

Jacob Smith

By David Smith

Jacob Smith moved to Raleigh County around 1855 when he bought a farm at Fitzpatrick. Jacob was the son of Christopher Smith and was born in Rockingham County, Virginia. Jacob had four brothers and three sisters: George who married Mary Taylor; John William Wiley who married Eva Prose and lived in Gallia County, Ohio; Joseph; Elizabeth who married Frederick Wendle and moved to Madison County, Indiana; Mary who married Samuel Griffith and moved to Madison County, Indiana; Barbara who married William Jarrett and moved to Madison County, Indiana; and William Smith who married Margaret McMillion and lived in Greenbrier County.

Jacob Smith and his first wife Susan Campbell and had twelve children. They were Campbell, William, John, Polly (Mary) Plumley, Virginia Holt, Elizabeth Cooper, Washington, Ruth Kincaid, Canada, Lewis, Joseph, and Nancy Plumley.

Canada Smith married Alethia Williams and had eight children while living at Prosperity, Raleigh County.

Joseph Smith married Nancy Williams and had nineteen children. They lived at Sand Branch, Raleigh County.

Living at Abraham, Raleigh County, Nancy Smith had nine children with her husband John Plumley.

Jacob Smith married his second wife Jane Kincaid and together they had thirteen children: Samuel, George W., Susan, Martin, Harmon, Andrew, Hilda Berry, Thomas, Annie Bennett, Charles, James, Davis, Jacob, and Clarkson. Davis was killed in the Civil War. George, a Confederate, was killed in the Civil War. I have only gained this information through relatives, but have no written proof. Jacob was a Confederate with the 36th Virginia Infantry, and Clarkson was a Confederate in the 30th Battalion of Virginia Sharpshooters. Meanwhile, James served in the Union Army.

George Washington Smith, my great-great-grandfather, married Catherine Bennett, and had nine children. Their children were Frances Meadows Carter, William Ballard, Nancy Jane Adkins, General Marion, Erwin, Mary Ann Plumley, Jacob, George Washington, and Martha Richmond. Nancy Jane, General Marion, George Washington, and Martha are all buried at the New Salem Baptist Church in Abraham. George Washington Smith, my great-grandfather, owned and ran the Abraham Post Office. George W. Smith married Emily Vandall, and had nine children. Their children were Bertha Surbaugh, Bessie Arthur, Glenville, Wayne, Arthur, Ola, Charles, Emily Huffman Surber Hutchinson. My grandfather Ola Smith married Nellie Kincaid after serving in World War I. Then they moved to Fayette County. Both of them are buried at New Salem Baptist Church in Abraham.

George Washington, Jr., worked as a postmaster, farmer, teacher, and assessor. George, Jr., Erwin, and Marion operated a store in Abraham called "Smith Brothers". George stocked everything anyone desired, and people forded New River or crossed by Ferry and walked three miles up the mountain from Meadow Creek to buy their wares. The family also operated a gristmill, saw mill, and nearby was the one-room Smith school.

Jacob Smith and Jane Kincaid's children that lived in Raleigh County were Susan who married Robert Martin; Annie who married Robert Bennett; James who married Susan Bennett; and Jacob who married Cynthia Richmond.

Jacob Smith, the father of the Smiths in Raleigh County, had twenty-five children. He served in the War of 1812 and is buried in the American Legion Cemetery in Beckley. He leaves many descendants in Raleigh County that have played an important roll in the development of Raleigh County.