Smith

Smith Name and Arms

Little work has been done on the Smith ancestry; but perhaps this is hardly surprising, as so common a surname frequently dampens genealogical enthusiasm. Fortunately, over 200 years ago, [Chief Justice] William Smith (1728 – 1793) had the foresight to record the history of his family as it was known to him. As well, the place of this family in the history of both Canada and the United States has ensured a number of historical and genealogical studies which are shown below. (See: Sources.)

The Heraldic Bearings which appear on the bookplate of [Chief Justice] William Smith affixed to one of the original volumes of his Historical Memoirs of the Province of New York currently in the Manuscript Division of the New York Public Library are described as follows: “Argent, three tilting spears proper, a chief countercompony or and azure” which means “Silver with three tilting spears or lances in their natural colour with two rows of gold and blue checkers at the top.” These bearings were used by other members of the family including [Chief Justice] William Smith’s father, [Judge] William Smith I (1697 – 1769) and 2nd cousin, William Peartree Smith (1723 – 1801).

Generation One

John Hartley of Strangewide Hall (1597 – 1655) was granted in October 1632 the following arms: argent, on a cross gules, quarterly pierced of field, four cinquefoils or, in the first and fourth quarter a martlett sable; and as a crest: a martlett sable, holding in its beak a cross-croslet fitchee or”. Strangewide Hall was located in Lancashire within two miles of Manchester. It has been suggested by Charles F.H. Evans in The American Genealogist that the Hartleys of Strangewide or Strangeways Hall were cousins of William Hartley. However, [Chief Justice] William Smith indicates that among the children of this family were:

- William Hartley, a younger child, mentioned next.
- Francis Hartley. Francis was younger than William. He settled at Stoney Stratford.
- John Hartley. John was younger than William. He settled at Buckingham.

Generation Two

William Hartley described himself as a yeoman in his will. He settled at Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire about or before 1600. [Hon] William Smith III wrote in a letter: “William gave three books being Foxes Acts and Monuments of the Church - Which in the year 1714 being chained to a desk at the East end of the South Isle of the Parish of New Port with a Latin inscription over it signifying that these books were his gift in the year 1612.”

William married first on February 5, 1601/2 to Joan Harding who died November, 1620. He married secondly to a widow, Margaret Shortered, née Lowe.

William Hartley left a dozen or more children, among whom was:

- James Hartley, mentioned next.
Generation Three

James Hartley
Born in 1603
Died on June 27, 1666. James and his wife Cyceley died at the time of the great plague, apparently on the same day, June 27, 1666.

James Hartley was a grocer, and he lived at Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire. James married on April 24, 1625 to Cyceley Barnes who was born 1604/5 and died June 27, 1666. She was the daughter of Thomas Barnes (d. 1653), weaver, by his first wife Katherin Cabart (d. July 1634) who was married June 27, 1597 at Newport Pagnell. There was a family of weavers named Barnes at Newport Pagnell, to which doubtless Thomas Barnes belonged.

James and Cyceley had the following children:

- William Hartley who was an apothecary, died March 5, 1697/8, at 69. William had two daughters, one (name unknown) who married William Clifnal or Chifnal, a woollen draper and one (Elizabeth) who died unmarried.
- James Hartley who was a lace buyer. James had the following children:
  - William Hartley
  - Thomas Hartley
  - 6 or 7 daughters.
- Thomas Hartley who in mentioned only by Mr. Charles F.H. Evans, in The American Genealogist. Possibly Mr. Evans is confused with the son of James Hartley the lace buyer (above) who had sons William and Thomas and six or seven daughters.
- Mary Hartley who married John Fulford
- Martha Hartley who married George Stankliffe on May 27, 1656.
- (daughters) Hartley, perhaps three or four more daughters.
- Elizabeth Hartley, youngest daughter, mentioned next.

Generation Four

Elizabeth Hartley
Born in 1641
Died in March 1711/12

Elizabeth married on September 4, 1661 to William Smith, who died June 1682. William Smith served in the Army of the Commonwealth. He moved from Isle of Ely in Cambridgeshire to Newport Pagnell in Buckinghamshire. Both William and Elizabeth were buried in one grave in the Isle on the south side of the Font in the Parish Church at Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire. William was buried on June 20, 1682 and Elizabeth on March 5, 1711/12.

Elizabeth and William had the following children:

- William Smith (1662 – 1736) This William was known as “Port Royal Smith” and also as “the Uncle” to distinguish him from his nephew, [Judge] William Smith. He married on December 12, 1693 to Francis Peartree, daughter of William Peartree who was Mayor of New York 1703 – 1706. His son:
  - William Peartree Smith (died February 7, 1728) had one son:
    - William Peartree Smith (1723 – 1801) who died without issue.
• James Smith married Susannah Pargiter and left 6 sons and 3 daughters.
• John Smith John emigrated to New York where he married and left issue.
• Samuel Smith Samuel settled in Jamaica, West Indies where he married and died at 27.
• **Thomas Smith**, mentioned next.
• Christina Smith Christiana died young

**Generation Five**

**Thomas Smith**
Born on November 18, 1675 at Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire
Died on November 19, 1745 at New York and buried at the plantation of his son Thomas in Smith’s Cove, Orange County, New York.

Thomas was a tallow-chandler and he emigrated to New York on account of his religious opinions in 1715. Thomas, his wife and three sons sailed from London on May 24, 1715 and arrived in New York on August 17, 1715. It appears that the four daughters remained in England.

Thomas Smith married on May 13, 1696 to Susanna Odell (1678 – 1729)

**The Ancestors of Susanna Odell**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Richard Goodman (d. 1631) married Elizabeth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Goodman (d. 1674/5) married Mary (d. April, 1674)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christiana Goodman (d. July 7, 1698) married Thomas Odell (d. May 13, 1698)</td>
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</table>
  
  Thomas Odell was probably the eldest son of Thomas Woodell, alias Odell (d. 1653/4) and his wife Mary Woolman who was a daughter of John Woolman and his wife Margaret, and a granddaughter of Thomas Woolman.

| Mary Odell, **Susanna Odell who married Thomas Smith**, Thomas Odell, John Odell |

Thomas Smith and Susanna Odell had the following children:

• **{Judge} William Smith I**, mentioned next.
• Thomas Smith who married Hannah Hooker, probably a sister of Mehitable.
• **{Rev.} John Smith** who married Mehitable Hooker, probably a sister of Hannah.
• Odell Smith who died young.
• Elizabeth Smith who married Thomas Herbert.
• Martha Smith who married Edward Roberts.
• (daughters) Smith 2 daughters, names unknown.
Generation Six

{Judge} William Smith I
Born on October 8, 1697 at Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire
Died on November 22, 1769 at New York

William Smith emigrated from England in 1715 with his father, mother and two brothers. He was graduated from Yale in 1719 and was admitted to the bar in 1724.

William married on May 11, 1727 to Mary Het (1710 – 1754) who was the daughter of René Het and Blanche Dubois, French Huguenots who had been forced to flee from Marennes and La Tremblade, Saintonge, France following the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685.

René Het was the son of Josué and Sarah Het of Rochelle, France. René was “naturalised” about 1709 and his will was proved on November 8, 1768 at New York.

Blanche Dubois was the daughter of Jacques Dubois and Blanche Sauzeau. According to family tradition, Jacques had held an important office under the government in France. Jacques and Blanche were compelled to flee from Marennes, France with their infant daughter following the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. They first went to Amsterdam, then to Martinique in the West Indies, and then to New York.

René Het and Blanche Dubois are said to have had a daughter Sarah Het who married another William Smith, described as “a Sea Captain, mariner and merchant”.

Judge William Smith I and Mary Het had the following children:

- {Chief Justice} William Smith II, mentioned next.
- Susanna Smith (1729 – 1791) who married Robert James Livingston (1729 – 1771), a brother of Janet Livingston who married {Chief Justice} William Smith II. Susanna Smith and Robert James Livingston had children:
  - Mary Livingston (1748 – 1830) who married 1st {Capt} Gabriel Maturin and 2nd {Dr} Jonathan Mallet
  - James Kierstede Livingston (1749 – 1777)
  - Elizabeth Livingston (1751 – 1752)
  - {Col} William Smith Livingston (1755 – 1794) who married Catherine Lott
  - Robert James Livingston (1757 – 1757, died an infant)
  - Susanna Livingston (1758 – 1851) who married {Rev} James Francis Armstrong
  - Robert James Livingston (1759 – 1827)
  - {Hon} Peter Robert Livingston (1760 – 1847) who married Joanna Livingston, daughter of {Judge} Robert R Livingston and Margaret Beekman
  - {Judge} Maturin Livingston (1769 – 1847) who married Margaret Lewis, grand daughter of {Judge} Robert R Livingston and Margaret Beekman
- Mary Smith who married John Smith (not a relative)
- Sarah Smith who married {Rev} Abraham Keteltas
- Thomas Smith who married Elizabeth Leinsen, Lynsen or Lywson
- Elizabeth Blanche Smith who married John Torrans
- James Smith, M.D. who married an Atkinson
- Anne Smith who married Andrew Bostwick
- John Vicirson Smith who was an attorney
• Catherine Smith who married John Gordon
• Martha Smith who married {Colonel} Ann Hawkes Hay of the Haverstraw Militia
• Samuel Vicirson Smith
• Margaret Smith who married Alexander Rose
• Joshua Hett Smith who married 1st Elizabeth Gordon and 2nd Ann Midleyon. Joshua Hett Smith appears to be the first to spell the name “Hett”. He was an accomplice of Benedict Arnold who spent the night of September 22, 1780 at Smith’s house. Joshua Hett Smith was subsequently tried by a military court for his connection with the affair, and was acquitted, but taken into custody by the civil authorities and committed to jail. After several months’ imprisonment he escaped in woman’s dress and made his way to New York, where he was protected by the loyal population. He went to England at the close of the war, but subsequently returned to the United States.

Generation Seven

{Chief Justice} William Smith II
Born on June 18, 1728 at New York
Died on December 6, 1793 at Quebec

William Smith remained a loyalist, and from 1776 to 1778 was confined to the limits of Livingston Manor, the home of his wife’s sister Margaret Livingston and {Col} Peter Robert Livingston, who were third cousins; their common ancestor being {Rev} John Livingston (1603 – 1672). {Col} Peter Robert Livingston was a member of the “Sons of Liberty” prior to the American Revolution. However, the Livingstons looked out for family and the Smiths were welcomed at the Hermitage after they were placed under “house arrest.” The Hermitage was located on Livingston Manor on what became the Town of Livingston. (The Hermitage, or what was left of it, was torn down in 1983 and a contemporary residence was built on the site.)

In 1780, William Smith was appointed Chief Justice of the Province of New York. In 1782, he left for England, leaving his family at the Livingston home at Clermont, a 13,000 acre tract on the Hudson River in what is now Columbia County. In 1786, William Smith was appointed Chief Justice of Canada.

William married on November 3, 1752 to Janet Livingston (See: Livingston, Generation Seventeen) and they had the following children:

• Janet Smith (1753 – 1828) who married {General} John Plenderleath
• Mary Smith (1755 – 1759) who died of fever
• Elizabeth Smith (1757 – 1766) who died of stress due to the Revolution
• Mary Smith (1759 - ?) who married {Lieut. Gen} William Doyle
• Margaret Susanna Smith (1761 – 1765) who was very weak and died of worms and a fit
• William Livingston Smith (1763 – 1764) who died of a convulsion
• Margaret Smith (1765 – 1766)
• {Hon} William Smith III (1769 – 1847) who married Susan Webber and had children:
  o William Robert Boudenell Smith who married Caroline Grierson
  o Caroline Susanna Smith who married Henry Stuart, Q.C., son of {Hon} Andrew Stuart, Solicitor General of Lower Canada
Smith

- Charles Webber Smith who married Anna Chelworth
- Emily Ann Smith who married {Rev} George Mackie, son of {Gen} Mackie, Governor of St. Lucia

- Livingston Smith (1770 – 1770) who died aged 3 months and 8 days
- Henrietta “Harriet” Smith, who was born at New York on February 6, 1776 and died at Quebec on May 26, 1849. Harriet married on September 24, 1796 at Quebec City to {Hon.} Jonathan Sewell, Chief Justice of Lower Canada. (See Sewall and Sewell, Generation Eight.)

For the continuation of this line, see Sewall and Sewell, Generation Eight.

Sources

The records of {Chief Justice} William Smith (1728 – 1793) made during his visit to England with his son William Smith III (1769 – 1847) in 1784. These records are in the form of a letter written by William Smith III to Jonathan Sewell and dated December 9, 1796.


*Appleton’s Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, V. 5, p. 591 & 592 (New York, 1894)


W. Darcy McKeough: *The McKeough Family Tree*, Section #43 “Smith”