

Descendants of Arthur Alonzo Smith and Elizabeth Ellen Meredith

Generation No. 6.2

ARTHUR ALONZO⁶ SMITH (*Emma Tamsey⁵ Lawhead, George J.⁴, Phebe³ Hibben, Thomas², John¹*) was born January 28, 1883 in Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH, and died April 04, 1960 in Toledo, Lucas Co., OH. He married **ELIZABETH ELLEN MEREDITH** July 21, 1910 in Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH. She was born October 03, 1882 in Good Hope, Fayette Co., OH, and died May 01, 1937 in Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH.

Children of **ARTHUR SMITH** and **ELIZABETH MEREDITH** are:

- i. **RUTH EMMA⁷ SMITH**, b. May 12, 1911, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH; d. May 09, 1997, Muncie, Delaware Co., IN. She m. (1) **JOHN WILLIAM SHERRICK** May 28, 1933, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH; b. December 04, 1907, Willow River, Pine Co., MN; d. September 02, 1989, Crane Lake, St. Louis Co. MN. She m. (2) **LESS NAUS** Aft. 1970.
- ii. **ROBERT MEREDITH SMITH**, b. January 27, 1913, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH; d. October 20, 1993, Columbus, Franklin Co., OH. He m. **MILDRED IRENE WHEELER** December 25, 1935; b. May 14, 1914, Jennings Twp., Van Wert Co., OH; d. February 20, 2005, Groveport, Franklin Co., OH.
- iii. **RALPH MILTON SMITH**, b. February 27, 1918, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH; d. September 01, 1999. He m. (1) **VONNA MAE COMER** July 16, 1938, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH; b. February 16, 1915, Scott, OH; d. March 19, 1978, Lima, Allen Co., OH. He m. (2) **MARCINE STEPHENS**. He m. (3) **THELMA CLARK**. She d. 1986.

Descendants of Bessie Leanora Smith and Elijah Jefferson May

BESSIE LEANORA⁶ SMITH (*Emma Tamsey⁵ Lawhead, George J.⁴, Phebe³ Hibben, Thomas², John¹*) was born February 02, 1885 in Latty, Paulding Co., OH, and died May 12, 1933 in Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH. She married **ELIJAH JEFFERSON MAY** February 20, 1910 in Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH, son of **JOSEPH MAY** and **LYDIA SCHULER**. He was born July 19, 1880 in Sherwood, Defiance Co., OH, and died February 18, 1935 in Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH.

Children of **BESSIE SMITH** and **ELIJAH MAY** are:

- i. **EDWARD EUGENE⁷ MAY**, b. May 03, 1911, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH; d. August 15, 1951, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH. He m. **ISABELLE SWYGART** July 23, 1935, IN; d. Abt. July 2002.
- ii. **BERTHA EMMA MAY**, b. July 26, 1912, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH; d. January 19, 1996, Convoy, Van Wert Co., OH. She m. (1) **PAUL HENRY MERGY** September 22, 1934; b. August 20, 1907, Waterloo, De Kalb Co., IN; d. August 29, 1979, Waterloo, De Kalb Co., IN. She m. (2) **MARK POLLONI** May 17, 1946, Ft. Wayne, Allen Co., IN. She m. (3) **KENNETH FRANCIS MEWHORTER** May 24, 1952, Ft. Wayne, Allen Co., IN. She m. (4) **DONALD R. MILLER** June 28, 1994, Convoy, Van Wert Co., OH; d. March 20, 1995.
- iii. **RICHARD ELMER MAY**, b. January 03, 1914, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH; d. August 07, 1980, Waterloo, De Kalb Co., IN. He m. **DELORIS DELANE**, Waterloo, De Kalb Co., IN.
- iv. **FRANCES MARGUERITE MAY**, b. March 04, 1915, Rollins, MI; d. June 13, 1976, Fort Wayne, Allen Co., IN.
- v. **DONALD SMITH MAY**, b. February 20, 1918, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH; d. May 31, 1991, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH. He m. (1) **RUTH YATES**, May, 1941, Waterloo, DeKalb Co., IN. He m. (2) **IRIS CHRISTABEL NICE**, September 24, 1945, England; b. England.
- vi. **DOROTHY MERTLE MAY**, b. February 20, 1918, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH; d. February 23, 1918, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH.

Descendants of Elmer E. Smith and Carrye Grace Kesler

ELMER E.⁶ SMITH (*Emma Tamsey⁵ Lawhead, George J.⁴, Phebe³ Hibben, Thomas², John¹*) was born April 01, 1888 in Latty, Paulding Co., OH, and died May 27, 1949 in Lima, Allen Co., OH. He married **CARRYE GRACE KESLER** October 10, 1910 in Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH. She was born April 27, 1890 in Middle Point, Van Wert Co., OH, and died 1975.

Child of **ELMER SMITH** and **CARRYE KESLER** is:

- i. **ANITA MAY⁷ SMITH**, b. May 24, 1912, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH. She m. (unknown) **MCCASH**.

THE PHEBE HIBBEN LINE

ARTHUR ALONZO SMITH 1883 - 1960
and
ELIZABETH ELLEN MEREDITH 1882 - 1937

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BESSIE LEANORA SMITH 1885 -1933
and
ELIJAH JEFFERSON MAY 1880 - 1935

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ELMER E. SMITH 1888 - 1949
and
CARRYE GRACE KESLER 1890 -1975

Arthur Smith Was A Professional Photographer

Arthur Alonzo Smith was born January 28, 1883, in Van Wert, Van Wert County, Ohio.¹ He was the first son of Emma Tamsey Lawhead and Cammaralza Smith. Shortly after the Census of 1910 was completed, he married Elizabeth Ellen Meredith on July 21, 1910, in Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio. Elizabeth was born October 3, 1882 in Good Hope, Fayette County, Ohio.² By the time he was married he had already become a professional photographer.³ By 1920 Elizabeth and Arthur had three children: Ruth Emma, born May 12, 1911; Robert Meredith, born January 27, 1913; and Ralph Milton Smith, born February 27, 1918.⁴

Arthur was recorded as a store photographer in the 1920 Census, and was living at 841 Leeson Avenue in Van Wert just across the street from his mother and sister Bessie's family at 823 Leeson Avenue.⁵

Elizabeth died May 1, 1937, in Van Wert.

*Mrs. Arthur Smith, 53, of East Main Street, died this morning of heart disease at Van Wert County Hospital, where she had been a patient the past two weeks. She had been in ill-health for several months. The deceased was a native of Fayette county, and had resided in Van Wert for many years. She also resided for a time in Paulding and Dayton. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Surviving are her husband, three children, Ralph at home, Mrs. John Sherrick of Keplar street, and Robert of East Maple avenue, and four sisters. She was the daughter-in-law of Mrs. Emma Smith of Leeson avenue. . . .Burial will be in Woodland cemetery.*⁶

Arthur died April 4, 1960, in Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio.⁷

Additional Information About The Children of Arthur and Elizabeth Smith

Ruth Emma Smith married John William Sherrick on May 28, 1933 in Van Wert. John was born December 4, 1907 at Willow River, Pine County, Minnesota.⁸ They had three children: John William, Jr., Paul Eugene, and Carol Sue Sherrick.⁹ John died in Crane Lake, St. Louis

County, Minnesota, September 2, 1989, and was buried at Woodland Cemetery in Van Wert. Much later in her life Ruth married Less Naus. Ruth died May 9, 1997, Muncie, Delaware County, Indiana.¹⁰

Robert Meredith Smith married Mildred Irene Wheeler on December 25, 1935.¹¹ They had five children: Janet Eileen, Mary Elizabeth, Ronald Allen, Joe Leland Ray, and Lowell Meredith Smith. Robert died on October 20, 1993, in Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio.¹² Mildred died February 20, 2005 in Franklin County, Ohio.¹³

Ralph Milton Smith married Vonna Mae Comer on July 16, 1938 in Van Wert. They had two children: Larry Dean and Kathleen Patricia¹⁴. Vonna died March 19, 1978 in Lima, Allen County, Ohio.¹⁵ Ralph died September 1, 1999. His last residence was Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio.¹⁶



Bessie and Elijah May Raise Five Children in Van Wert

Bessie Leanora Smith was born February 2, 1885, in Latty, Paulding County, Ohio, just north of Van Wert.¹⁷ She grew up in the midst of family. After Cammaralza Smith died, Bessie's grandmother, Emma T. Smith lived in her home, and her uncle Arthur and her cousins lived nearby on Leason Avenue in Van Wert.¹⁸ Bessie married Elijah Jefferson May on February 20, 1910 at her parent's home.¹⁹ Elijah was born July 19, 1880, in Putnam County, Ohio, and in 1920 was enumerated in the census as Jefferson E. May, a coach carpenter in the railroad shop.²⁰ Bessie and Elijah had six children: Edward Eugene, born May 3, 1911; Bertha Emma, born July 26, 1912; Richard Elmer, born January 3, 1914; Frances Marguerite, born March 4, 1915; Donald Smith, born February 20, 1918; and Dorothy Mertle May died the day she was born, February 20, 1918. All were born in Van Wert.²¹ After her children were able to care for themselves, Bessie worked as a sales woman at the Weber & Moore store.

Bessie died May 12, 1933.

*Mrs. E. J. May, highly esteemed resident of Van Wert, died last evening at her home on Leeson avenue, after being in ill-health for a number of months. Mrs. May, formerly Miss Bessie Smith, was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Smith. She was a member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church and Sunday School. Before her marriage, she was a clerk in the retail store, now operated by J. P. Skinner & Company. Her direct survivors are her mother, Husband, five children, Edward, Richard, Donald, Bertha and Marguerite, at home, and two brothers, Arthur A. Smith, of Leeson avenue, and Elmer E. Smith, of South avenue. . . .The remains will be laid at rest in Woodland cemetery.*²²

Elijah died two years later on February 18, 1935.

*E. J. May, of Leeson avenue, died early this morning, at the Van Wert County hospital, following a week's illness of pneumonia. Mr. May was aged 54 years, was a member of the First Methodist Church, and enjoyed an exceptionally large circle of friends and acquaintances. His survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Paul Mergy, of Waterloo, Indiana, and Miss Marguerite May, at home, three sons, Edward, Richard and Donald, at home, and one brother, F. S. May, of Delphos. . . .Interment will be made at Woodland cemetery.*²³

THE PHEBE HIBBEN LINE

Additional Information About The Children Of Bessie And Elijah May

Edward Eugene May married Isabelle Swygart on July 23, 1935, in Indiana. Edward died August 6, 1951, and is buried in Woodland Cemetery.²⁴

Bertha Emma May married Paul Henry Mergy on September 22, 1934.²⁵ They had three children, Bessie May, Robert Eugene and James Henry Mergy. Bertha and Paul divorced in 1943. Bertha was remarried on May 17, 1946 to Mark Polloni and they had a son, Mark Polloni. This marriage ended in divorce in 1950. Bertha's third husband was Kenneth Francis Mewhorter. Bertha and Kenny had two children, Terry Earl and Thomas Joe Mewhorter. In the twilight of her life, when she was eighty-one years old, she married Donald R. Miller.

Bertha was interested in her family history and submitted an ancestor chart to the Van Wert County Genealogical Society on August 19, 1991. At the time she was living in Chula Vista, California. Bertha died January 18, 1996. The Social Security Death Index recorded her last residence as Van Wert,²⁶ and she is buried in Woodland Cemetery.²⁷

BERTHA EMMA MEWHORTER MILLER, Convoy -- Bertha Emma Mewhorter Miller, 83, died at 4:10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, 1996, in Convoy Care Center, Convoy, following an extended illness. She was born July 26, 1912, in Van Wert, the daughter of the late Eli Jefferson and Bessie L. (Smith) May. In June 1994, in Van Wert, she married Donald Miller who preceded her in death on March 20, 1995. Survivors include one daughter, Bessie M. Mergy of Pensacola, Fla., five sons, Robert E. Mergy, Sr., of Fulton, Texas, James H. Mergy of Van Wert, Terry E. Mewhorter of Cayce, S.C., Thomas Mewhorter of England, and Mark C. Poloni of San Francisco, Calif.; 16 grandchildren, and 21 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by three brothers, Edward, Donald and Richard May, and two sisters, Marguerite and Dorothy May. Mrs. Miller retired as a housekeeper for Van Wert County Hospital and was a member of Daughters of the American Revolution and A.A.R.P. Memorial graveside services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday in Woodland Cemetery.²⁸

Richard Elmer May moved to Waterloo, DeKalb, Indiana, and married Deloris DeLane. His last residence was Waterloo where he died August 7, 1980.²⁹

Frances Marguerite May lived in Van Wert her entire life. She worked for the Van Wert Sporting Goods store for twenty-two years and then was the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce for over fifteen years. She was a member of the Business Women's Club. She did not marry. Marguerite, as she was known, died June 13, 1976, in Fort Wayne, Indiana and is buried at Woodland Cemetery in Van Wert.³⁰

Chamber Secretary Marguerite May Dies at 61. F. Marguerite May, 61, of 400 Euclid Ave. secretary of the Chamber of Commerce for 15 years, died at 8:30 p.m., Sunday in Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne. She had been in ill health since March 24. Born March 4, 1915, in Rollin, Mich., she was the daughter of Eli J. and Bessie (Smith) May. Survivors include two brothers, Richard May of Waterloo, Ind., and Don May of 420 Euclid Ave., and a sister, Bertha Mewhorter of 903 W. Main St. She was preceded in death by a brother, Edward E. Miss May had previously worked for 22 years at Van Wert Sporting Goods. She was a

member of First United Methodist Church and a former member of the Business Women's Club. . . .Burial will be in Woodland Cemetery.³¹

Donald Smith May married Ruth Yates in May, 1941³² and they divorced in 1943. In England on September 24, 1945, he married Iris Christabel Nice, whom he met while serving during World War II. They had a daughter, Patricia Ann May. Donald died May 31, 1991,³³ and is buried in Woodland Cemetery.³⁴ Iris survives him and resides in Van Wert.



Elmer Smith Becomes Postal Service Clerk

Elmer E. Smith was the youngest child of Cammaralza Smith and Emma Tamsey Lawhead. He was born April 1, 1888, in Latty, Paulding County, Ohio.³⁵ He married Carrye Grace Kesler on October 10, 1910, in Van Wert.³⁶ Carrye was born April 27, 1890 in Middle Point, Van Wert County, Ohio. They had one daughter, Anita May Smith.³⁷ Elmer died May 27, 1949, in Lima, Allen County, Ohio.

Van Wert Postal Clerk Dies at 61. Elmer Smith, 61, for 35 years postal clerk at the Van Wert Post Office, died last night at Lima St. Rita's Hospital following a six-week illness. Born at Latty, Smith was named clerk at the post office March 1, 1911. He later was appointed special clerk, a position gained through efficiency and years of service. Surviving are the wife, Grace; a daughter, Mrs. Anita McCash, Mackinaw City, Mich.; his mother, Mrs. Emma T. Smith, Van Wert, and a brother, Arthur, Lima.³⁸

Carrye died in 1975.³⁹

Generation 6.2 End Notes:

- ¹ LDS Ancestral File - CD, Submitters: AF95-107253 & AF97-118748, AFN:20NK-Z9B.
- ² Ibid.
- ³ US Census 1910, T624-1238, enumeration 100, household 89, Van Wert City, Van Wert County, Ohio.
- ⁴ LDS Ancestral File, [Note 1].
- ⁵ US Census 1920, T625-1446, enumeration 132, sheet 7, line 33, 841 Leeson Ave., Van Wert, Van Wert County, Ohio.
- ⁶ *Van Wert Times-Bulletin*, Van Wert, Van Wert County, obituary, May 1, 1937, page 1; Woodland Cemetery Records, Van Wert, Van Wert County, Ohio, section 42, lot 50.
- ⁷ Paul Eugene⁸ Sherrick, Jr. (*Ruth Emma⁷ Smith, Arthur Alonzo⁶, Emma Tamsey⁵ Lawhead, George J.⁴, Phebe³ Hibben, Thomas², John¹*), Family History GEDCOM; Woodland Cemetery Records, [Note 6]; Inscription, SMITH ARTHUR A. 1883-1960 ELIZABETH E. 1882-1937.
- ⁸ Social Security Death Index, #281-10-8238
- ⁹ Paul Eugene Sherrick, Jr., Family History GEDCOM, [Note 7].
- ¹⁰ Social Security Death Index, #273-12-2458, Ruth E. Naus.
- ¹¹ Paul Eugene Sherrick, Jr., Family History GEDCOM, [Note 7].
- ¹² Social Security Death Index, #281-10-8200.
- ¹³ Ibid., #272-30-6425.
- ¹⁴ Paul Eugene Sherrick, Jr., Family History GEDCOM, [Note 7].
- ¹⁵ Social Security Death Index, #281-10-7934.
- ¹⁶ Ibid., #281-10-9083.

THE PHEBE HIBBEN LINE

- 17 Ilene Baer, *Ancestor Charts - Van Wert County*, Van Wert Genealogical Society, page 75, submitted by Bertha Emma (May) Mewhorter, August 19, 1991.
- 18 US Census 1900, T623-1329, enumeration 88, sheet 5, line 6, 812 Leason Ave., Van Wert, Pleasant Township, Van Wert County, Ohio.
- 19 *Van Wert County, Ohio, Marriage Records*, March 1908-December 1911, book 13, page 70; Newspaper, unknown, Van Wert, Van Wert County, Ohio, marriage announcement.
- 20 US Census 1920, T625-1446, enumeration 132, sheet 7, line 45, 823 Leeson Ave., Van Wert, Van Wert County, Ohio.
- 21 Paul Eugene Sherrick, Jr., Family History GEDCOM, [Note 7]; US Census 1920, [Note 19].
- 22 *Van Wert Daily Bulletin*, Van Wert, Van Wert County, Ohio, obituary, May 13, 1933; Woodland Cemetery Records, [Note 6], section 51, lot 31, grave 5; Inscription, BESSIE L. Beloved dau. 1885-1933 At Rest.
- 23 Newspaper, unknown, Van Wert, Van Wert County, Ohio, obituary, about February 18, 1935.
- 24 Paul Eugene Sherrick, Jr., Family History GEDCOM, [Note 7]; Woodland Cemetery Records, [Note 6], section 34, lot 10, grave 5; Inscription, EDWARD E. MAY 1911-1951.
- 25 Ilene Baer, *Ancestor Charts - Van Wert County*, [Note 17].
- 26 Social Security Death Index, #315-03-4432.
- 27 Woodland Cemetery Records, [Note 6], section 34, lot 10, grave 9.
- 28 *Van Wert Times-Bulletin*, [Note 6], obituary, January 19, 1996.
- 29 Social Security Death Index., #705-16-0211.
- 30 Ibid., #281-10-7716; Woodland Cemetery Records, [Note 6], section 34, lot 10, grave 6; Inscription, F. MARGUERITE MAY 1915-1976 Dau. of Jefferson and Bessie May.
- 31 *Van Wert Times-Bulletin*, [Note 6], obituary, June 14, 1976.
- 32 Paul Eugene Sherrick, Jr., Family History GEDCOM, [Note 7].
- 33 Social Security Death Index, #281-10-7716.
- 34 Cemetery Records, [Note 6], section 34, lot 10, grave 7; Inscription, MAY Donald S. 1918-1991 Iris C. 1921-.
- 35 Paul Eugene Sherrick, Jr., Family History GEDCOM, [Note 7].
- 36 *Van Wert County, Ohio, Marriage Records*, [Note 18], book 13, page 370.
- 37 Paul Eugene Sherrick, Jr., Family History GEDCOM, [Note 7].
- 38 *Journal Gazette*, probably Lima, Ohio, Obituary, May 28, 1949.
- 39 Paul Eugene Sherrick, Jr., Family History GEDCOM, [Note 7].