

Adam Francis Smith (1865 – 1911)

I was handed down items from Adam Francis Smith and felt compelled to investigate his life's journey. He was born March 29, 1865, on his Fathers farm in Mount Pleasant Township near Mount Rock, now called Centennial Pennsylvania, the same farm his father Pius Stanislaus Smith (1822 – 1883) was born and later owned. He was the youngest of seven children, all of them

males. His Grandfather Joseph Smith (1788/89 - 1863) was born in Allemagne Germany and fought on the American side of the war of 1812.

The **1870** Census mimics the 1872 Mount Pleasant Adams County Pennsylvania map where it shows Michael and Barbara Little and William and Agnes Krug as farming neighbors to Pius S. Smith (Carpenter) and his family. Another close neighbor, Samuel and Agnes Little where he was a professional Mason.

Adam had just turned four years old so was not in school. His three older brothers (John, Pius P, Joseph) were enrolled. Nathaniel followed his father into carpentry business while Lewis at the age of twenty was reported as living at home. Mary Ann Foller (age 55) was listed as living with the family. She is the aunt of Adam and the sister of his mother, Adaline Foller Smith. When she passed, she was buried at Conewago where a year or more later Pius Peter and Laura Smith would bury their infant Annie Elizabeth.

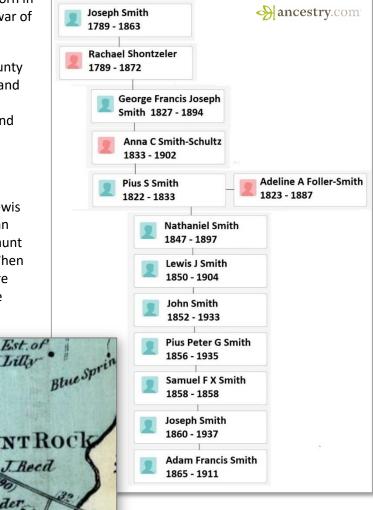
Many of the neighboring family names are still nearby today.
Surnames of Pohlman, Lawrence, Myers, Weaver, and many others.

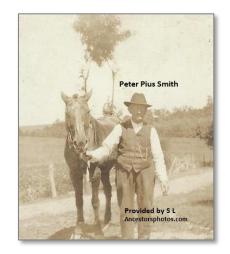
By the **1880** Census, Adam was 15 years of age and no Phyers

Third

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longer in school but helping and working at their Mount Rock / Mount Pleasant Township home. His brother Joseph (19) and Pius Peter (23) are living with the family as well and helping with the farm. John appears to have followed his older brother Nathaniel and father Pius Stanislaus (58) into the Carpentry profession. Adaline is home helping with the farm; her sister no longer lives with them while they now have Susan Gallagher (29) living with them and is listed as a servant. Families that did not have any daughters very often had house cleaners that helped with the house chores and cooking.





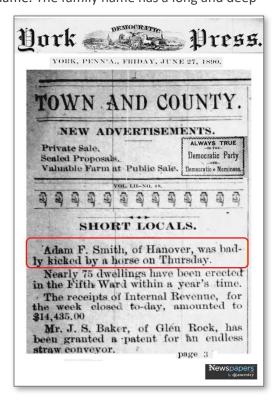
Susan replaced Mary Ann Foller and her surname is often spelt in many different ways. The Gallagher surname ranks in the top <u>surnames in Ireland</u>, and there are some thirty-plus variations of this Irish last name. The family name has a long and deep

history in the Mount Rock (Centennial) area. The only other Susan Gallagher reference found is her participation in an 1883 baptism service for Adams brother Nathaniel and wife Louisa Ginter-Smith. She served with Adam as a witness to Nathaniel's & Luisa's fourth child, Phillip Francis Joseph "Felix" Smith at the Sacred Heart Conewago church.

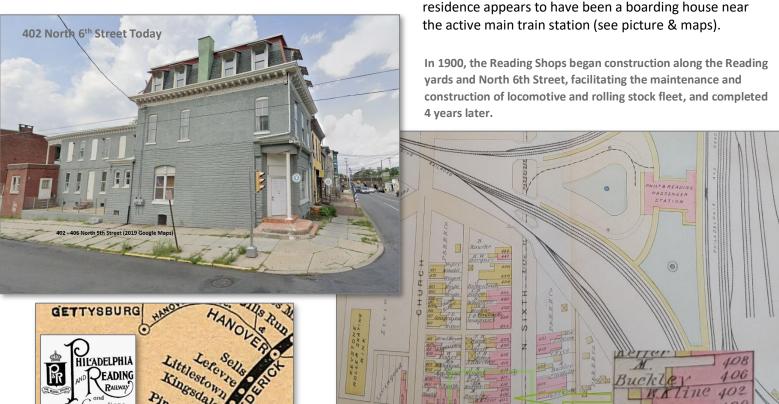
In **1887**, Adam and the daughter of his uncle George, <u>Agnes</u> Smith-Redding, were the official witnesses to the marriage of Pius Peter and Laura Lawrence-Smith's February 20th Sacred Heart church wedding.

The 1890 Census data was mostly lost to a major 1921 fire so there is limited information available. This is well documented and contains many questions, complaints and conspiracy theories about accuracy and fraud. New York State officials were accused of bolstering census numbers, and the intense business competition between Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, resulted in at least nineteen indictments against Minneapolis businessmen for allegedly adding more than 1,100 phony names ("First in the Path of the Firemen | National Archives")

In the York Democratic Press social news section of June 27,**1890**, it has a Newspaper report of Adam F. Smith of Hanover being badly kicked by a Horse! Soon thereafter he moves to Reading Pennsylvania and takes up residence for the next eight plus years.



By **1891** Adam had moved to Reading Pennsylvania and joined the local Bartenders Union and remained a member through the rest of his life. He first moved to 402 North 6th Street and is documented as a Bartender in the local directory. His



By the next year Adam moves to George Romig's Continental Hotel at 341-345 North 9th Street where he becomes a Clerk and Bartender and listed in the Reading City Directory from **1891 through 1900**. The Census report for **1900** lists him as residing at the Continental and as the clerk / bartender. This move confuses the Postal Office, and a letter is listed as undeliverable by the Reading Times Newspaper. In their August 18th, 1891, issue they report the undeliverable letter notifying all and that he has two weeks to pick up his mail or it will be returned to sender.

Further investigation is needed to understand why Adam moved to Reading. Who was he close to there that prompted him to come to Reading? Proabaly due to relatives since so many from the Adams County area residents came from or had relatives in the Reading / Burks County area. In one letter he mentions family, but a specific connection or member cannot be determined at this time. He also became a Bartender and joined the Reading Bar Tenders Union.

In **1899** Adam either bought or received a ticket to go to the Reading Liederkranz February 7th which is a German American social club. It was one of eleven local German organizations in the late 1800's, organized by eight Germans as a German Singing Society in Bowman's Hall, North Tenth Street, Reading, Pennsylvania, on **July 23, 1885**.

For the first seventeen years the singers practiced in rented facilities throughout Reading. Finally on March 26, 1902, property at 833-835 Chestnut Street was purchased. In 1909 the building was razed, and a new clubhouse was built, designed to be a singing hall. The new building was dedicated on the 5th Sangerfest of the United Singers of Pennsylvania, June 1910. ("Club History — Reading Liederkranz") The Chestnut Street building was the club's home for the next 88 years. In 1990 the current property was bought at 143 Spook Lane.

Translated, the ticket reads Ninth Big or Great Masked Ball of Reading Liederkranz, Tuesday 7, February **1899** in the harmony Men's Choir Ball

Complimentary Ticket for Sir or Mr. Adam Smith.

The <u>Reading Liederkranz</u> is still open today with a highly active schedule of events.







In the 1900 Census taken on June 9th, Adam is reported to be living and employed as Bartender / Clerk at Reading's

Continental Hotel. This is a significant hotel near the Railroad Terminal on Ninth Street. He reports that he has been working full-time for the last 12 months. This Census shows Forty-seven more people are registered at the hotel as boarders which includes two male hostlers (horse carers) and seven women servants who are mostly young and single.

In **September of 1902** Adam writes twice from Reading to his Brother Pius Peter back in the Mount Pleasant / Mt Rock area. These letters are exceedingly difficult to read due to the handwriting, phonetic spelling, language / accent, and pure age of the letters. They are written on the Hotel Lafayette's letter paper with the proprietor's name of C. M. Weber crossed out.



Reading Railroad Serviced Reading to Gettysburg

The Lafayette's Landlord C. M. Weber, was arrested in December of 1900 for selling liquor to minors, selling it on Sunday and on election day and finally selling it to intoxicated persons. Both the Bartender and General Manager provided police statements, but neither were Adam Smith. The charge was later thrown out of court in March of 1901. We do not know if on this trip to Reading, if Adam stayed at the Hotel Lafayette, or did he just use their writing paper?



A few takeaways from his writings include mentioning family in the Reading area but it is inconclusive as to who that is directly. Adam in his letters asks about Pius Peter's wife, children and their <u>Uncle George</u>. He talks of his life in Reading and the <u>Reading Coal Strike of 1902</u>. The strike affected many and he has difficulty finding work and may go off to Philadelphia for employment. It was a bloody strike and President Theodore Roosevelt intervened as a neutral arbitrator. Adam mentions local family and the local Hospital being full and boarding costs. [Adam's letters are included here below].

By the 1890's Train travel was extremely popular and common. People could travel from the Hanover area to Philadelphia and return late the same day.

Adam occasionally traveled back and forth from Reading to Mount Pleasant. He remained remarkably close to his Brother Pius Peter who by then owned their father's farm.

Adam likely attended the funeral of his brother's wife, Laura Lawrence-Smith who passed March 9, **1909**. Since he was Pius Peter's witness at his wedding, corresponded from Reading a few times, it is probable he

b. 186X m. 1887 d. 1910

AncestorsPhotos.com

visited and stayed in the area to console his brother and his family. Laura's documented cause of death was epileptic convulsions which is a common somatic comorbidity with

emphysema. It is just speculation, but he probably returned home when his Uncle George passed away on April15th 1894.

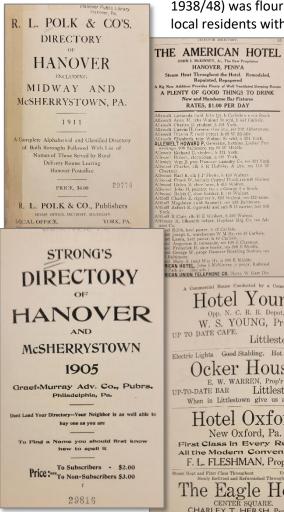
1910 – Adam stayed in the Adams County area and was working at the Oxford Hotel in New Oxford (Adams County). No

Census information was found for Adam's specific residence or location, but it is recorded in a couple of publications (**2-19-1910**) that Adam resigned from his Bartender / Clerk job at the Hotel Oxford (New Oxford PA) and moved back home to Mount Rock (Centennial), now his brother's farm. He was replaced at the Oxford Hotel by <u>David Henry Fink</u> (1858 – 1932) who was the former Adams County Commissioner.

Later in **1910**, it appears Adam began living and working as a Bartender at John I. Mckinney's, The American Hotel, located next to the Hanover Train Station. He is listed in the R L Polk & Company's **1911** Hanover Directory which was probably prepared in 1910. He later moved to the Ocker House in Littlestown where a Trolley line called the "The "Hanover Fast Line" (1908 –

New Oxford, Pa.

1938/48) was flourishing connecting local residents with McSherrystown, Hanover and York.





Babylan Richard G, bar clerk Hotel Hanover, h do. Bachman Claude C (Rebecca E), shoe finisher, h 212 CenHe moved again and this time to the Ocker House, a hotel in the center of Littlestown that was originally built in 1848 and named the Barker House or Central Hotel.

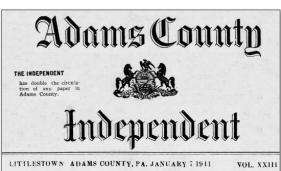
1911, New Year's Morning & Obituary –

Adam F. Smith bar clerk at the Ocker House in Littlestown died suddenly Sunday January 1st, **1911**, of heart attack, he was 45 years old. He arose Sunday morning in the best of health and attended church.

On returning to the hotel, as he was passing up the stairway to his room, he was stricken, and carried to his room in an unconscious condition where he expired minutes later.



The deceased was a son of the late Pius S. Smith of Mt. Pleasant township. He was a member of <u>Hanover Aerie of Eagles</u> and also of the Bar Tenders' Union of Reading. He was employed for several years at Hotel Oxford, New Oxford, and later at the



NEWS RECORDINGS OF LITTLESTOWN AND THE VICINITY

Adam F. Smith Dies Suddenly
After Returning from
Church.

Adam F. Smith, bar clerk at the New Ocker House, this place, died suddenly at 11 a. m. Sunday, of heart disease, aged about 45 years. Mr. Smith arose Sunday morning in the best of health, and attended the early Mass at St. Aloysius' church. On returning to the hotel, as he was passing up the stairway to his room, he was stricken, and carried to his room in an unconscious condition, where he expired a few minutes later. He was a son of the late Plus Smith, of Mt. Pleasant township. He was a member of Hanover Aerie of Eagles and also of the Bar Tenders' Union, Reading. He was employed for several years at Hotel Oxford, New Oxford, and later at the American House, Hanover. He is survived by three brothers—John Smith, of Gettysburg; Pius P., of Mt. Rock, and Joseph F. Smith, of Hanover. Funeral on Wednesday, January 4; services and interment at Conewago Chapel at 9 a. m., Rev. Germanus Kohl officiating.

American House, Hanover. He is survived by his three brothers, John Smith of Gettysburg, Pius P. Smith of Mt. Rock, and Joseph F. Smith of Hanover. The Funeral was on Wednesday, January 4th, services, and interment at Conewago Chapel at 9 am with Rev. Germanus Kohl officiating.

Shortly thereafter there are legal notices announcements of Pius Peter Smith appointed as Adam's legal custodian and estate administrator of all his belongings starting just after his passing with a final notice in December of 1911.

GETTYSBURG TIMES.

Gettysburg, Pa. Saturday, December 16, 1911

Auditor's Notice

The undersigned Auditor appointed by the Orphans' Court of Adams County to make distribution of the balance in the hands of Plus P. Smith, Administrator of the estate of Adam F. Smith, late of the Township of Mount Pleasant, Adams County, Dec'd, will sit at his office, Masonic Building, Borough of Gettysburg, Pa., at 10.30 A. M. on Wednesday the 20th, day of December, 1911, for the purpose of his appointment, when and where all persons interested may appear.

ROBERT E. WIBLE, Auditor.

ADAMS COUNTY INDEPENDENT LITTLESTOWN

JANUARY 14 1911.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of Adam F. Smith, late of Mt. Pleasant Twp., Adams County, Pa., Deceased.

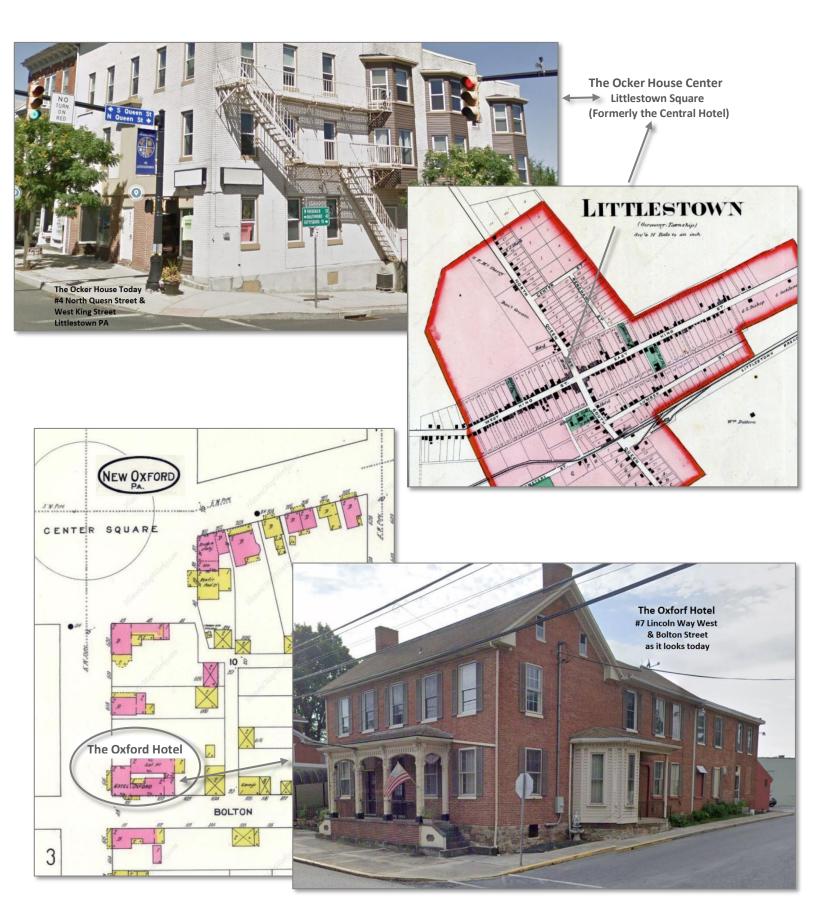
Letters of administration on said estate having been granted to undersigned all persons indebted thereto are requested to make immediate payment and those having claims or demands against the same, will present them without delay for settlement to the undersigned.

PIUS P. SMITH, Admr. Littlestown, R. D. No. 3. Ehrehart & Bange, Attys. 1,14,6t

We have no confirmed identifying life photo, there are some who speculate that the formal Devil Den's portrait of Pius Peter and his wife Laura, include Adam F. Smith (click here)

<<< The End >>>





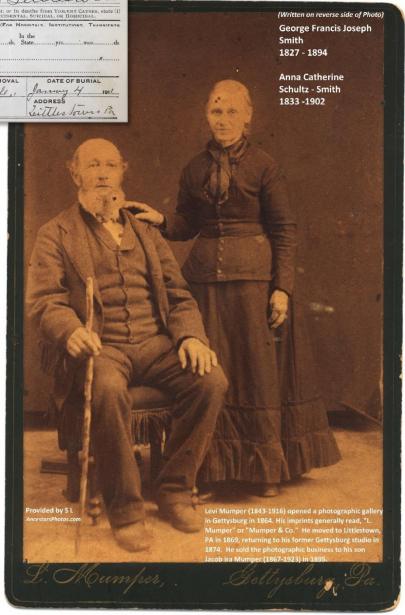
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County of Adams CERTIFICA	BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.					
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Borough of Primary Registration	District No. 1007 Registered No.					
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11, 2	give its NAME instead of street and number.					
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a Cimelia Holles						
13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER	18. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (FOR HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, TRANSIENTS OR RECENT RESIDENTS).					
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14. THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.	Where was disease contracted,					
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Filed January 0 - 1911 Cartification	20. UNDERTAKER ADDRESS					
Local Registrar	John Halin Littles town la					

Adam Francis Smith Death Certificate

March 30, 1861 January 1, 1911

Adam F. Smith's Uncle George Francis Joseph Smith

Back



Devil's Den Photo with Pius Peter, Laura and Others...

According to Gettysburg historians, this classic J. I. Mumper (1843 – 1916) portrait photo was taken around 1998. Pius Peter and Laura M Lawrence-Smith are identified with writing on the reverse side. This portrait was given to three different families.

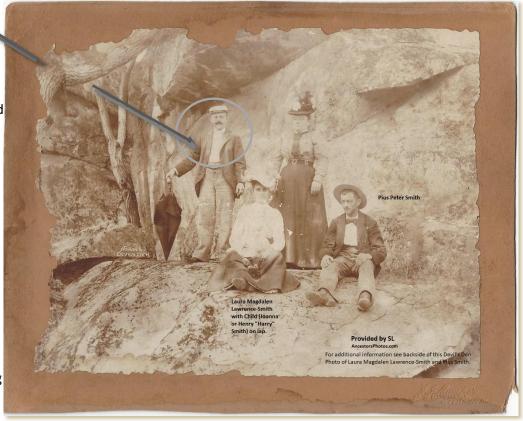
For years after the Civil War the Gettysburg Battlefield was quite popular with locals and visiting Tourist for touring around and in their Sunday's best outfits. Photographer's would set up at their designated spots and offer to take and deliver photos

for an average of 50 cents. This price was very competitive compared to what it would cost to visit an in-house studio. Thus, tourist both local and far away, would tour around the Battlefield and the photographers would be standing at their designated spots offering their services for a fair price to take their picture.

The Government started to license Photographers to specific battlefield locations to take formal pictures starting in 1895. They would have to rotate so all the photographers had opportunities at the best locations.

The Devil's Den site and a few others quickly became a very popular places so now licensed photographers had these designated picture taking places.

Historians point out that this photo is of close relatives, and not two different or random parties jumping into one picture to maximize cost savings or photographer's revenue.



So, could the relative in this picture include Pius Peter's brother, Adam F. Smith? Hopefully over time we can find other pictures of Adam and confirm...

BACK

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	PART 1 BAPTISMS			
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NAME OF CHILD Name of Parents	BIRTH DATE	BAPTISM DATE Name of Sponsor	REGISTER	CELEBRANT
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FINK, PIUS JEROME William & Margaret Smith Fink	2-13-1863	2-15-1863 Pius & Adeline	III-35 Em. Smith	JBC

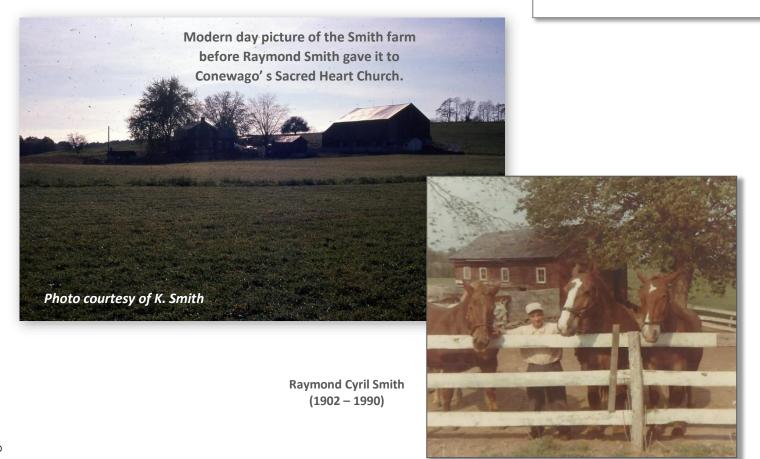
Conewago Sacred Heart Church Records

BACK

Adam F. Smith is a witness to his brother Pius Peter and Laura Lawrence's 1887 Wedding

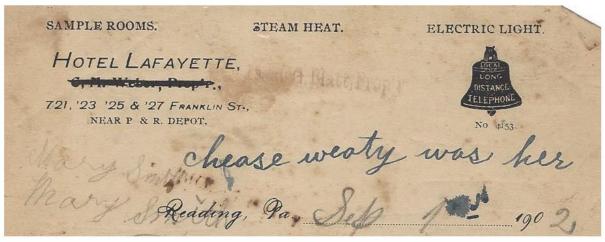
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4			Street Access	Bertha M.	2/26/1924	Louis Smith & Gertrude Weaver
	進克	Copyright	1980	Grace	1/6/1914	Allen Brashers & Bertha Groft
	透			Clara M.	5/8/1894	Francis P. Ackerman & Sarah A. Smith
• শ্বন				Anna M.	5/27/1930	Bernard G. Smith & Helen C. Keagy
Smith	Maurice J.	md.	Adams	Anna M. N. Evelyn	5/27/1930 6/6/1927	Bernard G. Smith & Helen C. Keagy Willis E. Smith & Mary E. Adams
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Agnes Smith would go on to marry William Redding. The witnesses for her wedding were her brother George and the groom's sister, Caroline. These two would then be married 9 years later!



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5	Wills Thomas & Scidel John & Rhoader Robert J	Learder	W M DOL 1879 21 L		New Jersey Vous Jersey	Pansylvania		Wessenger U.S.E.S.	1 Xx Ka Mes	
7	Rhoades Robert of	hoarder	10 m Dec 185247 8.		Penneylvenin Penneylvene	is Permontoance		Houlder (From) o	The year	
8.	Homan Joseph Horrmon Calvin &	Coorder	65 m les 1844 45 m		Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Primordiania Pennsylvan Pannsylvania Primorylvani	. O emorpain		Ficreman RR 0	1 /20 /20 /20	
0	Darran Williams	Overder 1 Frances	W no July 187/28 8		Pennsylvania Temaglean	ia Pempylvania		Regar-maker o	140 Mg Mas	
1	Schlear Charles a Kendemute Robert &	Rossur	65 m July 1877 22 Hel		Primagloania Promaglace Primagloania Promaglace	in Dernoglame		Fireman RR o	yo y you	
2 3	Use Pride Veal of	Boarde	6 n Feb 187624 8		Pensadvania Vreland	Ireland		Jook Kupin o	1400 1400 760 1400 1400 1400 1400 1400 1400 1400 14	
4 5	Gelle Cond Codward	Measur	IN manay87/57/57/11/1		Perms of Louis I gel cord	Virginia		Drukeman RRO		
6	Renter augustus a 6 sterly albert Dr	Flo ardie	w 21 No 01879 20 8		Pening whom Panne she by	in Panylvania		Cigar-moler o	yo for yes	
8	Thilson Charles & Morris Robert a	Bearder	W w Feb 186733 Dr		Pennsylvania Pennsylvania	England		Gard Master RK	yo yo yo	
	Halton John Moyer Clayton	Boarder	w m mar 1890 20 8		Permandania England Permandania England	Pernyslocain		Brakeman RR	yearyes year	

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Mary Smith

September 1, 1902

De Browither a hill take The

Dear Brother, I will take the

Plushing Of Righters for yours

Pleasure of writing too you ens (or you's)

And Lets Claim Hinas Mix

Too let you knows that XXXXX

well at Present an Rived So

Well at present an arrived safely

i am in Reading an Sitem

I am in Reading and getting

a Round Too Bu The Bayley

Around to see the boys or Brothers

a Thank That 's Thill More

I think that I will work

and Reading life holding Habin
In Reading if nothing happens
a Hare Promes Of 10 garbe
I have promises of a job be
it the is an sind the
If he is as good as his
Annal Do i held what what
Word so I tell you that
it is wearf yeard wasters
It is very <u>hard times</u>
in Reading as Present
In Reading at presently
the Strike maken antige
The strike makes awful
in The Coal Rougens Late Of
In the coal region lots of
Blude Sheadool Poil is Theres.
Blood shed ed coal is mess??
leight dollers a trine and
Eight dollars a ton (time) and

I's than to all fail

Gis tham tis all ???

Letter 1 – Page 2

Rate Hill Than it is and making
Cants get them it is awful
Than as Prestend Browthen How
There at present. By the way how
in Marie Mile and family
Is youngins wife and family?
How is Ginge and Swaring States
How is George and Harry getting
at and initial
a Jong Man fan Right dont
A long? Want you write don't
Your Get and Put The Right
You's Get and picks the right
A Dries On a Will Sent ofour
The address or I will sent yours
a Good and Their hill Be
A Card and their will be
The ad Dress On Browther if
The Address on Brothers if
i dond dit a Jou be in a
I don't get a job be in a
fue Dayes i vill you to

Page 16

few days I will go to

Phila and i will Let Jan
Philadelphia and I will let you
Know at worth it to travel
know at wants (once) It is hard
for Dit nork Sence The
have to get work since the
Strike it hay boy a fue
strike its many good a few
wenter file in Git a fonte
weeks until I get a job be
Every four Plese and Right
every you'ens Please and write
Sine my Love too formens all
Soon. My love to the youn'ens all
Lord By Stom your Browther
Good bye from your Brother
adam of Imille Please write soon.
Adam Fr. Smith Plesse Right Come

Letter 2 – Page 1

September 1- 1983
September 1, 1902
De Bronton i Mould to Bite
Dear Brother I would written
Suntil But i hand for you The
Sooner but I went to Geeng? the
the Hastizithe to See The mas
The hospital to see the mad?
Sister i Had Beaud Tris Their
Sister I had been'd trying than
Jan See Hen i Saw Ann On
Too see her I saw her on
Sondary moring and in Enc
Sunday morning and I even
Planed Hun your Care and
Planned him (huns) of your case and
She tald free that She has
She told me that she was
Merry Marry to tell me that
Meaning Harry to tell me that
Sk wooden Dear take Such
She wouldn't Dare take such
a Case Sh hood Sike To de

 $^{
m age}18$

A case She never like to charge

Hon me But it is in Posyle
You and me but it is in Posefle ???
how darjed if to there a
To payed if <u>is</u> was a
Prist Sh Paulden daniel
Priest she couldn't charged
Letter 2 – Page 2
Letter 2 1 age 2
The Hospittle is fild with
The hospital is filled with
Sick at the Prosent Time
Sick at the present time
But She total thee in She
But she told me if she
wed cheave take Hun She hour
Could dare take Home / house she would
make Roume it Such a
Make ronme <u>its</u> such a
& Pair She Haded Put in a
Case she haded put in a
Runne a Lone and That house
Room alone and that would (never)
P 5 1 + 2-00 0 1

and That you could again
And that you couldn't afford
But She Coulden take Home
But she couldn't take him
at anny Con Situates She has
At any point Sister. Con situ She was
Avery Sorry But What is The
Very sorry but that is the
Case if it made Bu Sompens
Case if <u>is may be</u> something
Els my She Moid take.
Else my she would take
Ans at anto and Mad Price
Hers at wants and mad Please or Place
A II

All right.

Back

