

**THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY
OF CALVIN SMITH OF
SMITHVILLE**

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The Autobiography of Calvin Smith of Smithville by Calvin Smith

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CALVIN SMITH

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The
Autobiography
of
Calvin Smith
of
Smithville

Published by
SANFORD H. ROBISON, JR.,

PHILADELPHIA

SEPTEMBER, 1907

*Contributions of the Au-
thor to State University.*

24 Apr. 09 290.

PUBLISHER'S ANNOUNCEMENT.



In presenting the Autobiography of Calvin Smith, of Smithville, to the public the publisher wishes to state that it is in response to the demands of newspapers which have been for years publishing extracts from it and articles about him.

As far as possible the exact words of Mr. Smith have been used there being no effort to change his language. Typographical errors may possibly be found in the book, although every effort has been made to get the names and dates correct.

This book contains many true incidents, gathered during his ninety-two years of life, and is especially interesting on account of many stories of the War of the Rebellion and the Border Ruffians' War which have never been published before. Inasmuch as he was an active participant in these struggles the public will have an opportunity of reading inside facts for the first time.

There are also numerous facts about the early settlement of Missouri which cannot fail to interest everyone.

THE PUBLISHER.

Missouri ... 10-23-35

192654

PREFACE.

This, my autobiography, I dedicate to all, both young and old. I have been faithful in stating nothing but facts, and have designedly left out nothing to shield wrong in me. Read the traveling history of one past ninety-two years, from my cradle to date. I do not restate here what I have written in the following pages of my book. I do not boast of much fine literary ability or many big-sounding words to cover over faults, but state things as they occurred. I say I stored away my good deeds in a safe; also, in another safe, my happy days, gathering information all through life so I would be in good company when alone, with wisdom to enjoy it. Of'times and odd times or in night-dreams, I take them out and recount them all over for enjoyment. Now when the time comes I shall wrap my mantle around me and lay me down to pleasant dreams, counting all is well. I know who I believe: if I keep and do His word I shall never die. I do not say I am without faults and have not sinned. But I pray the Lord to pardon me, for surely He will, and is able and willing, if I have faith in His word, which I have and do believe; and pray I may never sin more. My great desire is to live righteously before God and man, and do his word. This day I renew my pledge to serve the Lord.

CALVIN SMITH.

1611 Oak Street, Kansas City, Mo.

December 23, 1905.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

In response to a continued demand, this the second edition, is issued.

To an old man, who has ever tried to do his duty to God, his country and his neighbors this demand repays him thousand fold.

He wishes in this edition to extend his thanks to those newspapers that have so kindly reviewed his work, and his friends, President Roosevelt among them, who have been so generous in their criticisms.

CALVIN SMITH,

July, 1907.

Kansas City, Mo.

CHAPTER I.

My ANCESTORS.

In writing this autobiographical sketch, first, deem it fit that I name the loins whence I and mine have sprung.

The tradition handed down to me by my ancestors is that previous to the treaty of Ryswick in 1697, my ancestors lived in Alsace, or to be more accurate, "in the city (Strasburg) where the big clocks are." Previous to this date Alsace was a Province of Germany, but by that treaty was ceded to France.

My ancestor being a German refused to live under the flag of France, and emigrated to the eastern shores of the Rhine and looked for a suitable place to locate on German soil, but he heard of the colonies across the Atlantic, and he emigrated to America, and arrived in the colonies of her Majesty, Queen Anne of England, exactly what year I am unable to say, but tradition says during the reign of Queen Anne, which was from 1702 to 1714. He settled first in New Jersey, a short distance north of and east of the city of Philadelphia, Pa.

His descendant, Abraham Smith, my grandfather, then married a Miss Davenport, and when my father, Humphrey Smith, was about ten years of age the Smith and Davenport families moved to Wilkes-Barre, Pa. I am informed the Davenport family was at that time, and has been ever since, a populous and energetic family in the vicinity of Wilkes-Barre.

Thence my father, Humphrey Smith, when a young man emigrated to Western New York and settled near the head of Cayuga Lake, where he engaged in the distilling business, and where he met and married Nancy Walker, my mother; Nancy Walker's father having come to the colonies from England during the Revolutionary War as a British soldier.