to tech sergeant: nose turret gunner, radio operator, top turret gunner, belly or ball turret gunner, tail turret gunner. There was a window and gun mounted on each side of the plane. There were two waist gunners that would open the window and shoot from each side of the plane.

The crew wore coveralls that were wired electrically such that when plugged-in, the coveralls would keep them warm during the flight. Their boots were also wired to keep their feet warm. Some crew members would get “frozen feet.” Each crew member had an oxygen mask along with a parachute and harness. Their life jacket was called a “Mae West vest” which would float in water. Each 50-caliber machine gun had an electric heater.

Each crew member had a first aid kit containing medication and bandages. There was also a kit with \$50 - \$100 American green back dollars to be used in case of emergency. The crew never knew what foreign country they might find themselves if the plane were shot down or they had to parachute. Some of the soldiers that jumped or crashed in Yugoslavia came back to Italy by way of the underground.



Damaged Plane Near Runway (c. 1944)

I was assigned to the armament crew. Our job was to load and unload the bombs on the aircraft. We had wenches for the heavy lifting. Most of the bombs were 500 pounds. There were some that were 1,000 pounds and 2,000 pounds. We also cleaned and repaired (if needed) the 50 caliber machine guns after each mission.



Soldiers in the Armament Crew (c. 1944)

The bombs were hauled to the planes by the ordnance crew. The armament crew would load the bombs. When the crew knew there was no chance of rain and the flight being cancelled, the ordnance crew would put the fuses in the nose of each bomb. The fuses were timed so they wouldn't all explode at once. Some of them might explode in a day or two or a week.

The bombs were hoisted, and shackles placed on the rack. When the fuse was placed in the nose, a wire was run from the fuse to the bomb shackle. When the bombs were dropped, the wire was jerked out of the bomb fuse and the wind from the bomb would turn the propeller on the fuse. It would come off and the bomb was armed.



Fellow Soldiers Palermo and Fessler (c. 1944)

Each plane also had a smoke bomb. When the bomb was dropped, the smoke bomb left a trail of smoke. The other planes would see the smoke and drop their bombs. The planes also carried anti-personnel bombs that were 15 to 18 inches long.



Aerial Photo During Bombing Mission (c. 1944)

Sam Palermo and I were loading the bombs one day. We had just placed one 500-pound bomb on the top rack. We were attaching the sling on another bomb when the bomb on the top rack fell and hit Sam on the side of his head. He was taken to the hospital. When he came back, he was paralyzed on his left side including his arm and leg. I hated that. I have thought about it a lot. I hope he got over it.

There was a story that made the rounds that the Italians were unloading bombs from a railroad car when there was an explosion. We were told about it by Captain L.... So, we handled the bombs very carefully. We never banged the bombs against one another. If a plane started a mission and had a malfunction and didn't want to land with the bombs they were carrying, they would fly over the ocean and drop the bombs.

One day, I was out at the plane waiting for the crew to



Aerial Photo During Bombing Mission (c. 1944)

come and take off. It was a C46 or C47 (I never knew what the difference was). The plane took off and got into the air about 200 to 300 feet above the ground. Then, the plane lost power, nosedived and hit the ground. The two engines rolled like they were a couple of dice.

One man came running out of the plane. I ran over to him and asked if anyone else was in the plane. He said "yes" and began calling for "Pearson." We found Pearson and grabbed him by the arms, and I helped with his legs. One of his legs was broken and I was reluctant to move him not wanting to hurt him.

There was a spot by a parachute that was smoking. I stamped it into the dirt and put the fire out. It was fortunate that the gas tanks on the plane didn't rupture.

The 725th Squadron ambulance came and picked up both men to take them to the hospital.

Someone called me and I had to get back to the B-24 plane. I talked to Lt. Prindal about the wreck. He said I had done the right thing.



B-24 Liberator
(Image Source: USAF Photo)

There were planes and men lost on the bombing missions. We would ask about the planes that didn't return. Some crew members said they had seen parachutes and many men got out. Some planes exploded and no one got out. Some planes crashed in the ocean. We did a lot of praying and hoping that the lost crews didn't get killed. I still wonder what happened to these men. There were lots of prisoners of war.



Aerial Scene from World War II
Art Print from Russell and Ruth's Living Room
(Artist: Gordon Snyder)

During March 1944, the weather was getting warmer. We continued eating lots of C Rations. The food included an orange marmalade and tropical butter that

would not melt. A lot of guys said the tropical butter was really yellow paint and paraffin wax. So, we ate a lot of biscuits along with the tropical butter and orange marmalade. We washed it down with coffee. Occasionally, we would have spam, Vienna sausage, dehydrated potatoes and onions, and bread to eat.

There were lots of grapes and wine. The Italians would have large barrels on carts pulled by a couple of white cows or oxen. Some of the soldiers drank a lot of the wine, so much that their teeth were blue.



Russell Smith (c. 1944)

Over time, the rainwater that ponded on the runway kept getting deeper. The B-24 Liberators were having a tough time getting enough speed up to take off.

The water on the runway got so deep, that we moved to Mandura, Italy. There was another bomb group that flew out of Mandura beside the 451st Bomb Group.

Lt. Prendel was killed in a Jeep accident. I don't know the details of what happened. I heard that his Jeep was going around a curve in the road when it ran into a wine cart. It was at night when Lt. Prendel was thrown out of the Jeep and killed.

Lt. Lures (Tanglefoot) took over for Lt. Prendel as the armor section officer. He was about 6 feet 2 inches tall. He was a nice guy. Lt. Collins (Silver Tip) was his

assistant. He lectured us on handling the ammo. Ever so many rounds had a silver tip round which was supposed to be armor penetrating when it hit the target.

Each airplane had about 10,000 to 12,000 rounds of ammo. I don't remember for sure, but there were lots of it.

The 725th Squadron was at Mandura, Italy in March 1944.

451st GROUP BOMBING MISSIONS

The 451st Bomb Group attacked such targets as oil refineries, marshalling yards, aircraft factories, bridges, and airfields in Italy, France, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Albania, and Greece. A sampling of bombing missions for the period from June 2 through June 10, 1944 is provided below. (Note: This information was taken from Russell's memorabilia which included a 10+ page list of bombing missions.)

No 57 - 2 June 1944 – Szolnok M/Y, Hungary

No 58 - 4 June 1944 – Gad River Bridge, Italy

No 59 - 5 June 1944 – Rimini Railroad Bridge, Italy

No 60 - 6 June 1944 – Ploesti/Xenia Oil Ref, RO

No 61 - 7 June 1944 – Antheor Viaduct, France

No 62 - 9 June 1944 – Munich, Germany

No 63 - 10 June 1944 – Porto/Marghera Oil Storage, Italy

One morning when one of the B-24 Liberators was taking off on a mission, its nose wheel collapsed. The plane started to burn right away. Many soldiers started towards the plane when they saw it crash, hoping to rescue the crew. One man got out or was blown out when the plane crashed. Two guys in a Jeep were able to pick-up the man before the plane exploded, throwing shrapnel all around us. The plane was loaded with 500-pound bombs. There were 10 men in the crew. It was a grim thing to see. Lots of soldiers prayed for the men in the plane.

If there were dead or wounded on a plane returning from a mission, the pilot would radio ahead and the ambulance at the airfield would meet the plane as soon as it landed. If the radio was shot out, the plane would use a flare gun to signal the ground to indicate there were dead or wounded on the plane.

When the plane landed, the dead were placed in what looked like a mattress cover or straw tick. The bodies were turned over to the soldier that took care of the details of burying the dead. There were a lot of men that flew on missions that never came back. We knew lots of them having trained together at Fairmont Air Field in Nebraska.



B-24 Landing at Airfield

I've always wondered what happened to the guys that didn't return. Were they killed or captured and became POWs? There were partisans in Europe including Yugoslavia that were friendly to Americans and would help them get back to Italy.

I went to the 451st Bomb Group Reunion in Chicago in 1980 to see if any of the guys I knew would be there. It had been a long time since the war. I didn't see any of them.



Aerial Scene of B-24 during World War II
 Art Print from Russell and Ruth's Living Room
 (Artist: Paul R. Jones)

It was April 1944 when the 451st Bomb Group moved to Castelluccio Airfield located about nine miles south of Foggia, Italy. The airfield was constructed in an oat field. When the oats got ripe, some Italian women picked the oats and put them in sacks tied to a donkey or mule.

An old mess hall was setup at the base. It may have been an Italian army barracks according to other soldiers. Once again, there was orange marmalade (yellow paint and wax) and tropical butter set out along with C Ration biscuits. We started getting more fresh meat along with bread, spam and Vienna sausages. We washed it down with coffee.



Old Mess Hall - Castelluccio Airfield, Italy (c. 1944)



Housing at Castelluccio Airfield, Italy (c. 1944)



Housing Unit Where Russell and Other Soldiers
 Lived at Castelluccio Airfield, Italy (c. 1944)



Russell Standing Outside His Housing Unit
 Castelluccio Airfield, Italy (c. 1944)

The runway was constructed of steel mats fastened together. The area adjacent to the runway included a fuel tank where gasoline was stored. Each squadron had a gasoline truck and oil truck to service the planes.



Russell (right) and Fellow Soldier (c. 1944)
Runway at Castelluccio Airfield, Italy

The air base water supply was a drilled well located near the airfield. The airfield was about two or three miles from the base.

We got away from washing our mess kits in water in garbage cans. There were 55 barrels or drums cut down the middle that were filled with water and heated. We placed the scraps from our mess kit in garbage cans before washing the kit in the heated water. An Italian with a two-wheel cart and oxen would haul off the garbage cans to feed his pigs.



Cleaning Mess Kits (c. 1944)

At this airfield, the officers and enlisted men ate at the same mess hall. Captain Davis, commander of the

725th squadron, gave orders that the officers couldn't go to the head of the chow line. There was to be an officer, then an enlisted man, and so on.

Everyone was given atabrine to prevent getting malaria. When we were in the chow line, a medic would throw one of the yellow atabrine pills in our mouth.

We were about 15 miles from Foggia, Italy where there was a Red Cross service club. The entrance to the club had two soldiers made of wood on each side of the door. We called them yanks from planks. Inside, there was an area to play cards and games. I think it was 10 o'clock am when the club would sell cookies for 5 lira, one nickel each. We bought two cookies at a time. The coffee was free and supplied by the U.S. Army. It was served by the Red Cross. Lots of soldiers didn't like paying for the cookies. When you are hungry, you'll eat anything.



American Red Cross Service Club
"Yanks from the Ranks"

There was an army camp close-by to the service club. We would go to the camp and mooch for something to eat.

If we were in an Italian town, we would ask the Italians where we could get something to eat. We often ate

potatoes and fried eggs cooked in olive oil along with a glass of wine and a chunk of soggy, sour bread. We would pay 300 to 400 lire for a meal.

Sometimes we would eat meatballs and pasta with a little tomato sauce. The meatballs were out of this world. No one knew what they were made of.



Russell (left) and Friend on Leave in Italy (c. 1944)

Many of the Italian towns had an oven in the center of town. The locals would beat the grain to grind it, then mix it to make a loaf. The loaf would be placed on a board balanced on their head and they would walk to town to bake the loaf in the oven. When the loaf was baked, they would put the loaf and board back on their head and go home.



Scene Along Italian Street (c. 1944)

Each town had a place where the locals could go and get water. They would carry the water in jugs or buckets. We carried a canteen of water from the air base. We were warned not to drink the water or eat anything in these towns for risk of diarrhea and other illnesses.



Scene Along Italian Street (c. 1944)

The towns that were small didn't have a sewer system. People would use a honey bucket, thunder mug or whatever you want to call it. The honey wagon would come down the city streets while the driver shouted out. Everyone would come and dump their bucket into the wagon.

A wagon was used to haul wastes from base to a spot (honey dump) alongside the road leading to the town. The smell and flies at the dump were bad. No one wanted to go by the dump on their way to town. There was a second route to town that avoided the dump.



Members of 451st Bomb Group (L-R):
J. Rhotan (?), W. North, R. Smith, J. Fessler, Martin

When we set up our tents, they were purposely not placed in a straight line. We dug shallow trenches around our tents so if we were strafed by German aircraft, we could lie in the trenches below the ground surface for protection.

The British Army set-up anti-aircraft guns in a farmhouse located near the edge of the airfield. A nearby barn with several rooms was used as a bar with card tables. The booze was usually orange juice and vodka. One of the rooms in the bar had a cold-water shower. Later when the British Army moved, they took their guns and the house they were living in was made into a mess hall for officers.

Several dogs came to the airbase. I don't know if they were strays or dumped by the locals. The locals had a tough time getting anything to eat for themselves.



Sack and His Son

(Russell's notes indicate that "Sack" came over from the states with the Bomb Group)

Over time while in Italy, the food got better. We had more fresh meat and bread although we never stopped eating C-Rations on a regular basis. The military must have had a ship load of spam as we ate a lot of it.

There was a B-24 parked in a revetment when it caught on fire. No one was sure what caused the fire. The plane was loaded with 500-pound bombs and several

rounds of 50 caliber ammo. There was a lot of cracking and popping sounds when the 50-caliber ammo exploded. It wasn't long before the bombs on the plane exploded and destroyed the plane. The explosions created a crater in the ground where the plane had set. One of the main struts with a wheel on it was thrown 300 to 400 feet from the plane. The soldiers guarding the plane took cover in their trenches and fox holes.

It was approximately June 1944 when, for some unknown reason, a new mess sergeant was assigned to our unit. The new sergeant started selling eggs for 15 lira. One lira was about the same as one penny.

The new sergeant got caught selling a chunk of meat to the Italians. The soldiers wanted to hang him. Similar offenders were court martialed and spent time in the stockade.

Everyone had to have a PX rationing card. John Fessler and I went to Bare, Italy and went into the PX. We bought candy bars and cigarettes. The PX staff said we could buy all the cigars we wanted. So, we bought cigars and went outside the building to smoke them. It wasn't long and we met three Canadian soldiers who wanted some cigars. We gave them one cigar each. They wanted to buy some more cigars and offered to pay us with several teeth with gold fillings or inlays. We told them we didn't want any teeth, so they came up with some Liras and we sold them several cigars before going our own way.

We went down to the beach near the town of Bare. There was a sidewalk café with mostly foreigners – French, Russians and Yugoslavians. The Russian officers were neatly attired in black boots. The Yugoslavian soldiers, men and women, wore a short cap with a red 5-pointed star on it. The soldiers that spoke English looked after each other.

Most of the soldiers from other nations carried side arms. The American soldiers did not carry side arms while in towns when we went on a pass. We were told

that we were goodwill ambassadors. We usually traveled in groups of four or more.

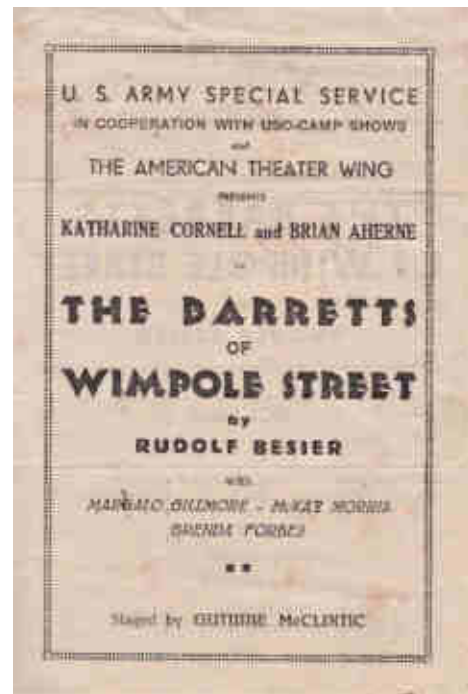


Russian(?) Military Officer (c. 1944)

John Fessler and I went to a show, then we went to a hotel that was managed by the Red Cross. The soldiers called it the Sad Sack Hotel. We each paid 50 to 100 Lira for a cot with one or two blankets to sleep on. The next morning, we went back to the air base to get something to eat.



Australian Soldier (c. 1944)



Playbill – The Barretts of Wimpole Street (c. 1944)

At some point during 1944, we decided we would build a structure to live in. We got a truck from the motor pool to load blocks from a limestone quarry which we used to build our housing unit.

There was a time late in the war when word came that two soldiers were going to be sent back to the USA, a Corporal and a Sergeant. Pieces of paper (tickets) were placed in a helmet. Each ticket had the word “stay” written on it, except for two tickets with the word “go.” Ralph M... and I entered the tent where the drawing was being held. Ralph believed that when his turn came, the ticket he pulled from the helmet would say “go.” He pulled out a “stay.” There were three tickets left in the helmet when my turn came. No one had pulled a “go” yet. I reached into the helmet and pulled out a “stay.” I never thought about looking at the two tickets remaining to see if they were marked “go.” After the drawing, two soldiers went back to the U.S. I talked with F.M. Fanier in April 1987 and he said the drawing was rigged. I didn’t care one way or the other as the war in the Pacific was still going on and we thought we might be sent over there.

The war was winding down. It was about June or July 1944 in Italy.

Russell communicated with Ruth through Victory Mail (V-Mail). To save the cost of shipping thousands of letters back home from overseas, V-Mail letters were copied to film which was transported to the United States. The film was used to reprint the letter upon delivery to its destination (Source: Wikipedia). Ruth saved at least two V-Mail letters from Russell which are shown below:

GREETINGS FROM ITALY

DEAR: Sweetheart

I AM: Missing you

DOING LOTS OF: Thinking of you

HOPE YOU HAVE KEPT: Well

ITALY IS: Smelly

THE FOOD IS: Dehydrated

ARE YOU: Missing me

THINGS ARE: Rough

WILL BE: Going to bed

I HAVE SEEN: U.S.O. Shows

YOURS: Forever

AMERICAN RED CROSS - ITALY

V-MAIL

V-MAIL - Completed by Russell and sent to Ruth
October 30, 1944

GREETINGS FROM ITALY

DEAR: Sweetheart

I AM: Missing you

DOING LOTS OF: Thinking of you

HOPE YOU HAVE KEPT: Well

ITALY IS: Smelly

THE FOOD IS: Dehydrated

ARE YOU: Missing me

THINGS ARE: Rough

WILL BE: Going to bed

I HAVE SEEN: U.S.O. Shows

YOURS: Forever

Russell sent a second V-Mail letter to Ruth for Christmas, December 1944. It consisted of a poem as shown below:



WITH LOVE TO MY WIFE
At Christmas
I'll think of You always,
At Christmas, this year -
The miles that separate us
Will simply disappear -
I'll be once more beside you,
Just trying to express
How much I love you, darling,
And wish you happiness!
Love Russell

Russell, members of the armament crew, and others enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner on November 23, 1944 at the 61st Station Hospital in Italy. The Thanksgiving meal was likely the best military provided meal Russell had during his time in Italy. His collection of memorabilia from the war included a printed invitation with his name and a description of the menu as shown below.



Thanksgiving Dinner Menu – 23 November 1944
61st Station Hospital, Italy

There was another one of our planes where the nose collapsed and burnt up. No one was hurt or killed.

There was one plane that took off and as it climbed higher, the life raft came out and caught on one of the plane's stabilizers. The plane couldn't go any higher, so

the crew jumped out. They were too close to the ground for their parachutes to fully open. Many of them were injured.

It's now April 1945. I am writing this in January 1988. As the war in Europe was about over, we started getting beer. We are wondering what is going to happen to us? Will we be sent to the Pacific Campaign to fight the Japanese?

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATIONS

The 451st Bombardment Group received a Distinguished Unit Citation for each of three missions: to an aircraft factory at Regensburg on February 25, 1944, to oil refineries and marshalling yards at Ploesti on April 5, 1944, and to an airdrome at Vienna on August 23, 1944. Although the group encountered large numbers of enemy fighters and severe anti-aircraft fire during each of these missions, it fought its way through the opposition, destroyed many interceptors, and inflicted serious damage on the assigned targets. At times the group also flew support and interdiction missions. It helped to prepare the way for and participated in the invasion of Southern France in August 1944. The group transported supplies to troops in Italy during September 1944 and supported the final advances of Allied armies in northern Italy in April 1945. The 451st Bombardment Group returned to the United States in June and was inactivated on September 26, 1945.

The war in Europe came to an end. We all celebrated winning the war. We had to clean-up everything on the base. We picked up sticks and boards. Major Welsh had them burned. Then, someone decided the material should be taken to the dump. The Italians were waiting at the dump to see and pick-up what we dumped. They would yell and sometimes fight each other for the material.

While at the dump, a soldier threw a board up in the air and hit me in the head when the wind got a hold of it. He got a cussing.

There were a lot of rumors that we were going to fight the Japanese. One day we were told to remove the 50-caliber ammunition from the planes. The next day, we watched the planes take off for the USA. It was a glad and sad day. We had become attached to the planes. Many of the planes had names painted on them. There was also a bomb painted on each plane for each bombing mission it went on. If the crew shot down a German plane, a swastika was painted on the plane. When the planes took off, we often wondered where they went.

The ground crew loaded on to trucks and went on the road to Naples, Italy. The crew included soldiers that were demoted and spending time in the stockade (prison). We went back to Count Ciano College. It hadn't changed much. There was a mess hall now, but they still served C-Rations, hash and stew.



Aircraft Name: Ferp Finesco
451st Bomb Group, 725th Squadron
Missing-In-Action: July 28, 1944
(Data Source: 451st Bomb Group Inventory,
www.451st.org/Aircraft/pdfs)

We were at Count Ciano College for three or four days before we loaded on to trucks and were taken to the dock. We loaded on to the USS General Meigs where we traveled by sea for seven days arriving at the dock of Newport News, Virginia. We loaded on to railroad cars and were taken to Camp Patrick Henry. The loudspeakers at camp were thanking the soldiers for the bang-up job they did overseas.

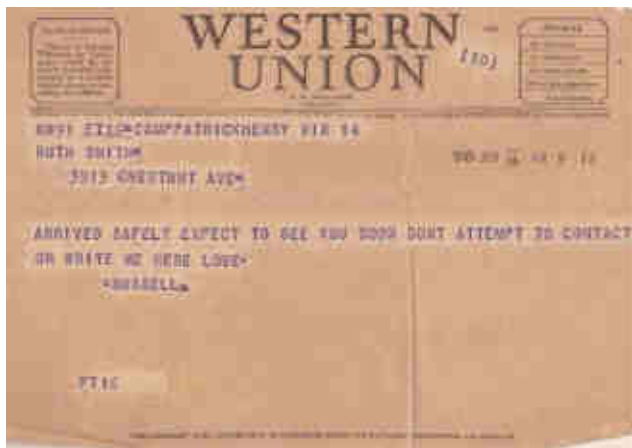


Aircraft Name: Devils Duchess
451st Bomb Group, 725th Squadron
Enemy Aircraft
(Data Source: 451st Bomb Group Inventory,
www.451st.org/Aircraft/pdfs)

The first thing we did when we got to Camp Patrick Henry was to get in line at the shower house. We pulled all of our clothes off. We were naked as a Jay bird just hatched. We scrubbed our body from top to bottom. We had to stay in the shower for a period of time, then we were given different clothes to wear. Most everyone had their clothes worked on to make them fit better. Then, we were given uniforms to wear. We looked as seedy as we did on our first day in the service.

After the shower, we went to the mess hall. We had a steak dinner. There were a lot of soldiers in the mess hall having dinner. There were also German POWs working on KP.

There was one POW eating out of a garbage can. A couple of U.S. Soldiers picked up the German POW and stuck his head in the garbage can so he could eat all he wanted. There were other POWs that came to help the POW in the garbage can. Then other GIs came to help their GI friends. The MPs blew their whistles and stood between the German POWs and GIs. Tempers were high as more GIs assembled wanting a piece of the action. There was no love for the German POWs.



Western Union Telegram: June 14, 1945
 From Russell to Ruth: "ARRIVED SAFELY.
 EXPECT TO SEE YOU SOON. DON'T
 ATTEMPT TO CONTACT OR WRITE HERE.
 LOVE – RUSSELL"

In a day or two we were all shipped out to different parts of the country. I went to Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, Missouri. We were all given 30 days leave.

When the 30 days were up, we were sent to Dow Air Base in Bangor, Maine. It took about three days by train to get to Bangor. At Bangor, they started shipping men to different parts of the country. It was tiresome just waiting and waiting to see what was going to happen. Most of the guys I knew were gone. I didn't know very many of the guys in our barracks. Some of the guys were members of the ordnance crew, some were truck drivers. We all wondered what was going to happen.

There were rumors that we were going to be sent to Camp Roberts in California where we were going to be in the infantry. There was a lot of talk among the men. Some decided they would go over the hill. I talked to some guys from the west coast. It was best to go to Camp Roberts and see what happens next.

Then, the atomic bomb was dropped on Japan. We waited, and the second bomb was dropped. The Japanese surrendered, and we were discharged from the Army.



Newspaper Headline
 (Image Source: www.worldwar2facts.org)

SEPTEMBER 2, 1945

"Heavy casualties sustained in the campaigns at Iwo Jima (February 1945) and Okinawa (April-June 1945), and fears of the even costlier land invasion of Japan led (President) Truman to authorize the use of a new and devastating weapon – the atomic bomb – on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in early August. On August 15, the Japanese government issued a statement declaring they would accept the terms of the Potsdam Declaration, and on September 2, (1945) U.S. General Douglas MacArthur accepted Japan's formal surrender....."
 (<http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii>)

Russell's Discharge from the Service: A copy of Russell's Honorable Discharge is included with this document. There are several entries on his discharge worth noting.

Russell's Army Serial No. was 19 060 261. He served in the Army of the United States - Army Air Force from December 23, 1941 to September 3, 1945, a total of three years, eight months and 11 days. This time period included one year, six months and 11 days of foreign service.

His discharge document shows that he was a member of the 725th Squadron attaining the rank of Corporal (Russell felt like he should have been

promoted to Sergeant). The battles and campaigns listed on his discharge document include: Southern France, Rhineland, Northern France, Po Valley, Northern Apennines, Air Offensive Europe Air Combat Balkans, Naples Foggia, Rome Arno, Normandy.

Russell was awarded the following decorations and citations for the above campaigns: 10 Bronze Stars, Good Conduct Medal, Distinguished Unit Badge with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters. He was issued a lapel button (ribbon) to wear – European - African – Middle Eastern Theatre Campaign; 3 Overseas Bars.

Among Russell's collection of photos and documents from his time in the service, he kept his dog tags and military decorations/awards in a small cardboard box. Selected items are shown below:



Russell's Military ID Tags ("Dog Tags")

His Advanced Service Rating (ASR) Score was 101. The ASR was a scoring system used during demobilization of troops at the end of the war. The system "... was designed to return troops back to the U.S. based on the length of time served, family status and honors received in battle." (Source: Wikipedia)

The "pay data" shown on Russell's discharge document shows that his final payment at discharge was \$97.80 for travel and \$233.83 (total amount). The document was signed by Russell and Captain S.H. Kulp.



Russell's World War II Medals and Ribbons
 Left: European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign
 Center: World War II Victory Medal
 Right: American Campaign Medal



Russell's World War II Medals and Ribbons
 Distinguished Unit Citation (Ribbon)
 Center: Good Conduct Medal (left)
 Various Campaign Ribbons

Returning to Civilian Life: Following Russell's discharge from military service at the Jefferson Barracks Military Post in St. Louis, Missouri, he likely traveled by train to Kansas City where he reunited with Ruth (possibly at Union Station). It had been over 18 months since Russell and his unit had departed from Fairfield, Nebraska. Russell and Ruth began their life together while living at the home of Ruth's parents, Harry and Zelma (DeWitt) McKendry. The family home was

located at 3913 Chestnut in Kansas City, Missouri. The house on Chestnut street would be home for Russell and Ruth for the next eight years.



Harry and Zelma (DeWitt) McKendry
(October 1944)

It probably took some time for Russell, a native of rural Montana, to adjust to city life in Kansas City.



Russell (R) and his Brother Dick (c. 1950)

Employment: *When I got out of the Army and returned to Kansas City, I went looking for a job. I never had a steady job in my life and there were a lot of*

things about work and life that I didn't know much about.

I got a job and worked for Goodyear for about five and half years.

Next, I went to work for the Greenlease Motor Car Company in the Fall of 1951. The owner was Robert C. Greenlease. I worked in the parts department. It was a good place to work. We would have meetings after work about every other month. The company would buy dinner for everyone if we went to the meetings. If there was no work, we would still have a job unless things got really bad.

The Greenlease Motor Car Company was a distributor for Cadillac cars and parts for 57 dealers in the Mid-West. Mr. Greenlease was also a partner in a dealership (O'Neal and Greenlease) for Oldsmobile cars.



Embroidered Cloth Patch provided to Russell from
Greenlease Motor Car Company (c. 1950s)

We would see Mr. Greenlease around the place periodically. He visited with all the employees and everyone liked him.

Mr. Greenlease and his first wife had an adopted son, Paul Greenlease. Paul was about 50 years old when he died suddenly from a cerebral hemorrhage.

Mr. Greenlease (Robert) remarried later in life. He and his second wife (Virginia) had two young children they named Virginia and Bobby (Robert, Jr.). When Bobby

was a little boy, we would sometimes see him while visiting the dealership.

"Russell's work schedule required that he work at the parts department at the car dealership about one Saturday each month from about 8 am to noon. When I was a little boy, age 7 or 8, Russell would take me to work on Saturday. We sat on stools at the parts department counter and waited for customers. Sometimes, one of the mechanics would come by and visit. They were all very friendly. On one Saturday, Mr. Greenlease came by. Seeing me at the counter, he stopped and visited with us. Before departing, he reached into his shirt pocket and handed me a ballpoint pen – not just any pen, but a pen where the upper half was clear plastic filled with a fluid. Floating in the fluid was a gold miniature of a 1955-1956 Cadillac sedan. I was impressed and have kept the pen ever since." -- Wayne Smith, March 2019.



Ballpoint Pen – Greenlease Cadillac Company
(c. 1956)

KIDNAPPING OF BOBBY GREENLEASE

"Robert Cosgrove 'Bobby' Greenlease Jr. was the 6-year-old son of multi-millionaire automobile dealer Robert Cosgrove Greenlease Sr., of Kansas City, Missouri. Bobby was the victim of a kidnapping on September 28, 1953 that led to the largest ransom payment in American history." (Source: Wikinedia)

Children: Russell was 33 years old and Ruth was 27 years old when they had their first child in October 1949. They named their son "Wayne DeWitt Smith." "DeWitt" was Ruth's mother's maiden name. As a young child, Ruth had a special relationship with her maternal grandfather, Robert DeWitt, who along with his wife, Anna (Mell) DeWitt lived at the house on Chestnut Street before

it became the home of Harry and Zelma. The name "Wayne" likely reflects Ruth's fondness for the then popular actor, John Wayne. Russell liked the name "Wayne" as he remembered his infant brother named Wayne that died at childbirth.

When Wayne was about two years old, Russell and Ruth moved to Palouse, Washington where Russell's mother was living. Russell found work as a custodian/maintenance worker at the local college and helped make improvements to his mother's home. The family stay in Palouse was relatively brief (approximately six months) and the family returned to Kansas City. Russell's mother, Myrtle (Hartwell) Smith, passed away in 1952.

Russell and Ruth celebrated the birth of their second child in October 1953. They named their daughter "Catherine Cora Smith." "Catherine was Ruth's mother's middle name (Zelma Catherine McKendry) and "Cora" was Russell's mother's middle name (Myrtle Cora Smith).



Ruth, Cathy and Wayne (April 1954)

A New Home: Russell and Ruth reached a milestone in 1953 when their savings from working the past eight years allowed them to make a down payment on a home. Russell's rural upbringing likely influenced their decision on where to live (rural versus urban). They made a down payment on a modest, recently constructed two-bedroom ranch house sited on 10 acres located in a rural area

approximately four miles south of Lee's Summit, Missouri (1950 population: 2,554). The house and property would be home for Russell and Ruth for the rest of their lives. The purchase price of their new home and 10 acres was \$7,500.



The Smith Family (October 1957)

The acreage provided Russell and Ruth and their young family with an opportunity to live on a small farm. Over time, Russell (with occasional help from neighbors) built a chicken coop, a detached one car garage, and a barn with three sections for hay, livestock shelter and miscellaneous storage. A shelter and pen for pigs was added to the barn later. They also planted a small orchard of 10 to 12 fruit trees (apple, peach and pear) on the west side of the house. A large vegetable garden was located to the east of the house and garage. Picking and canning vegetables, especially green beans, became an annual rite of summer. The sweet corn was especially tasty during the summer months.

At various times over the next several decades, the small farm was home to various livestock including chickens, cattle, pigs, goats and a horse named Patches. Cathy enjoyed many summer days riding



Wayne and Cathy Smith (c. 1956)

Patches with other neighborhood friends with horses. Other family pets included dogs named Rascal and Bones (a stray that Russell fed and became a pet) and a German shepherd named Nuba. Ruth enjoyed having cats as pets which included cats named Puddy and Momma Cat. The dogs and cats lived together peacefully, often lounging near each other on the east porch of the house.



Cathy with Patches and Nuba (c. 1960s)

Many of the livestock were given nicknames by Russell. A group of young calves were named Moldy Mike, Susie Q, Boston Blackie and Buddy. Buddy possessed Houdini-like characteristics as no fence seemed to limit her abilities to escape the property. One of the pigs was named Tubby.

Not long after acquiring the property, Russell had a small pond constructed which provided a water source for the livestock. When fishing in other farm ponds and area lakes was successful, the fish were released into the farm pond. Wayne, Cathy and other neighborhood children enjoyed fishing in the farm ponds and catching crawdads. During the winter months, the frozen pond was used for occasional sledding and ice skating.

"Looking back, I appreciate growing up in a rural area. Although there weren't many other children nearby to play with, I enjoyed feeding and taking care of the family cats and dogs and the farm animals. When the pond froze over in the winter, I was tasked with chopping the ice and feeding the cattle (usually 4 or 5 them). One of my favorite memories is walking to the barn in the moonlight of the early evening. I stopped at the barn and picked up an axe. As I walked to the pond, our pet dog Nuba and the young cattle would closely follow me. At the pond, I used the axe to chop an opening in the ice. One by one, the cattle would step forward and drink while I watched and listened in the silence of the night under a star-filled sky. When the cattle were finished drinking, we returned to the barn. I scooped grain from a feed sack in the barn and placed the grain in a metal trough for the cattle to feed. Then, I cut the twine from a bale of hale and distributed sections of hay for the second course. I returned to the warmth of our house for another peaceful night."
Wayne Smith, March 2019.

Other property improvements included planting two acres in alfalfa to provide hay for the livestock during the winter months. Russell also built a small wading pool for Wayne and Cathy in the backyard using masonry blocks and concrete. As the children

grew older, the wading pool was filled with soil and stocked with worms for fishing.

After several years of living in the house, the house was modified when Russell (with assistance from a neighbor's teenage son) constructed a cellar beneath the kitchen. The cellar included a concrete floor slab with masonry walls. This allowed the furnace and hot water heater to be relocated to the cellar, and the former utility room was converted to a third bedroom. The cellar was also used for shelter during severe weather.

"It was in the mid-1950s when Aunt Hannah (wife of Russell's Uncle Bruce) and her friend Emma (Cathy and I called her Aunt Emma), traveled from Montana to visit our family for several days. Russell kept a Bible on the end table of the sofa near his chair in the living room, and after dinner in the evenings, Russell and Aunt Hannah read and discussed scripture readings for many hours. On the day that Aunt Hannah and Emma left for the next part of their trip, she gave me a big hug and handed me a page of hand-written scripture readings. She encouraged me to read and study them. I never saw Aunt Hannah again, but I suspect we were in her thoughts for many years."
Wayne Smith, March 2019.

The house was modified again in the 1960s when cedar siding stained as redwood was applied to the exterior. In the 1980s Russell built a sunroom on the south side of the house.

When Ruth's mother (Zelma [DeWitt] McKendry) passed away in 1958, her father (Harry McKendry) sold the family house on Chestnut Street in Kansas City and began living with his two daughters, Ruth and Zelma Lee. Zelma Lee was known as "Sis" to Ruth and "Aunt Sis" to Wayne and Cathy. Harry rotated between his daughter's homes spending two-week periods with each daughter and their families. For Wayne and Cathy, Harry would be the only grandparent they would spend any significant time with. Harry passed away in July 1966.



1121 SW Hook Road
South Side of House and Backyard (c. 1977)

Ruth and her sister Zelma Lee (McKendry) Cook were very close. Zelma Lee married Scott (Scotty) Cook in 1936, and they had three children (Thomas, Patricia and Jay). Tommy died in 1951 at age 13 from complications from polio. For a good part of their married life, the Cook family lived on a farm east of Lake Lotawana and south of Grain Valley, Missouri. As their children grew older, Aunt Sis and Scotty moved to a home in Lee's Summit.



Zelma Lee (Sis), Jay, Patricia (Pat) and Scott Cook (Standing in Front of the Maddy Home) (c. 1955)

Ruth and Zelma Lee were very close to their Aunt Virginia (DeWitt) Maddy, the youngest sister of their mother Zelma (DeWitt) McKendry. The Maddy family (Lee, Virginia and daughter Judy) lived at 1911 Drumm in Independence, Missouri. Virginia was known as "Aunt Ginny" to her nieces and nephews.



Lee, Judy and Virginia (DeWitt) Maddy (c. 1955)

Tragedy fell upon the Maddy family when Judy and her husband, Marvin Munsell, were killed in a car accident on their return to Wichita after visiting Lee and Virginia in the summer of 1967. Marvin was an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Wichita State University. Judy met Marvin during her college years and also worked at the University.

The three families (Smith, Cook and Maddy) had frequent family gatherings and rotated celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas at each other's homes. When Lee passed away in August 1977, Aunt Ginny sold her house and lived with her two nieces' family (Ruth and Zelma Lee) until she moved to an apartment at John Knox Village in Lee's Summit. Aunt Ginny passed away in June 1982.



Montana Bumper Sticker (c. 1960s)



Christmas Family Photo (c. 1956) (Standing in Front of the Cook Family Farm Home in Sibley, MO)
(Photo Taken by Harry McKendry)

General Services Administration: Russell continuing working at Greenlease Motor Car Company until 1962 when he became an employee of the federal government working for the General Services Administration (GSA) at the Bannister Federal Complex located in south Kansas City, Missouri. The GSA provides support to other federal agencies through its network of distribution centers where a large inventory of supplies and materials used by other federal agencies is maintained and managed by the local GSA work force. The GSA also serves as a real estate agent for the federal government.



General Services Administration Logo
(Image Source: Wikipedia)

The opportunity to work at GSA as a federal employee provided Russell with a higher degree of job security, a steady paycheck with annual pay adjustments, and benefits such as a pension plan. Russell would continue to work at GSA until his retirement in 1979 (age 63). With credit for his service in World War II, Russell accrued over 20 years of work for the federal government.



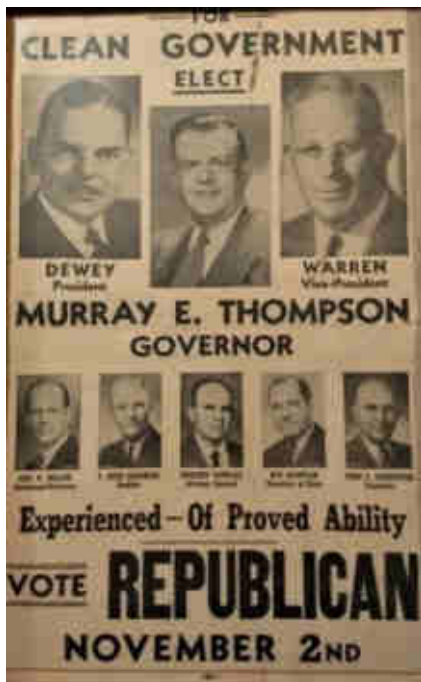
Russell's Federal Government Years of Service Pins

Politics: Ruth and Russell were lifelong subscribers to the Kansas City Times/Star and the Lee's Summit Journal. Russell enjoyed politics and reading about current events. It was rare for them not to vote in a local, state or national election.

Russell's writings included commentary on various presidents and the influence that money plays in winning elections. A sampling of his political opinions is provided below.

"I believe it's time to get rid of the office of the President. The rich have too much influence in who is elected President, then they control the country's agenda. What we need is a parliament type of government. Let the party that has a majority select a leader. If they can't get anything done, then kick them out when they come up for reelection and put the other party in power. It's time to do away with the President."

Russell also enjoyed collecting bumper stickers, yard signs, and campaign buttons of presidential candidates and others. One of his bumper stickers read: "We Eat Montana Beef, Not L.B.J. Baloney." Two of the posters he collected over the years are shown below.



1948 Missouri Campaign Poster for Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Murray E. Thompson and Republican Presidential Candidate Thomas E. Dewey (Dewey lost to Harry S. Truman)

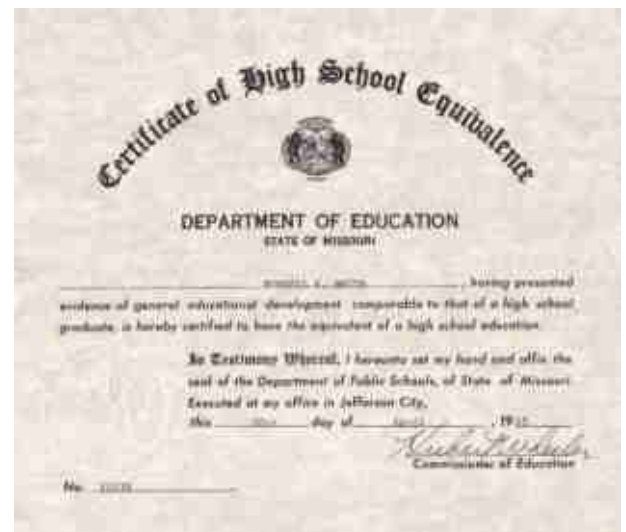


Campaign Poster for Ed Smith (Russell's First Cousin). (Ed served in the Montana State Senate and was the 1972 Republican Candidate for Governor)

“Get An Education.” One of the important lessons of life learned by Russell as a working adult was the value of an education. Russell’s most frequent advice spoken to his children was “get an education.”

Russell took his own advice in the mid-1960s and began studying for the General Education Development (GED) Tests. The tests, administered by the American Council on Education, address the proficiency of the test taker in science, mathematics, social studies, reading and writing. Upon passing the tests, the test taker is awarded a GED diploma.

Russell purchased study guides and sample tests in preparation for taking the GED Tests. Ruth, and to a lesser extent Wayne and Cathy, helped him with his preparation. It was a significant milestone when he took the tests in 1965. Russell’s efforts paid off and he was awarded his “Certificate of High School Equivalence” from the Department of Education, State of Missouri dated April 20, 1965. Russell was 48 years old.



Russell’s Certificate of High School Equivalence
April 20, 1965

Having a GED diploma provided new job opportunities with the federal government, including the GSA. Russell applied for and was promoted to be a warehouse supervisor. His new job came with additional responsibilities and a pay increase. The pay increase afforded the Smith family additional savings and discretionary money.

As a warehouse supervisor, Russell managed a staff estimated to be about 20 - 25 workers. The workers included men and women, young and old. Some workers were African Americans. Some workers had disabilities.

"I rarely went to Russell's workplace, but on one particular weekday his pickup truck was in the shop for maintenance, and I stopped by the federal complex to give him a ride home after attending classes at UMKC. When I arrived and entered the GSA warehouse, Russell had assembled his staff and was having a safety meeting. He briefly introduced me to the assembled workers when I arrived, then continued with the meeting. When the meeting ended, the staff dispersed to other parts of the warehouse to finish the day. As the workers dispersed, two young black men in their twenties approached me. 'We just wanted to stop and tell you that your old man is all right. He treats us fairly. We appreciate that.' That brief encounter has stayed with me ever since." Wayne Smith, March 2019.

Family Vacations: Russell (and family) enjoyed several weeks of accrued vacation each summer.

The family made a vacation trip in about 1960 to visit Russell's brothers and their families in Montana and Idaho. George and his family lived in Missoula, the capital of Montana. Richard (Dick) and his family had a poultry farm near Ronan, Montana. Russell's brother Marvin and his family lived in the small town of Pablo, Montana where Marvin worked in a sawmill. Herb and his family lived in Potlatch, Idaho where Herb worked in a sawmill. Highlights of this trip included visiting Flathead Lake and Glacier National Park with Dick and his family. On the return travel to Missouri, the family made an overnight stop at a campsite in Yellowstone National Park. Yellowstone seemed cold even in the summer.

Travel to Montana from Missouri involved about three days of travel by car. The family spent most overnights while traveling at camp sites along the way, pitching a tent and rolling out sleeping bags. Ruth cooked the evening meal using a portable cook stove and the family enjoyed an open campfire before going to bed.

In about 1963, the family traveled to Oregon in to visit Russell's sister Marjorie and her family, and brother Herb and his family (who had relocated to Oregon from Idaho). Highlights of this trip included visiting Crater Lake National Park.

Russell's sister Marjorie and her husband Gib and son Terry traveled to Missouri in about 1972 to visit Russell and Ruth. A highlight of this visit included Wayne and Terry attending a Kansas City Royals baseball game. Other family members traveled to Missouri to see Ruth and Russell in the 1980s including Russell's brother Herb and his first cousin Ed Smith (and wife Juliet).



Russell (L) and His Brother Herb (c. 1980s)

In about 1966, the Smith family traveled to California having upgraded their travel accommodations to include a camper trailer. This trip included visiting with Russell's cousins Art, Zeta, Sarah and their families. Highlights of this trip included traveling by car through the southwest

in route to California in July (without air conditioning in the car).



Russell (L) and His Cousin Ed (c. 1970s)

Other family vacations included fishing trips to Canada including Lake of the Woods near Kenora, Ontario and Sioux Lookout, Ontario. At Kenora, the family stayed at campgrounds near the lake where they swam in the lake and fished (having towed an aluminum fishing boat and motor). The McKendry and Cook families traditionally vacationed each summer at a resort near Kenora where they enjoyed a beach area and access to the lake for fishing.



The McKendry Family on Vacation in Canada
(L-R): Ruth, Zelma, Harry and Zelma (Sis)
(c. late 1930s or early 1940s)

In 1976, Russell and Ruth attended the Republican National Convention held in Kansas City, Missouri as guests of Russell's cousin Ed Smith, a convention delegate from Montana. Ed was active in Montana politics for over 20 years having served in the state legislature. He was a candidate for governor in 1972. Ed and his wife Juliet visited Russell and Ruth several times during Russell's retirement years.



Republican National Convention
Kansas City, Missouri (1976)

Retirement: Russell retired from the GSA in 1979. At that time, Cathy and her husband Paul were living near Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Wayne and his wife Peggy were living in Omaha, Nebraska.



Wayne, Cathy, Ruth and Russell (c. 1977)



Paul and Cathy (Smith) Modena and Parents
(c. 1979)



Wayne and Peggy (Hamera) Smith (c. 1981)

Shortly after his retirement, Russel received a letter from H. Shoenig, Acting Regional Commissioner, Federal Supply Service: *"I am pleased to have the opportunity to offer you best wishes on your recent retirement, and successful completion of seventeen years of government service..... Although I was not well acquainted with you, I remember receiving reports on the professional way you performed your duties. I know you were well liked by your fellow workers, and it is my pleasure to join them in wishing you well in the coming years."* Signed, H. Shoenig.

Russell and Ruth enjoyed their retirement years. Their hobbies included gardening, genealogy research, reading and travel. Their time spent

traveling increased when they bought a used camper for their pickup. They enjoyed trips to Wyoming, Montana, Oregon, California and the southwest.



Russell and Ruth on the road with pickup and camper near Casper, Wyoming where Cousin Ethel lived. (July 1982)



Russell and Ruth on Vacation Trip (April 1987)

Russell also enjoyed attending meetings at the Harry S. Truman Chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) where he was a member.

Both Russell and Ruth enjoyed researching their family genealogy and they were active members in the Jackson County Genealogical Society. Their efforts provided much of the information used in preparing this family history.

Grandchildren: Ruth and Russell became grandparents with the birth of Emily, daughter of Wayne and Peggy, in 1982. Their grandson Brian (Emily's brother) came along three years later in 1985. Family celebrations at Thanksgiving and Christmas took on new meanings.



Brian, Russell, Ruth, Emily and Peggy (c. 1987)



Ruth and Emily (c. 1987)

Transitions: Ruth passed away unexpectedly in October 1989 at age 67. Russell donated money in Ruth's honor to the Jackson County Genealogical Society. The Society used the money to purchase the Society's first desktop computer for use by its members.



Peggy, Emily, Brian, Wayne and Murphy (c. 1989)

Members of the Genealogical Society showed their appreciation to Ruth and Russell by compiling the Smith and McKendry family genealogical information and charts in a typed notebook. The preface to the notebook reads:

"In this work you will find the collection of documents, and all other papers acquired in the research by Ruth E. McKendry Smith. This she did for her family, that the past might live on."

"In loving memory of his wife, Russell Earl Smith, husband of Ruth, donated in her memory a computer to the Jackson County Genealogical Society. In a matter of saying 'Thank You' the society took the material and put it in this order that her works might be better understood."

"It is our hope that this charting will be of benefit to all who may in any way be related to Ruth or Russell. This being the manner of passing on the history of some of the great endeavors of those who passed before, making this the Great FREE nation it has become."

Russell continued living at the family home on Hook Road in Lee's Summit. His adjustment to life without Ruth took time. Russell kept busy maintaining the house and gardening. Over time he took a few solo trips to Montana and the northwest, traveling by pickup and camper.

Russell and an elderly neighbor, Bud Carter, had frequent weekly lunches. The Wendy's restaurant in Lee's Summit was their favorite lunch spot. As regulars, the Wendy's staff got to know them on a first name basis.

As time passed, Russell's health deteriorated from the effects of dementia. He passed away in July 2003 at age 86. He was laid to rest alongside Ruth at the East Floral Hills Cemetery in Lee's Summit.

The Smith family house and 10 acres on Hook Road was sold to a Christian Church based in Greenwood, Missouri. The house and barn were razed, and a new church building was constructed on the property in about 2005.

It's been over 15 years since Russell's passing. In preparing this family history, we've reflected on our father's life experiences as well as our own. There's little doubt that Russell faced a more challenging childhood and early adult life than we did. We benefitted from Russell and Ruth's efforts to provide us with a loving family and the many blessings of a middle-class life. While far from being a perfect human being, Russell's life experiences have made us more respectful and tolerant of others whose life experiences and outcomes are different than ours. For our many blessings, we are grateful for our parents.

Prepared By: Wayne D. Smith and
Cathy (Smith) Modena
May 2019

Notes and Comments:

General: We very much appreciate for our mother and father's efforts to preserve our family history and provide the basic building blocks of this document. Russell's family, including his brother George, sister Margorie, and cousin Ethel contributed in their own way by writing about their family history and sharing it with others.

Having a last name like Smith and multiple generations where "John Smith" was the head of the family household can make genealogy research difficult. We are thankful for our mother and father's efforts in pulling together our family history. We are thankful to the Jackson County Genealogical Society for compiling and organizing our family charts so that future generations may know our family history.

We've attempted to provide attribution for the various references and exhibits used in this document. As the purpose of this document is for family research, the citing of references and the use of exhibits in this document is intended to comply with the fair use standards of copyrighted materials.

A small number of exhibits in this document are from file materials gathered by Russell and Ruth. The source materials for several of these exhibits could not be identified.

The genealogy resources of Ancestry.com and MyHeritage.com provided useful census data and information in preparing the document.

The information presented in this document includes the names, important dates and photos of many of our family's ancestors. It's likely that some inadvertent errors have been made for which we regret.

Russell genealogy materials include photos taken at various periods of his life including CCC camp and Work War II. Most photos are not labeled and it's uncertain as to who should be acknowledged as the source of the photos.

The attachments included at the end of this document include:

Attachment 1 – additional photos including family members, scenes from farming activities, CCC camp, and World War II.

Attachment 2 – includes various reference materials, letters and historical information that may be of interest to others.

ATTACHMENT 1 ADDITIONAL PHOTOS



Asenath Amanda (Erwin) and John Edward Smith
with granddaughter (c. 1920s)



Bruce Smith Feeding Turkeys
at his Montana Farm (c. 1930s)



George Smith (middle) (c. 1930)



Threshing Crew near Palouse, Washington (c. 1935)



Tractor and Combine – Montana (c. 1930s)



Richard (Dick) Smith (right) (c. 1940)



Farm Scene – Bruce and Hannah Smith's Farm
(c. 1930s)



Smith Brothers (L-R) - Marvin(?), Harry(?),
Richard (Dick) and Russell (c. 1940s)



Herb Smith (right) – Palouse, Washington (c. 1935)



Bruce Smith and Granddaughter (c. 1930s)



John Edward Smith (right) (c. 1920s)



Russell's Cousin John, Sister Margorie Smith
and Cousin Ed Smith (c. 1940)



The Hartwell Sisters (c. 1944)
Top (L-R): Myrtle, Nell and Lela
Bottom (L-R): Florene and Flora (twins)



Russell and Two (Hartwell) Aunts
(c. 1944)



John Law Erwin (c. 1920)
Civil War Veteran – Company F, 98th Ohio Infantry



Smith Family Gathering in Montana (c. 1936)



Azila Asenath (Smith) Carlson (c. 1932)



Myrtle (Hartwell) Smith (c. late 1940s)



Russell and Herb Smith (c. 1942)



Ruth (McKendry) and Russell Smith (c. 1943)



Wayne Smith (c. 1953)



(L-R) Mary Smith, Margorie Cummings, Ruth Smith and Cathy Smith (c. 1960)



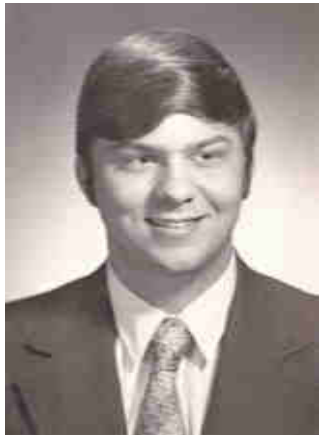
Myrtle Smith and Ruth (McKendry) Smith (c. 1951)



Herb Smith (c. late 1930s)



Marvin (Skip) Smith (c. 1965)
(Son of Marvin and Charlotte Smith)



Herb Smith Jr. (c. 1973)
(Son of Herb and Mary Smith)



Cathy and Wayne with Rascal (c. 1959)



Myrtle Smith and Margorie (Smith) Cummings
(c. 1952)



Linda, Cathy, Rick and Wayne Smith
Glacier National Park
(c. Summer 1960)



Doug Smith (c. 1965)
(Son of Ed and Juliet Smith)



Larry Smith (c. 1960s)
(Son of Bud and Bonnie Smith)



Rick Smith, Jr. (c. 1968)
(Son of Richard and May Smith)



Terry Cummings (c. 1974)
(Son of Gib and Margorie (Smith) Cummings)



Claudia Cummings (center)
with daughter and husband (c. 1970s)
(Daughter of Gib and Margorie Cummings)



Ed and Juliet Smith (c. 1980s)



Russell, Aunt Hannah, and Ruth (c. 1970s)



Russell (c. 1980s)



Cathy, Paul, Russell and Ruth (c. 1983)



Brian and Russell (c. 1990)



Russell, Cathy, Ruth and Wayne (c. 1985)



Wayne, Brian, Emily and Peggy (c. Easter 1991)



**ADDITIONAL PHOTOS FROM
RUSSELL'S CCC MEMORY
BOOK**



**ADDITIONAL PHOTOS
FROM RUSSELL'S
WORLD WAR II PHOTOS**



Aerial Scene



Releasing Bombs Over Target



Bombing Mission



Damaged Aircraft



Aerial Scene



Bombing Mission



Rome Colosseum (c. 1944)



Russell Smith (c. 1944)



Italian Street Scene



Saint Peters Cathedral – Rome Italy (c. 1944)





451st Bomb Group



Italian Street Scene (c. 1944)



Italian Post Card (c. 1940s)



Italian Street Scene (c. 1944)



Jake (?) and Russell Smith (c. 1944)



(L-R): Jake (?), Russell Smith, Joe Martin
and J. Fessler (c. 1944)



Mess Hall (c. 1944)



Rome Colosseum (c. 1944)



Italian Post Card (c. 1940s)



Mess Hall (c. 1944)



Soldiers of the 451st Bomb Group
(Russell is in lower row, second from left)



Russell Smith (c. 1944)



Russell Smith (c. 1943)



Russ and Ruth (c. 1943)



Ruth McKendry (c. 1942)

ATTACHMENT 2

FAMILY HISTORY BY ETHEL MARIE BELL THIEL

History: of JOHN EDWARD SMITH and His Family

My father William Carson Bell was born August 29th 1870 in Oak Forest, Pennsylvania and came to the Sandhills of Nebraska in 1897. Filed on a homestead and sold it in 1901, for \$1600.00 and went to Missouri where he married my mother Harriette Mary Smith on June 10th 1901. Then came to Nebraska shortly after their marriage and worked on the 101 Ranch, where I was born Jan. 9th 1903, there were no doctors any closer than Valentine, Nebraska. I was delivered by a mid-wife a Mrs. Bubcock who lived at Pullman, Nebr. (the Post-Office near the ranch) she lived in a sod house just up the Valley.

The spring after I was born my Mother was tired of cooking for all the ranch hands and wrote to her Father John Smith back in Missouri and told him that she wanted to go to Montana and find a homestead as she saw an add in a magazine where land was going to be opened up for homesteading and wanted to know if he would come and go with them. He thought it was a good idea, for his boy's to obtain land, as there wasn't anything in Missouri except small acreage's.

Grandfather came to Nebraska, shortly after that and my father got busy and they prepared a covered wagon for the trip they left Nebraska in May and arrived in the flats 12 miles East of Flandrum and squatted on land, June 22. They lived in a tent until they got our sod house built they also built a sod house for Grandfather in 1904. Grandfather went back to Missouri and brought Grandmother, Aunt Clara, Aunt Alberta, Uncle Bruce and Uncle Edgar, back with him.

They bought 1,650 sheep from Peter Morrow, on the Morrow ranch near where Plentywood now stands.

Grandfather had two sheep herders, Harry Curtis and Harry Richwine and bought 2 trained sheep dogs. Ring and Puddin were their names. Everyone helped with the sheep, and Grandmother did most of the cooking. I can remember her baking bread almost every day, she spanked it and I ask her why and she said that made it good, and spanking makes little girls good too! I must have been good with our spanking as I seldom got spanked.

In 1907 there was around 7,000 sheep on the ranch, the winter was cold and snow was waist deep. Then there was a blizzard that lasted almost 3 days, the snow drifted over the shed tops and over 3,000 sheep smothered, but they kept on with the sheep. Until they decided to go into the cattle and horse business. Uncle Bruce and Grandpa had over a hundred head of horses at one time. When I got old enough I used to help them wrangle the horses there was open range so they let the horses run over in the Sand Hills south of the ranch. I often wondered how they survived the cold winters and on the Prairie. Pawing deep snow in winter with no water and just Prairie Grass.

When people started Farming they sold quite a few.

In 1907 Uncle Robert and his family moved out from Missouri they had 3

children Azile 9 months old then we and George one year younger and Alice was the baby. Uncle Robert brought 3 spans of mules from Missouri.

In 1908 Uncle Robert, Uncle Bruce and Aunt Clara filed on homesteads close to each other. They all built houses. Uncle Robert and Clara each built a frame house Uncle Bruce built a log house. Uncle Edgar homesteaded over Northwest of Dagmar and built a nice house and barn. Uncle Robert helped Aunt Clara build her house. Uncle Edgar built Grandpa's frame house in 1906. I was only 3 years old then. I remember up - setting Uncle Edgar's keg of nails as they bought nails in kegs in those day's.

There were no other Children around until Uncle Robert came we had a good time playing hide and seek. Uncle Robert would play turkey in the straw and howing taters on his Violin and we would dance, play drop the handkerchief and Ring around the roses'.

Then tragedy struck in 1909. Alice drown in a test hole that Uncle Robert had drilled hoping to have a well near the house, as it was quite a distance to the creek, and water had to be carried in pails for washing dishes and clothes.

There was a well but it was up by the barn where they got their drinking water.

Alice was laid to rest on the homestead as there was no cemetery then close-by in 1917. When the Volmer Church was built, then they had a cemetery across the road from the church. Alice as well as two baby brothers were moved up to the cemetery there are five of Uncle Roberts Children buried in the Volmer Cemetery. Uncle Robert was laid to rest there in 1929.

In 1916 Grandfather sold all his livestock and moved to Vancouver, Washington. Aunt Clara also sold her homestead, Aunt Alberta went too! Grandpa came back in 1917, he sold 80 acres to my mother and the rest to Peter Miller of Dagmar, in 1918 Grandma came back for awhile and was in Montana when Uncle Edgar was killed in the coal mine. Grandpa was going to loose his 80 acres up on the hill so my mother took that over. Aunt Clara sold her homestead just before moving to the West Coast, the buyer couldn't pay for it and Aunt Clara wanted her money out of it so my Mother took over the mortgage and foreclosed on it, and she later deeded it to me. That's how I happened to have Aunt Clara's 320 acre homestead. Uncle Bruce lost his homestead to the Bank and lived in Grandpa's house, while he was at the West Coast. Uncle Bruce built 2 bedrooms on to Aunt Clara's house and lived there for a while before moving to the Grellang place down in the flat east of Leo Williamsen's, they later moved to the school section where Ed - now lives Sarah and Lawrence lived up on the hill south of Ed's before moving to Calif. - I understand Sarah bought some of that land for 80 cents per acre - she still has the land and it will be worth a lot of money some day especially if they happen to get an oil well on it.

All of Aunt Clara's homestead 320 has been leased - some of it for \$160.00 per acre and some for \$75.00 per acre.

There are two oil wells - pumping near the homestead, that the Smith brothers filed on in 1908.

Grandfather bought all his groceries from Tanner & Best when he was on the ranch. He would take a team and wagon and be gone 3 days, he would go as far as The Cartwright farm east of Fraid and go into Culbertson the next day - load up and come back as far as Cartwrights and come home the next day, it was 30 miles from the ranch to Culbertson.

He bought 200 lbs of sugar 800 lbs of flour several cases of corn, peas and tomatoes, 25 lb boxes of dried fruit such as dried apples, prunes, raisins and

apricots. 10 lbs of coffee, crackers came in big wooden boxes, bologna in kegs, jam in large cans. They raised their live meat, and he had a smoke house, at butchering time he would butcher 5 or 6 hogs smoke the hams and bacon and grandmother and Aunt Alberta would fry sausage and render lard all day. They packed the sausage in cracks and run lard over it, tied in clean sugar sack and paper over the crack and that was kept down cellar. When you wanted sausage you had to dig it out of the lard and warm it up and was it ever good.

There was lots of work attached to everything those days.

My mother went along with grandfather in the spring of 1910 - to get some supplies and buy me a pair of shoes, they stopped at Cartwright's and that's how she met Al Cartwright. He had a nice buggy and a horse named Sailor after that he came to our house often to see - Grandfather - he said at first then, it was mother he came to see, in 1911, he hauled the lumber for our frame house - and he helped Joe Brien build it. We moved into it that All and I got to sleep upstairs.

They built the bridge over Lake Creek, that fall and mother boarded the bridge crew.

The Franklin school was built that same year (1911) and I started school, I had to walk the 3 and 1/2 miles up past Uncle Bruce's homestead. Uncle Bruce and Johanna Grellong were married in 1911. They drove to Glasgow with a team and buggy. Aunt Hannah's sister Laura stayed with them and went to school also, she had a saddle horse and I rode up behind her some of the time. We would get into an argument and she would push me off of the horse and I'd have to walk the rest of the way.

In 1914 my mother married Alphonse J. Cartwright and he died in October 1914, at Bistry, N.Dak. while he was down there looking after his farming interest. My brother Alva was born Mar 7, 1915, and we moved our house up on the hill in 1916. Uncle Robert, Fielding and Jordan Bush, built our barn which is still standing. Mother brought all of Alphonse's horses up from Nilak, and I broke all of them to ride and I could ride across the Prairie as fast as a horse could run.

In 1918 there was a "Flu" epidemic and many people died, there was eleven of us in bed, at Nels Ladahl's his wife was a nurse and she took care of all of us. They were living on Uncle Bruce's homestead at the time Uncle Bruce and his family were living in Grandpa's house. Zeta was a baby and she had colic and cried all the way home from Medicine Lake the day Uncle Edgar was buried. It rained all day and all night that was a long way home in the mud, with a team and wagon.

That same fall in October 1918, mother decided to rent the Ranch to Nels Ladahl as the bank had Uncle Bruce's land, and he had to move. We moved our horses, cows, and machinery across country 30 miles to Dooley Mt. where we got an immigrant car, we had a hired man and he rode with the stock and took care of them and mother, I and Alva rode on the Passenger Train. We stayed in Immigration halls in North Pactai, N.Dak., Edmonton, and Spirit River until the stock arrived. We got to our destination the 1st day of Jan 1919, lived 1 mile west of Spirit River until spring, when mother bought the Dr. Shun Farm at Prestville. Which consisted of 150 acres, she moved back to Montana in 1922, to send Alva to school, and deeded the land to me. Which I sold in 1941.

Clara Belle Smith married Theodora Paulsen at Roseberg, Oregon. and they lived at Leeking Glass, Oregon. They had one daughter Theodora Belle Paulsen, born December the 11th 1924. She married Thomas. and Susan Ann Thomas born Jan 29th 1956. Theodora Thomas lives at Lincoln, Calif. and works in Sacramento,

Calif as bookkeeper for the Golden T-Inn's all are Calif. he daughter Susan works in Sacramento Calif.

also--

Alberta Ann Smith married Walter Mann at Alturas Calif. they lived at Springdale, Washington and ran a dairy in 1930 - Grandpa and Grandma lived with them at that time and that was the last time I saw my Grandfather and Grandmother. They later moved to Eugene, Oregon where Walter Mann died in 1944.

Theodoro Paulsen died when Theodora was about 3 years old. Aunt Clara married John Hoffman, when Teddy was about 5 years old, and they lived in Eugene, Oregon until John Hoffman died Aunt Clara lived with Teddy in Portland Oregon until she passed away in 1966.

In 1954 mother and I purchased 80 acres 6 miles West of Casper, W. lived there 3 years then in 1957 I bought my home here in Casper and have lived here ever since.

I love Wyoming and will spend the rest of my sun set years here. In Wonderful Wyoming.

This history written by Ethel Marie Bell Thiel

November (1985) Daughter of #52 Harriette Mary Smith Bell Cartwright.

Death: Per info send by Ethel Marie Bell Thiel (dau of Hattie)

John Edward Smith passed away. Febraury 3rd 1933, at Roseberg, Oregon
laid to rest at Coberg, Oregon.

Asenath Amanda Erwin Smith passed away July 11th 1939 entered into rest
at San Miguel, Calif.

Marriage: John Edward Smith born June 18 1849

Married Nov 27, 1873 at the home of John Erwin in Callaway Co., MO.

Anneath Amanda Erwin born July 24, 1855 Ohio

Death: source SM1052 - from Ethel Marie Bell Thiel - states that John Edward Smith passed away, February 3 1933 - at Roseberg, Oregon - laid to rest, at Coberg, Oregon.

FAMILY HISTORY BY GEORGE SMITH

GEORGE R. SMITH

Story as he wrote it.

George R. Smith's story as he wrote it. He quit writing 1985 due to illness and eye sight got pretty bad.

I am copying this from what he wrote and I hope you can read it. I will try to pick up where he left off.

I was born in Fulton, Mo. Aug. 4, 1904 the same place my father was born on his fathers (My Grandfathers) farm.

My father worked in a coal mine at Bevier, Mo. My Sister Azila was born 1902 at Bevier, Mo.

My Grandfather Smith moved to Montana in 1904. On his way to Montana he went by way of Nebraska to see his daughter, Hattie Bell, and family, then went on to Montana to settle.

One of a few memories I have of Missouri is of a woman named Lane who took my sister Azila and me fishing. She was a good person and we liked her very much. She chewed tobacco and spit, that's probably why I remember her. We had a dog, we fed him persimmon's, he liked them, if we gave him green ones he had a fit. When we moved to Montana we had to give him to some neighbor's they sure liked him.

Dad went to Montana to file on a homestead in 1908. 320 acres and it was his if he improved it within 3 years. Dad came back to Missouri and prepared to move to Montana. We had three horses, Kate, Queen and Molly and a mule named Jack, a walking plow, disc, household furniture and hay for the stock. I especially remember the blackberry bush we took along. Dad went on to Montana and Mother, my sister Azila, Alice and I went to visit Grandma and Grandpa Hartwell before joining him in Montana.

We arrived in Montana in August 1908, we left the train in Culbertson, Mt. where we spent the night and left for my Grandpa's ranch. It took all day to get there. Grandpa had a sheep ranch. They lived in a sod house and Grandpa had several thousand sheep. Several men worked for grandpa. He had two sheep dogs Ring and Pud.

We moved to our homestead, it was a small house, one bed, five of us slept in it. We had a modern house, when it rained we had running water. Later Dad built a bigger house it had 2 rooms. Dad built a big barn, it held 10 horses and six cows.

1909 was a bad year, we lost our sister Alice, she drowned. A brother Walter died when he was born.

We went to Grandpa's where he was herding sheep. He lived in a wagon when he was herding sheep. Grandma Smith and ma cooked a good dinner, it was canned stuff, corn, beans, fried potatoes, ham, biscuits and coffee. We ate off the tail gate of the wagon.

The Indians were camped on Lake Creek hunting ducks. They came by Grandpa's to talk him out of some sheep, they were tired of eating duck.

Riders would come by Grandpa's and stay two or three days. One day while eating supper Grandma said they were getting short on meat. The next day their was a hind quarter of beef and no one around to ask where it came from. We had beef steak for supper.

Dad built a barn for Aunt Clara on her homestead. Uncle _____ built a log house on his homestead. He hauled the logs from the river, while hauling logs

he shot a deer and gave us some meat. It had a sweet taste, Ma didn't like it.

Our first crop was trashed by a steam outfit. Our first crop was 2 stacks of oats, 4 of wheat and 1 stack of flax. One stack caught on fire but was put out with water from the engine.

Brother Herbert was born, we kids were pretty happy. He was a big baby.

Settlers started moving in to homestead. They started building a school house.

We went to a wedding of a neighbor girl. I'll never forget, an old gander bit my ass and held on me. They had a new barn and we had dinner for all the people in the barn. After they got done eating they passed the cigars and the preacher took one and smoked it. I thought he was a funny preacher that would smoke.

The school house was built, there was a christian preacher, he helped build the school and was the first teacher. He was a good teacher and at the end of every month he would give us candy. A big boy started to steal and that was the end of the candy. The school was used as a church also.

A Brethern Church was built and had a new preacher. He did alot of baptizing. He baptized Grandma and Grandpa, Clara and Aunt Alberta, Uncle Bruce Smith and Johanna(Greylog sp.?) were married in 1913. They drove to Cubertsons about 40 miles to catch the train to Glasgow. When they came back they had a wedding party and dance. Also had a wedding party and dance. Also had a keg of beer.

1914---

I was 10 years old when I got a job herding cows for Uncle Bruce for 5 dollars a month. I had three dogs. Aunt Alberta herded cows for Grandpa, she had a horse, I walked. Uncle Ed came by in a car he turned it over in the creek. Uncle took a team of horses to pull it out and let it set a couple of weeks to dry.

1915--- We had to haul straw about 7 miles it was \$10 for a load.

1916--- Brother Russell came around.

That year Grandpa moved to Washington, sold everything. Uncle Bruce lived on his ranch. Dad rented Clara's place and farm. We had a sow and eight pigs.

1917---

We got a new car, it was an Overland. We had a fellow working for us his name was Bill Gray. We had another fellow working for us his name was Charles Mathew, he had his fingers froze off. He broke a horse to ride but he bucked everytime he tried to ride him.

1918---

This was a bad year. Uncle Ed got killed in a coal mine. Another fellow was with him and the mine caved in on them. Aunt Hattie moved to Canada and homesteaded. Ethel got married in Canada to a fellow named Anderson. Aunt Grace's mother and her brother Fred Reynolds came to help. They had a auction sale sold horses, farm machinery, house and furniture.

1919---

Another bad year, our house burnt. It was right before Christmas.

Brother Dick came along.

Only had \$250 on the house insurance that did not go very far. The neighbors gave us beds and blankets and we got the Ervin dresser that Grandpa left at the ranch house. I sure came in handy. We were living in a grainery/garage. They also brought up a cook stove and heater.

1920---

This was an uneventful year. The fish ran up cottonwood creek when water

was high, we could catch them by the sackful, they were suckers. People would come from Dagmar to catch them.

1921---

Sister Marjorie came along.

That year we formed the Cartwright place down by Froid. Dad went down there and stayed and put the crop in. I hauled the grain to Froid.

Dad fixed a separator for Hanke's, he worked on Sunday. I hauled bundles of grain. Gzils helped with the cooking and Dad ran the separator. That's how we paid for the thrashing bill. Dad got \$10 a day, I got \$8 for hauling bundles and Azila got \$2.

1923---

I went to Brush Lake with Oscar Foss and Alvin on the fourth of July and caught the measles. The whole family caught them. Mom was pregnant and lost a baby.

1924---

Azila got married to Olaf Carlson at Plentywood, I was best man. A girl with pretty red hair was bridesmaid her name was Ethel Holoquist.

by George Smith

All the above events are copied from the writing's of George, so from there on to 1934 is pretty much a blank and I will try to give you some sense of happenings after August 1934 when I met George where I was working at the Coffee Cup Cafe in Wolf Point.

He and the blacksmith always ate lunch there. At that time he was working at the Flour Mill for Andy Hanson. George was always white with flour and the blacksmith was always black.

Our first date was sitting on the stockyard fence watching a crew clean up after a bad train wreck. The Engineer was killed.

We were married Oct 27, 1934. Soon after that the flour mill was closed and he then worked for the city. We moved to Palouse, Washington when Georgia and Carol were small but soon went to work for the Occident Grain Elev. Co. and later was transferred to the Macon Elevator seven miles east of Wolf Point. Robert, Evritt and Roger were all born during that time. We went back to Palouse, Washington in 1945. Roger was 2 years old. Patty was born at Colfax 1946. We left Palouse when she was only a few months old and lived at Hamilton, Montana. George worked at the Flour and Feed Mill there until he got a better job at a grain elevator at Missoula, Montana in 1951. When the grain dust got to him he quit and was Ground's Manager at Sunset Memorial Garden's west of Missoula. His last job before he retired was Maintenance Man at the Missoula County Airport from 1961 till 1972 when he retired.

(this was typed from a photo copy of handwritten story - the name is at bottom of page which was cut off) Joyclyn Olds

OBITUARY -- OF GEORGE R. SMITH

George R. Smith, 81, of Missoula, died of natural causes Friday in a local nursing home.

He was born Aug. 4, 1904, in Fulton, Mo., to Robert and Myrtle Smith. When he was 4 years old, his family moved to Medicine Lake, where he was raised and attended school.

He moved to Wolf Point in 1934 and married Verna Winship there on Oct. 27, 1934. He worked at a grain elevator there. They moved to the Bitterroot Valley in 1947, where he was in the grain and feed business. He was transferred to Missoula in 1951 with Misco Mills. He later was employed as a maintenance

man at the Missoula County Airport for about 10 years before retiring in 1972.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing and gardening.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Lori Ann, in 1958.

He is survived by his wife, Verna, of Missoula; three sons: Robert, Evritt and Roger Smith, all of Missoula; four daughters: Carol Brodie, Georgia Honey and Kay Dunlavy, all of Missoula; and Patricia Smith, Boulder; two brothers, Russell Smith, Kansas City, Mo and Harry Smith, Superior; 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be Monday at 2 p.m. at Squire Simmons & Carr Funeral Home. Pastor Robert Koester of Mount Zion Lutheran Church will officiate.. Cremation has preceded the services.

FAMILY HISTORY BY MARGORIE (SMITH) CUMMINGS

FAMILY HISTORY (SMITH)

I know very little about the Smiths beyond my grandfather. His mother's name was Lydia. I don't know what his father's name was. He had one brother, but I don't know his name.

Grandfather was John Edward Smith. He was born June 18, 1849 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He was Pennsylvania Dutch and a Quaker.

I know Quite a lot about grandmother Smith's family. Her father was Robert Erwin. He was Married three times. Grandmother's mother was his second wife her name was Louisa Vickers. They were Married August 21, 1845. Grandmother was born Asenath Amanda Erwin, July 24, 1855. She was born in Cadiz, Ohio. She was Scotch, Irish and English. There were ten children in the Erwin family, but only four lived to be grown.

Great grandfather was well-to-do. One of grandmother's brothers was a doctor the other a lawyer. He bought grandmother a farm in Missouri and fixed the house nice for her. Louisa V. Erwin died May 9, 1863. Robert Erwin died Sept. 6, 1886. John E. Smith died Feb. 3, 1933. He is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery here in Eugene. ~~-Asenath-~~ Asenath Amanda Erwin Smith died July 11, 1939. She is buried in San Miguel, California.

May 28, 1962
Eugene, Oregon

Now about Mom's family. Her father was Richard Hartwell. He was born in Indiana. He was English. He came from a large family. His father and older brothers fought in the civil war. His mother tried to care for them but couldn't so he was sent to live with a German family. He was ten years old. The Germans were so mean to him, he ran away three times to an older sister. The third time she hid him under a featherbed and he almost smothered while they were searching the house for him. They never came for him again. I don't know anything about the rest of his family.

Grandmother Hartwell was born Sarah Jane Harm. She was Irish. She was born in Indiana. Her mother lived in Missouri when Mom was a girl. Mom talked about staying with her. Mom said the thing she remembered most about her Grandmother's house was the kitchen and the wonderful smell of all the spices in it. She said she was a little woman with a twinkle in her eye and very jolly.

Mom was Myrtle Cora Hartwell, born July 9, 1884 in Macon, Missouri. She was one of ten children. The oldest and the youngest were twins. One of the youngest twins is the only one living. She lives in Clarence, Mo.

Mom died May 31, 1952. Dad died Sept. 20, 1929. Dad was Robert Erwin Smith born July 4, 1875 in New Bloomfield, Missouri. Dad and Mom were married May 19, 1901.

Your mother was born May 29, 1902. She was named Azila Asenath Smith.

George Robert Smith born Aug. 4, 1904

Herbert Wesley Smith born Feb 24, 1912

Marvin Otis Smith born Aug. 17, 1914

Russell Earl Smith born Aug 23, 1916

Richard Rolly Smith born April 13, 1919

?
Marjorie Marjorie Doris Smith born Oct. 5, 1921 -

Harry Erwin Smith born Sept. 2, 1925

14

we used Buffalo Chips for fuel. They would call them Cow Chips. Cow pies or organic pies. we would ~~go~~ gather them up in the summer if it looked like it may rain. we would put the chips in the barn so they wouldn't get wet.

we had a creek ~~run~~ run thru the homestead. It was called Cottonwood Creek and Times Smith Creek. for all the Smiths homestead was on the creek. Now its called Lake Creek.

when we would go to school we had to cross the creek. when the water high and the creek was flooded we would stay over night at Uncle Bruce. we would get along okay but sometimes there would be a hassle. Aunt Johanna Uncle Bruce wife would have to interper. She was fair and would not favor her kids. She was a good Aunt and a great lady. Fair and honest.

we use to catch suckers and carp out of the creek. It didn't happen very often. Set up a trap and go up the creek and hit the water with a pole to catch drive the fish into the trap.

Supplemental application

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

10

The National Society

OF THE

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

State, *Pennsylvania*

City, *Washington*

Name of Chapter, *Washington County*

Chapter Number, _____

National Number, *37063*

(Mr. or Mrs.) *Mary Louise Ewin Horn* No. *37063 D. A. R.*

Wife of *Elium B. Horn*

Address *Washington, Pennsylvania*

DESCENDANT OF

Robert Ewin or Ewin

Application examined and approved _____ 190

Minnie Ruth Borchers
Chapter Regent.

Chapter Secretary.

Mary Louise Ewin Horn
Chapter Registrar.

Examined and approved *MO 28*

1903

Ruth M. Griswold Raler
Registrar General.

Original application
Accepted by the National Board of Management

October 3

1901

Effie B. McQuaid Holcomb
Recording Secretary General.

Application and duplicate received by Registrar General *March 28* 1903

Fees paid to Treasurer General _____ 190

When the applicant derives eligibility of membership by descent from more than one ancestor, and desires to take advantage thereof, separate applications to be marked "Supplemental application," and numbered after the original.

JUN 4 1903

JUN 7 1903

Do not enclose on this page is, which is needed for filing.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

To be filled out and after being properly endorsed by the local chapter, forwarded to the Registrar General of the National Society, 902 F Street, Washington, D. C.

When approved by the National Officers, one copy will be returned to the Registrar of the Chapter, and the other will be filed with the National Society.

TO THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

I Mary Louise Erwin Horn being of the age of eighteen years and upwards, hereby apply for membership in this Society by right of lineal descent in the following line from

Robert Erwin or Erwin
who was born in England on the _____ day of _____, 17____
and died in Pennsylvania on the _____ day of _____, 1808
and who served in the War of the Revolution.

I was born in the Town of Athens County of Athens
State of Ohio

I am the daughter of Dr. Robert Wesley Erwin (1842- and
Julia Eliza Carpenter (March 20, 1847 - Jan 10, 1902) his wife;
the said Dr. Robert Wesley Erwin was the son of
Robert Erwin (1812- and Rebecca Law his wife;
the said Robert Erwin was the son of
Robert Erwin D-1854 and Jane Trayer (1779- his wife;
the said Robert Erwin was the son of
Andrew Erwin and Sarah McCallagh his wife;
the said Andrew Erwin was the son of
Robert Erwin and Margaret? his wife;
the said _____ was the _____ of
_____ and _____ his wife;
and he, the said Robert Erwin or Erwin is the ancestor who assisted in
establishing American Independence, while acting in the capacity of private in the
Fifth Battalion of Cumberland County Militia

Submitted and recommended by the undersigned, a member of
the Society.

Minnie Ruth Roberts

Signature of applicant.

Mary Louise Erwin Horn
Residing D. C. R. No 37043
Washington
Pennsylvania

Do not enclose on this margin, which is needed for binding

Any woman may be eligible for membership who is of the age of eighteen years, and who is descended from a man or woman who, with unflinching loyalty, rendered material aid to the cause of Independence; from a recognized patriot, a soldier or sailor or a civil officer in one of the several Colonies or States, or of the United Colonies or States; *Provided that the applicant be acceptable to the Society.*

Give below a reference, by volume and page, to the documentary or other authority upon which you found your record. Where reference is made to unpublished or inaccessible records, the applicant must file duplicate certified copies of same. Statements based upon tradition cannot be considered.

ANCESTOR'S SERVICE

My ancestor's services in assisting in the establishment of American Independence during the War of the Revolution were as follows:

Robert Crum was a private in Captain William Kene's Company of the Cumberland County Militia. His name appears on a class roll of Captain William Kene's Company, Fifth Battalion of Cumberland County Militia 1781-1782. See Third Series Pennsylvania Archives, Volume XXIII (23) Page 794. Fifth class. It also appears on pages 644-645 when he served under Captain Charles Mc Clay, April 18, 1778. First Battalion, Third Series Pennsylvania Archives. He was a resident of Schuman Valley, Tysons Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Schuman Valley became a part of Perry county in 1820.

(Signature of Applicant) Mary Louise Crum Horn

Do not enclose on this receipt, which is needed for filing.

The following is a memorandum of the authority for the foregoing statement:

Pennsylvania Archives, Third Series
Volume 77 (111) (23), Page 794 V

NATIONAL RECORDS CHAPTER NO. 27
THE NATIONAL SOCIETY
OF THE
Daughters of the
American Revolution,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

State Pennsylvania
City Washington
Name of Chapter Washington Sons
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
(This should always come last and be filed by applicant)

A JUDICIAL OFFICER
Robert E. Brown

Application filed _____
Approved by Registrar _____
Elected and papers signed _____
Sent to Registrar General _____
Accepted by the National Board of Managers _____
most _____
Certificate of membership issued by Registrar _____
General _____
Notified _____
Registered _____
Decreed _____

The following form of acknowledgment is recommended:

Deposant further says that the said Robert E. Brown (name of ancestor from whom eligibility is derived), is the ancestor mentioned in the foregoing application, and that the statements hereinbefore set forth are true to the best of her knowledge and belief.

Subscribed and sworn to before me at _____ (Signature of deposant)
Washington, Pennsylvania May Louise Brown Horn
this 18th day of February, A. D. 1903
Clara E. Brown Washington
Notary Public Pennsylvania
Commission expires Jan. 25, 1907.



The official before whom this application is made must affix this seal to the application.

ROBERT & MYRTLE SMITH'S MONTANA HOMESTEAD PAPERS

023

4-1906

011405
595358

Department of the Interior

United States Land Office Glasgow, Montana,

Serial No. 011405

Receipt No. 954562

Certificate.

Homestead.

Patent to contain reservation according
to proviso to the act of Aug. 30, 1912.
November 27, 1912., 19
(Date)

It is hereby certified that, pursuant to the provisions of Section 2291, Revised Statutes of the United States,
Robert E. Smith,

Daguer, Montana,

has made payment in full for Homestead entry 011405

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 20; NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 21,
Township 32 N., Range 55 E., Montana, Meridian,
containing 320 acres.

Now, therefore, be it known that, on presentation of this Certificate to the COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE, the said Robert E. Smith,

shall be entitled to receive a Patent for the lot above described.

Chas. H. Smith Register.

NOTE.—A duplicate of this Certificate is issued to the claimant as notice of the acceptance of the proof and payment, and of the allowance of the entry by the Register and Receiver.

The original is forwarded to the General Land Office, with the entry papers, for approval by the Commissioner of the General Land Office and issuance of patent.

The duplicate copy forwarded to the claimant should be held until notice of issuance of patent is received.

In all correspondence concerning the entry in connection with which this Certificate is issued, refer to the NAME OF THE LAND OFFICE and the SERIAL NUMBER noted hereon.

APPROVED: *Maher 22 1913*

By *O. N. B.* Division

Pat. 476/25/79 FEB 3 1913

JAN 21 1913

Pat No 323179
APRIL 2 1913

Mar. 6, 1913 Coal Reservation noted F. D. R. 10

2 323179
416-13
9
Notice to Land Office of Mortgagee Interest.

To the Register of the United States Land Office at Glasgow

You will please notice that I have acquired an interest as mortgagee in Homestead Entry Serial
No. 011405 upon the

Northwest Quarter

of Section 31 Township 33 North of Range 58 of the

principal Meridian, in the County of Valley, and State of Montana as set

forth in the following affidavit:

Please take notice of this interest of Record and notify me, at Lake City, Minnesota, of any official
action that may be taken.

STATE OF MINNESOTA,

County of Wabasha,

ss.

C. L. Dempster, being first duly sworn, says that he has acquired an interest as Mortgagee, in Homestead
entry, Serial No. 011405, upon the

Northwest Quarter

of Section 31 Township 33 North of Range 58 of the

principal Meridian, in County of Valley, State of Montana

that he is holder of a Mortgage upon said land, executed by

Robert E. Smith and Myrtle C. Smith, his wife,

to C. L. Dempster, and recorded in Book 20 of Mortgages, on Page 188 of

Records of said County, and given to secure an indebtedness of (\$ 800)

Eight Hundred DOLLARS

loaned to said entryman.

Subscribed to, and sworn before me this the

31st day of December, 1913

W. H. O'Brien

Notary Public for Minnesota
My Commission Expires May 27, 1916

HOMESTEAD ENTRY—TESTIMONY OF CLAIMANT

4-319

Form approved by Secretary of the Interior, November 22, 1908.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

HOMESTEAD ENTRY

U. S. Land Office Glasgow, Mont., No. 011405
FINAL PROOF Receipt No. 984562

TESTIMONY OF CLAIMANT

Question 1. What is your full name, age, and post-office address?

Answer Robert E. Smith, Age 37.

P.O. Dugmar, Mont.

Question 2. Are you a native-born citizen of the United States, and if so, in what State or Territory were you born? (If foreign born, see Note 1.)

Answer Yes Sir, I was born in Callaway Co., Missouri.

Question 3. Are you the same person who made Homestead Entry No. 011405 at the Glasgow Land Office on the 21st day of April 1910 for the

N E 1/4 Sec. 22 and the N W 1/4

Section 21 Township 32 N Range 55 E Montana

Meridian?

Answer Yes Sir.

Question 4. (a) Are you married or single?

Answer I am married.

(b) If married, of whom does your family consist?

Answer Wife and three children.

(c) If a married woman, state whether your husband now has an unperfected homestead entry, and during what time he has resided on this land with you?

Answer XX

Question 5. (a) When did you first establish actual residence upon this land?

Answer August 21 1908.

(b) When was your house built on this land?

Answer May 23rd 1908. Second house built Sept. 16th, 1908.

(c) Have either you or your family ever been absent from the homestead since establishing residence?

Answer No Sir.

(d) If there has been such absence give the dates covered by each absence; and as to each absence state whether you, your family, or both, were then absent and the reason for each such absence?

Answer XX

Question 4. Describe the land embraced in above entry by legal subdivisions, showing fully the character of same, and kind and amount of timber, if any.

Answer:

Subdivision	Acres Cultivable	Acres Timbered	Foot Timber
N E 1/4; Sec. 20, clay soil	all	none	
N W 1/4 Sec. 21, sandy loam	all	none	

Question 5. State by subdivisions the number of acres cultivated, kind of crop planted, and amount harvested, each year. How many acres of the claim are now cleared, or broken, and under cultivation? If used for grazing only, state number and kind of stock grazed each year and by whom owned.

Answer. I broke 21 acres in 1909; 30 in 1910; 50 in 1911; and

9 in 1922 and I have now under plow 118 acres.

In 1909 I had some wheat, oats and flax, threshed only the flax, 15 Bu.
In 1910 I had 348 Bu. grain from 52 acres.

In 1911 I had 570 Bu. of grain from 108 acres, I had some corn too.

In 1912 I had 1410 Bu. of grain from 118 acres besides some corn and millet.

Question 6. Describe fully and in detail the amount and kind of improvements on each subdivision. State total value of improvements on the claim.

Answer:

Subdivision	Character of Improvements
N E 1/4; Sec. 20;	40 acres under plow.
N W 1/4; Sec. 21; Frame house 21 by 22; two barns; granary; chicken-house, well; and 78 acres under plow. The farm is all fenced in.	
My improvements are worth about \$1300.00.	
I keep 8 horses, 6 head of cattle, 4 pigs.	

Question 8. Is your present claim within the limits of an incorporated town or selected site of a city or town, or used in any way for trade or business?

Answer. No Sir.

Question 10. Are there any indications of coal, oil, or minerals of any kind on the land? If so, describe what they are.

Answer. No Sir.

Question 11. Have you ever made any other homestead entry? If so, describe the same.

Answer. No Sir.

Question 12. Have you sold, conveyed, or agreed to sell or convey any portion of the land? If so, to whom and for what purpose?

Answer. No Sir.

Question 13. Have you optioned, mortgaged, or agreed to option or mortgage, or convey this land, or any part thereof? If so, when, to whom, and for what purpose and in what amount?

Answer. Yes Sir. I have agreed to secure a loan of \$700.00

with Security State Bank of Medicine Lake, Mont. for to make improvements on the land.

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Question 14. Have you any personal property of any kind elsewhere than on this claim? If so, describe the same, and state where the same is kept.

Answer. No Sir.

Question 15. Describe by legal subdivisions, or by number, kind of entry, and office where made, any other entry in Ring (and mineral) made by you since August 31, 1899.

Answer. I have never made any other entry of any kind.

Robert C. Smith
(Sign in blue, with full Christian name)

NOTE 1.—If applicant is alien born, he should state the fact and the evidence of citizenship in this form, either a certificate of his own naturalization in a court of competent jurisdiction, or, if claiming to be a citizen by virtue of his father's naturalization and his own minority and residence in the United States at the date thereof, or, if a married woman claiming citizenship by virtue of her husband's nativity or naturalization, then record evidence of the naturalization of the father, or husband, or an affidavit as to the nativity of the latter.

NOTE 2.—The officer before whom the proof is made will see that all answers are complete and responsive to the questions.

NOTE 3.—The officer before whom the deposition is taken should call the attention of the witness to section 5502 of the Revised Statutes (over), and state to him that it is the purpose of the Government, if it be ascertained that he testifies falsely, to prosecute him to the full extent of the law.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the deponent was examined separately and apart from the other witnesses in this case, that the foregoing deposition was read ~~over~~ by deponent in my presence before deponent affixed signature

thereto; that deponent is to me personally known ~~(as has been established before me by)~~

); that I verify

(Give full name and post-office address): believe deponent to be the identical person heretofore identified, and that said deposition was duly subscribed

and sworn to before me at my office, in Daguer, Valley Co. Montana.
(Town, county, and state)

within the Glasgow land district,

this 23rd day of November, 1912.

Emile F. Merden,

U. S. Commissioner.

(State designation of officer)

6

FINAL AFFIDAVIT REQUIRED OF CLAIMANT

I, Robert E. Smith, having made a homestead entry of
 the N E 1/4, Sec. 29; and N W 1/4; Section 31
 Township 32 N, Range 50 E Montana Meridian, subject to
 entry at Glasgow Land Office, under Section No. 2285 of the Revised
 Statutes of the United States, do now apply to perfect my claim therein by virtue of section No. 2291
 of the Revised Statutes of the United States; and for that purpose do solemnly swear that I
 am a native born (Write name of claimant)
 citizen of the United States; that I have made actual settlement upon and have cultivated and resided upon said
 land since the 21st day of August, 1908
 to the present time; that no part of said land has been alienated, except as provided in section 2285 of the Revised
 Statutes, but that I am the sole bona fide owner as an actual settler; that I will bear true allegiance to the Govern-
 ment of the United States; and, further, that I have not heretofore perfected or abandoned an entry made under
 the homestead laws of the United States; ~~XX~~

Robert E. Smith
(sign plainly with full Christian name)

NOTE—Every person swearing falsely to the above affidavit will be punished as provided by law for such of-
 fence. (See Sec. 532, U. S., below.)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing affidavit was read ~~over~~ by affiant in my presence before affiant
 affixed signature therein; that affiant is to the personally known ~~(as has been satisfactorily ascertained before)~~
 by Daguer (Give full name and post-office address)
 that I verify before affiant to be a credible person and the identical person heretofore described; and that said
 affidavit was duly subscribed and sworn to before me, at my office, in Daguer
Valley Co., Montana this 23rd day of November, 1908.
(County and State)

Emile F. Maden
 U. S. Commissioner.
(Official designation of officer)

REVISED STATUTES OF THE UNITED STATES. Title LXX.—Crimes.—Chap. 4.
 Sec. 532. Every person who, having taken an oath before a competent tribunal, officer, or person, in any case
 in which a law of the United States authorizes an oath to be administered, that he will testify, declare, depose, or
 certify truly, or that any written testimony, declaration, deposition, or certificate by him subscribed is true, willfully
 and contrary to such oath swears or subscribes any material matter which he does not believe to be true, is guilty of
 perjury, and shall be punished by fine of not more than two thousand dollars, and by imprisonment, at hard labor,
 not more than five years; and shall, moreover, thereafter be incapable of giving testimony in any court of the United
 States until such time as the judgment against him is reversed. (See Sec. 1593.)

NOTE—In addition to the above penalty, every person who knowingly or willfully in anywise procures the
 making or presentation of any false or fraudulent affidavit pertaining to any matter within the jurisdiction of the
 Secretary of the Interior may be punished by fine or imprisonment.

CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS

Public Schools DIPLOMA



STATE OF

MONTANA

This Certifies that Russell Smith
of District No. 7, Sheridan County, has completed the Course of Study prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Public Schools of Montana, and has passed a satisfactory examination in accordance with Rules and Regulations governing such examinations.

In Testimony Whereof, we hereby award this diploma and affix our names

this 18th day of May 1932

G. L. Keesey, Supr
A. M. Axelson, Teacher
Gene Buchholz, Clerk

United States Army



Army Air Forces Technical Training Command School

Be it known that

Private

Russell E. Smith

19060261

has satisfactorily completed the prescribed course for

Aircraft Machinist Mechanics

as prescribed by the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command School

and Given by

National School of Aeronautics, Inc.

Kansas City, Missouri

In testimony whereof and by virtue of vested authority I

do confer upon him this

===== **DIPLOMA** =====

Given on this first day of August

in this year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and forty-two.

A. C. Ricci

PRESIDENT

JOHN P. GALVIN

John P. Galvin

**Capt AAF, Commanding ~~Center~~
Army Air Forces Technical Training Command**

K 678



Honorable Discharge

This is to certify that

RUSSELL E SMITH 1906 02 61 CORPORAL

725TH POMB SQ

Army of the United States

*is hereby Honorably Discharged from the military
service of the United States of America.*

*This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest
and Faithful Service to this country.*

B 3885 REG 482

Given at

SEPARATION CENTER
JEFFERSON BARRACKS, MISSOURI

Date

3RD SEPTEMBER 1945


JOHN C. PINNER
Major, Cav.

26-35

MILITARY HISTORYPAY DATAINSURANCE NOTICE

WFO 800 Nov 22, 22
1 November 1944

112

SEPARATION		ARMY QUALIFICATION		RECORD 26-35	
LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL		ARMY SERIAL NUMBER		GRADE	DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE
SMITH RUSSELL E		19042251		CPL	23 Dec 41
PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES (Street and Number - City - State)		W 5-7		710	Jackson County
1913 CHESTNUT AVE		KANSAS CITY 4 MO		CIVILIAN EDUCATION	
HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED	11	1ST YEAR OF ATTENDANCE	1935	HIGHEST GRADE RECEIVED	None
MAJOR COURSE OF STUDY		Academic		NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST SCHOOL ATTENDED	
				Medicine Lake High School Medicine Lake, Mont.	
OTHER TRAINING OR EDUCATION					
None					
SERVICE EDUCATION					
SERVICE SCHOOL	COURSE	YEARS	GRADE	ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM	
AFTS Lowry Fld Colo Aft Armament		9	Comp	INSTITUTION	
Nat'l Sch Aero	machinist	16	comp	Kansas City	
Brockley Field Mobile Ala	Supply Clk	8	Comp	None	
CIVILIAN OCCUPATIONS					
MAIN OCCUPATION (Type)			SECONDARY OCCUPATION (Type)		
FAIR HAND GENERAL:			None		
JOB SUMMARY			JOB SUMMARY		
Planted, cultivated and harvested small grain and vegetables on 120 acre farm. Drove wheel and caterpillar tractor, and made minor repairs. Raised and tended poultry.					
NO. OF LAST DATE OF EMPLOY - NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER			NO. OF LAST DATE OF EMPLOY - NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER		
3 Oct 1940 Self Employed Palouse, Washington					
MILITARY SPECIALTIES					
CLASS	MONTHS	GRADE	PRINCIPAL DUTY	POINTS	ARMY CODE NO
0	8	Pfc	Student	629	
1	0	Pfc	Machinist	114	
2	0	Cpl	Airplane Armorer	911	
SUMMARY OF MILITARY OCCUPATION AND CIVILIAN CONVERSIONS (shown by title)					
AIRPLANE ARMORER:					
Served as assistant Flight Chief. Checked machine guns, turrets, bomb racks, bomb releases, and pyrotechnics. Inspected and repaired 50 caliber machine guns. Served in European Theatre for 18 months.					
CIVILIAN CONVERSION: Gun-and-Turret Neworker; Motor Installer.					
SUMMARY OF MILITARY OCCUPATION AND CIVILIAN CONVERSIONS (shown by title)					
None					
* THIS INFORMATION BASED ON SOLDIER'S STATEMENT. (Indicate by * any item not supported by military records)					
DATE OF SEPARATION		SIGNATURE OF SOLDIER		SIGNATURE OF SEPARATION CLASSIFICATION OFFICER	
3 Sept 1945				 LESLIE J. BRETZ, CAPT., AGC.	
W.D., A.G.O. FORM NO. 100		15 July 1944		Jefferson Barracks Missouri	

Marriage



Certificate

I Louis Meyer, a Unity minister
hereby certify that on the fifteenth day of September
in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and forty three
Mr. Russell E. Smith of Palouse
in the County of Whitman and State of Washington and
Miss Ruth E. McFendy of Kansas City
in the County of Jackson and State of Missouri
were by me united in marriage at Kansas City in the County of
Jackson and State of Missouri according to the laws of said state.

I further certify that the marriage license was issued in the County of
Jackson State of Missouri on the 15th day of Sept 1943

Helma Lee Cook Louis Meyer
Witness Kansas City, Mo.



Certificate of High School Equivalence



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STATE OF MISSOURI

RUSSELL E. SMITH, having presented evidence of general educational development comparable to that of a high school graduate, is hereby certified to have the equivalent of a high school education.

In Testimony Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of the Department of Public Schools, of State of Missouri.
Executed at my office in Jefferson City,

this 20th day of April, 1945

Robert M. Keeler
Commissioner of Education

No. 10539

The National Society
of the
Sons of the American Revolution



RUSSELL, E. SMITH

is duly enrolled in the

Life Membership Plan

of the

NATIONAL SOCIETY



MISSOURI
Sons of the American Revolution

121893
National Number

James R. Cecher
President General

JULY 29, 1991
Date

The National Society
of the
Sons of the American Revolution



This Certifies That
Russell Earl Smith
is a member of
The Kansas Society

By descent from Robert Erwin or Irwin

Date of Admission March 17, 1983

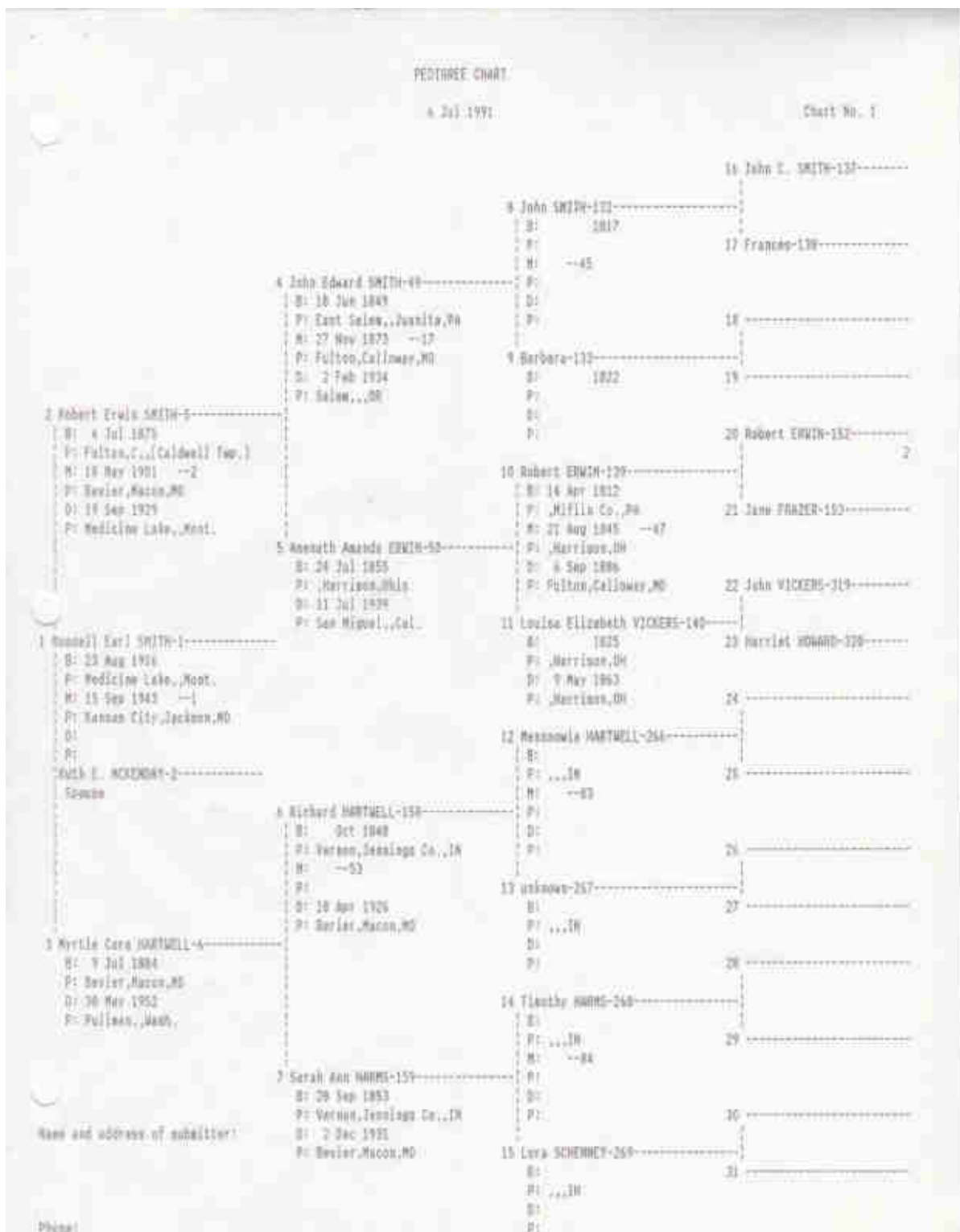
National Number 121893 State Number 1512

Howard L. Hamilton Robert Orrin Beebe
President General State President

Carl J. Bessent D. Lee Wellington
Secretary General State Secretary



SMITH PEDIGREE CHART (p 1 of 2)



SMITH PEDIGREE CHART (p 2 of 2)

PEDIGREE CHART

A-201 1991

Chart No. 2

Number 1 on this chart is the same as no. 29 on chart no. 1

<p>2 Andrew ERWIN-154</p> <p>B: 1745</p> <p>D: --11</p> <p>P: 1791</p> <p>P:</p>	<p>4 Robert C. ERWIN-156</p> <p>B:</p> <p>D: --52</p> <p>P: 1808</p> <p>P:</p>	<p>8</p> <p>B:</p> <p>D:</p> <p>P:</p> <p>P:</p>	<p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p>26</p> <p>27</p> <p>28</p> <p>29</p> <p>30</p> <p>31</p>
<p>1 Robert ERWIN-152</p> <p>B:</p> <p>D: --00</p> <p>P:</p> <p>P:</p> <p>Jane PRAGER-153</p> <p>Spouse</p>	<p>5 Margaret-157</p> <p>B:</p> <p>D:</p> <p>P:</p> <p>P:</p>	<p>9</p> <p>B:</p> <p>D:</p> <p>P:</p> <p>P:</p>	
<p>3 Sarah MCCOLLUM-155</p> <p>B:</p> <p>D:</p> <p>P: 1821</p> <p>P:</p>	<p>6</p> <p>B:</p> <p>D:</p> <p>P:</p> <p>P:</p>	<p>10</p> <p>B:</p> <p>D:</p> <p>P:</p> <p>P:</p>	
<p>7</p> <p>B:</p> <p>D:</p> <p>P:</p> <p>P:</p>	<p>11</p> <p>B:</p> <p>D:</p> <p>P:</p> <p>P:</p>	<p>12</p> <p>B:</p> <p>D:</p> <p>P:</p> <p>P:</p>	
<p>Name and address of submitter:</p>	<p>13</p> <p>B:</p> <p>D:</p> <p>P:</p> <p>P:</p>	<p>14</p> <p>B:</p> <p>D:</p> <p>P:</p> <p>P:</p>	
<p>Phone:</p>	<p>15</p> <p>B:</p> <p>D:</p> <p>P:</p> <p>P:</p>	<p>16</p> <p>B:</p> <p>D:</p> <p>P:</p> <p>P:</p>	

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