

William Smith

Commentary: The Upchurch – Smith saga of Wake County, NC was a puzzle for over two decades. The first tempting morsel to surface was just the name “Upchurch Smith”. It was easy to jump to the conclusion that a man with name Smith Upchurch was somehow related to the Upchurch family. Eventually several increments of information revealed the true facts. In short, William Smith married Parthenia Upchurch, the daughter of Moses Upchurch, head of Upchurch clan # 1. William and Parthenia would then have a son, Upchurch Smith.

But the plot thickens. William’s sister Sarah married Gillium Upchurch, who was also an offspring of Moses.

Our knowledge of this set of Upchurch – Smith connections was greatly enhanced by the estate records for John W. Smith, a brother of William. John died in 1860 leaving a huge estate in Marks Creek Township in Wake County.

RPU – 23 May 2018

Acknowledgements: This Biofile was transcribed by the pride of Cary, NC, Carla Michaels.

(1) Partial extract of Estate Papers of John W. Smith died 1860 (Wake Co, NC) lodged – See his Biofile 7 May 2009 for 129-page document.

The heirs of the deceased, their allocation of fractions of the estate and the relevance of one of the heirs to the Upchurch family is shown below:

I. --- --- Smith

A. **William Smith** [married Parthenia Upchurch, daughter of Moses Upchurch, Head of Clan]

1/4th 1. Upchurch Smith. His father was deceased by 1860 so Upchurch Smith got his father’s ¼ of the estate of John W. Smith who died 1860.

B. John W. Smith – died 1860 (Wake Co, NC) leaving supposedly 3000 acres in Wake Co, NC. His widow nee Frances I. Bridges got a dower portion of land up front. It appears they had no children – at least no living blood descendants as of 1860.

1/4th C. Lucy Smith married () Dempsey Green – both deceased before 1860.

1/12th 1. Betsy Green married Holleman [170 acres]

1/12th 2. John Green [188 ¼ acres – Smithfield Rd.]

1/12th 3. Irving/Ervin Green [188 ¼ acres]

1/4th D. Elam/Elem Smith – deceased before 1860

1/20th 1. Sarah “Sally” Smith married () Charles Stephens [133 ¼A + 55A River Tract]

1/20th 2. Mary “Polly” Smith married () J. Henderson Wood [129 ¼A + 75A]

1/20th 3. Ellen [Elem?] Smith minor in 1860 [130 acres]

1/20th 4. Franklin Smith – minor in 1860 [130 ¼ acres]

5. Milley Smith – deceased before 1860

1/20th a. John S. Stephens [133 ¼ acres]

1/4th E. Letha “Lethe” Smith married () --- Woodard – both deceased by 1860
Lot #3 { 1/8th 1. John Woodard [had son Calvin S. Woodard – page 117]
1/8th 2. James Woodard

All heirs except Upchurch Smith and Irving Green were out of state. Gaston H. Wilder was Administrator.