

**THE SMITH FAMILY: BEING A POPULAR  
ACCOUNT OF MOST BRANCHES OF THE  
NAME - HOWEVER SPELT - FROM THE  
FOURTEENTH CENTURY DOWNWARDS,  
WITH NUMEROUS PEDIGREES NOW  
PUBLISHED FOR THE FIRST TIME**

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The Smith Family: Being a Popular Account of Most Branches of the Name - However Spelt - from the Fourteenth Century Downwards, with Numerous Pedigrees Now Published for the First Time by Compton Reade

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**COMPTON READE**

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nee Smith-

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" XXIV.

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**THE SMITH FAMILY**

Col F. B. Gunning Rq

Son of above

SRLF  
URL

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TO  
GEORGE W. MARSHALL, ESQ., LL.D.  
ROUGE CROIX PURSUIVANT-AT-ARMS,  
LORD OF THE MANOR AND PATRON  
OF SARNESFIELD, THE ABLEST  
AND MOST COURTEOUS OF  
LIVING GENEALOGISTS  
WITH THE  
CORDIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS OF  
THE COMPILER

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## P R E F A C E

I LAY claim to be the first to produce a popular work of genealogy. By "popular" I mean one that rises superior to the limits of class or caste, and presents the lineage of the farmer or tradesman side by side with that of the nobleman or squire. As a matter of history, much ancient Norman blood has descended to the lower social stratum, and I have met thereabouts such chivalrous names as Quatremain, Turberville, and Louches, while in high places may be found the descendants of men who were serfs to those followers of William the Conqueror. Apart from that, Genealogy, a science which should by rights be the handmaid of history, will never escape the reproach of snobbishness, until it broadens downward. An eminent American aphorised, that "The History of England is the history of the families"; but this is only true, if we exclude artificial limitations, and endeavour to follow up, not merely the leading, but the minor strains also. And while in this research we often enough discover the wearer of a coronet to have sprung from proletarian ancestors, we also occasionally carry back the lineage of the man in the street to that of the man at the helm. Genealogy, therefore, ought to be an open book, and in this volume an attempt has been made to disclose some of its hitherto uncut pages.

Among the vast multitude of Smiths, I cannot pretend to cover the entire ground. The principle of arrangement, dominating this volume, may be



thus stated: where a descent is given, which already has appeared in one or more of the ordinary genealogical works of reference, it has been necessary, owing to the exigencies of space, to condense as far as has been compatible with perspicuity; where, on the other hand, a pedigree is presented for the first time, the fullest obtainable details have been appended. To have omitted pedigrees already published would have been to render the work lopsided; but the genealogical value of the book rests mainly on those descents which have not appeared elsewhere. I could wish there were more of them, or that I had been able to research further, where a clue has been afforded. But genealogy to me is of necessity a *parergon*, and there are only twenty-four hours in the day.

The book professes to review the great Fabrician family, whether crisped as Smith, "smoothed into Smyth," or "smidged into Smijth." To have given pedigrees only would have been to present a flat surface. I have therefore added a *précis* of such of the name as have attained celebrity, and here the practical character of the gens goes far towards proving the doctrine of inherited characteristics. For these descendants of primitive iron-workers include scarcely a poet or an idealist, while in matters practical they stand pre-eminent.

Whatever we are we were,  
 And whatever we were are we,  
 And whatever we are, and whatever we were  
 That same shall we always be.

I have to acknowledge indebtedness to a very great number of courteous and patient correspondents—among them George W. Marshall, Esq., LL.D., Rouge Croix Pursuivant, and Squire of Sarnesfield, with his son, Mr George Marshall of the Batch; Rev. W. D. Macray, Fellow of Magdalen; H. V. Reade of Ipsden, Esq.; The Hon. Mrs Stapleton; H.

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One word more. Several correspondents have inquired whether I am Smith disguised as Reade, or failing that hypothesis, if I happen to be blessed with a powerful strain of Smithish ichor? I can only reply, that, so far as I know, I cannot boast a single drop of Smith blood, and indeed, the only link between myself and the Smyths is through the Annables line, Judith, niece of my ancestress, Helen Lytton of Knebworth, having married Sir George Smyth of Annables.

COMPTON READE.