



BICENTENNIAL YEAR  
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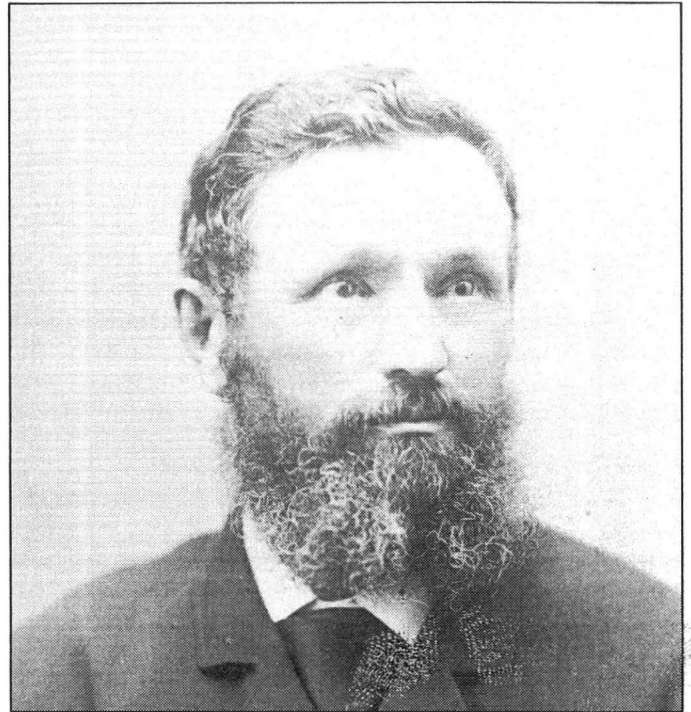
## The Smith Family Of West Point

**Editor's Note:** Calaveras families through the years have involved themselves uniquely in struggles, progress, and challenges. Such a family is the Smith family of West Point.

It should be noted that over the years this family has played an active part in county affairs. Claude T. Smith, for example, was County Supervisor and also Justice of the Peace. His older brother, "Mr. Calaveras", Judge J.A. Smith, gave to his family a continued pride. Judge Smith gave leadership to the Calaveras Historical Society by being its president for several years.

The Smith family is still an active force. Gary, Claude's grandson, is the current representative for this fine family history. The following text is the result of his fervent pride in those who came before him.

The Smith family story is not unlike any other family whose early members came to Calaveras County in search of gold. Much of the information on the following pages was found in old newspaper articles and scrapbook clippings which are in the family's possession. Also, information was compiled from letters written by one of the Smith's, Thomas Richardson, to his parents and other family members living in their homeland of Scotland. We are very fortunate that these letters and clippings were saved by the family, otherwise not much would have been known about the ongoings of our family during that period of time. There must also be a note of thanks to two members of the family, James Alexander Smith and Andrew Jeffrey. Between these two men a great deal of the Smith history was remembered and written down for future members to learn and appreciate. Without the foresight of James and Andrew, their knowledge of the family would have been lost.



JOHN RICHARDSON SMITH  
1835-1899



THOMAS RICHARDSON SMITH  
1833-1914

### The Beginnings of the Family

The Smith's of West Point had their roots in the country of Scotland, where Thomas Richardson Smith, and his brother John Richardson Smith - the heads of the Smith Family were born.

Thomas and John's parents, Andrew and Isabella Smith nee Richardson, were also born in Scotland in the years 1806 and 1809 respectively. From their marriage nine children were born. They were Thomas, born August 17, 1832; John, born December 13, 1835; Margaret, born January 22, 1838; George, born March 2, 1840; Janet (or Jennett), born July 15, 1843; Isabella, born January 6, 1845; Robert, born November 12, 1846; Jane, born April 2, 1849; and Alexander, also born on April 2, but in the year 1852. All of the nine children bore as their names, Isabella's maiden of Richardson. In addition, all of the children were born in Eccles, Scotland, a small village not far from Edinburgh.

Throughout his lifetime, Andrew was a very hard worker and good provider for his family. When the coal fields were discovered in the County of Durham, which is in the north of England, he journeyed there. After a few years in the mines, he moved back to Scotland and started a drayage, or hauling, business. During his later years, Andrew began looking after other farmers' livestock. This was commonly known as "Gentleman Farming".

Excluding their sons Thomas and John not much is known about the lives of Andrew and Isabella's other seven children. Margaret Smith never married and died December 11, 1869. George Smith was married two times. His first marriage was to Elizabeth Kirby. Elizabeth came from Botley, a small village in Yorkshire, England, where her parents owned a farm. George was Yardmaster for the then York and Newcastle Rail Road Corporation, now known as the London and North Eastern Rail Road Corporation. In 1874 or 1875 he moved to South Shields, England, to be Yardmaster at the North Eastern Railway. Elizabeth Kirby Smith died in 1876, and their son, John Robert, was raised by his Grandparents Kirby. John stayed with his grandparents until he was ten years old, at which time he joined his father in South Shields. Around this time, George married Miss Jane Hart. From this marriage six children were born: Ella, Allison, Mary, Georgina, Alexander, and Cecil. Ella, Allison and Mary were married. Alexander was killed in World War I. He was a foreign correspondent for a shipping firm at Newcastle and at the time of his death, at the age of 25, was a Sargent in the English Regiment, the youngest on record. Nothing is known of Cecil and Georgina.

Janet Smith married William Elder of Berwick-Upon-Tweed, Scotland. There were no children from their marriage, however, William did have seven children from a previous marriage. They were John, Thomas, Fessie, Katherine, David, Maggie, and William Jr.

Isabella Smith passed away as a young child.

Robert Smith married Miss Janet Galbraith. Their family consisted of Andrew, Thomas, and Isabella. Robert was an Accountant and held a job with the Pyman Bell Lumber Company in South Shields as Chief Clerk and Paymaster. In 1911, Robert gave up that position to come to British Columbia and work for the New



MRS. WILLIAM ELDER  
(Jennet Richardson Smith)

Westminster Lumber Company. About four or five years later he was found dead — drowned — and the lumber company sent his wife and family back to South Shields. Janet Galbraith Smith, upon her return to England, took up teaching.

Jane Smith was married to George Jeffrey, and one son Andrew was born. Andrew later came to California, staying in Southern California in the Ventura area.

Alexander Smith married Miss Annie Affleck, who was a sister to his brother John's wife. Three of their children, Mary, Andrew, and Isabella, were born in England; and the fourth, Robert, was born after the family's move to San Francisco.

#### To America

Soon after the discovery of gold in California, Thomas Richardson Smith, immigrated to America, settling near relatives in the state of New York. His first home in this new land was not far from the Hudson River. His brother John and wife Isabella Affleck joined him in New York shortly after their marriage on January 7, 1857. While residing in New York, three of John and Isabella's fourteen children were born only seven of which survived.

Both John and Thomas secured jobs without much difficulty, John being a skilled mechanic had served his apprenticeship as a blacksmith in his homeland. Thomas was hired as a Superintendent overseeing a swamp draining operation up the Hudson River. It is also understood that Thomas attended night



**THE GEORGE JEFFREY FAMILY**  
**Geo. Jeffrey, Jane Smith Jeffrey & son Andrew Jeffrey**

school classes while in New York, although his course of study is not known.

In a letter written to family members back home, was Thomas' following description of American men and women:

"...this is a far better country for women than men in general. It is a rare occurrence to see a woman working out here except a few hours each day in hay time and then they are so muffled up to keep themselves from getting sun burned that they are of very little use. Of course they are very feminine in appearance and cannot stand the hardships of those who work with you. The men are more stout and helgthy looking..."

**Westward Ho!!**

John Richardson Smith came first to California, settling in Angels Camp where he opened a blacksmith shop. He then moved to Chili Gulch and later to Mokelumne Hill where he was employed at the Louttit Blacksmith Shop. In addition, to his employment at Louttit's, John also moonlighted with gold mining. Isabella and children joined him after he had settled in "The Hill".

After completing the swamp draining operation back in New York, Thomas joined his brother in coming to California. He left from New York on the 20th of December 1859, on board the steam ship Atlantic. On this vessel were 499 other passengers anxiously awaiting their journey to the gold fields of California. As Thomas stated in another letter to his parents, "...all with high hopes for the land of gold - how many of them will meet with disappointment." He also mentioned that the passengers on board were made up of people from all corners of the world.

Once on board, the steam ship headed for the Carribean Sea, passing the West India Islands. The ship was in view of Cuba and St. Domingo. Once the ship had crossed the Isthmus of Davien, the passengers would board another vessel to take them to San Francisco. The voyage in all was approximately 6,000 miles and was to take about one month.

When Thomas landed in San Francisco, the population of the city was between 70,000 and 80,000. Thomas noted to his parents that considering its age, only eleven years, the city did have some very fine looking granite buildings.

From San Francisco, he and two others from the journey headed on foot to the gold fields. All other modes of transportation out of the city were already crowded, seats already taken, so they had no other alternative but to begin their trek to the gold fields by walking.

Thomas wrote his parents that the land seemed perfectly level and was covered with a thin sod, and that there was only one kind of tree — the scrub oak scattered almost regularly over the country, "which gave the country the appearance of one continued orchard."

After a couple of days journey, the trio began to get their first sights of gold diggings. If you have ever tried to explain something to someone with which the listener is not at all familiar, you might appreciate the following. Thomas writes to his family who know nothing at all about gold mining, a brief description of "gold diggings". It reads:

"I can scarcely give you a correct idea of the diggings but I will do it as I can. In the first place ditches are cut along the hillside to carry water high enough to wash the earth or gravle which is done by placing a row of boxes called sluices each about 12 feet long with decent enough to run the water down with a good force and throwing the earth in while being washed down the gold being heavy falls to the bottom in which are placed some framed pieces of wood. To receive it, quicksilver is put in to amalgamate with the gold and gather it together. Their are many kinds of diggings. Some of them being dug to a great depth, but the gravel being always washed down in sluices to wash out the gold. Some of them called hydraulic diggings are washed away by bringing the water in from a height and throwing it against the bank, with a hose as firemen throw water on a burning. Some of them sink shafts and run in drifts like coal miners. The gold being found in greatest quantities where there have been the bottom of a lake or river but these are expensive and take some capital to begin".

### Early Mining Attempts

After finding it impossible to hire on an already operating claim, Thomas and companions, William Clements and Robert Miller, bought a very modest surface claim. They paid \$4 each for the claim itself, tools, and small shanty. The claim did not pay off well and about a month later the trio moved onward.

They mined at several locations including Chili Gulch, Poverty Bar, Camanche, Lancha Plana and Central Hill.

When the gold rush broke out at the Frazier River, in British Columbia, Thomas left California and his comrades, and joined the men headed for that new field. He mined around Lake Amblin and Port Discovery in Washington Territory. His mail was addressed, "Victoria, Vancouver Island."

Thomas soon found that gold mining was not an easy task and that fortunes did not come easily. Another letter found the following advice to members of his family:

"If the British Columbia gold excitement should prevail here you are and any of the young men wish to come out here I may venture a little advice, none need come without plenty money...and then the chances will be that after years of toil and hardship, and with broken down constitutions perhaps one out of ten may realize something near his expectations. I think that take it all in all the prize is not worth contending for..."

Thomas, after finding the British Columbian rush not to his advantage, once again found his way to Calaveras County, settling this time in Mokelumne Hill, with brother John and family.

The Civil War by this time was raging in America and thinking that the folks back home might be concerned, Thomas wrote reassuring them that California was not in the midst of battle. He wrote:

"I suppose you will hear a good deal just now about the troubles existing in the United States. We are tolerable quiet here and the people generally determined to assist the government in crushing out the rebellion. There is no danger of any difficulty accruing in this state..."

Even though Thomas and John were doing well with their claims in Mokelumne Hill, they decided that the grass might be greener on the other side. So leaving John's wife and children to guard the ownings in Mokelumne Hill, they ventured to the White Pine excavation in Nevada, taking along John Jackson. John had been a mining partner of Thomas' while in Central Hill.

The trio traveled up through the Sacramento Valley, turning east through Honey Lake Valley, Lassen County, to the Nevada mines. Although they did locate rich copper deposits they were forced to leave due to Indians being on the warpath.

Returning to Calaveras County, Thomas and brother John moved to West Point, making it their home for the remainder of their lives.

### Smith's to West Point

John and family first moved into the old La Franchi home. In 1872, he purchased his home in West Point from Aquila M. Hope for the consideration of \$400.00. This property is presently owned by great-granddaughter Ruth Spink and husband Clifford. Prior to the sale, the property was known as the Hope Place.

John assisted by his sons, then established in West Point a blacksmith shop. He took a lively interest in local affairs and held the office of Justice of the Peace for ten years, 1882 to 1892.

In 1892, defeating Charles Werle, he was elected County Supervisor representing the Mokelumne Township sector, now known as District No. 2. In 1896, John again was elected Supervisor, this time defeating Fred Beale. John was serving as Chairman of the Board when he was stricken by a heart attack. He fell ill coming home from a meeting one night and died not long afterward. The date of his death was February 11, 1899. John was 64 years of age. He is buried in the West Point Cemetery.

John was also very active in community groups, being a member in nearly all local organizations. Among those clubs John belonged to were the International Order of Odd Fellows, for over twenty years; affiliated with the Lone Star Encampment No. 10; West Point Lodge No. 290; Blue Mountain Rebekah Lodge No. 187; and the Court Mokelumne of the Order of Foresters.

The seven surviving children of John and Isabella were George A. Smith, Robert Smith, Andrew D. Smith, Isabell Smith Tunnell, Mary Ann Smith Moore, Margaret Jane Smith Williams, and Thomas Watson Smith.

Thomas, upon moving to West Point, engaged in teaming and farming. For many years Thomas hauled all the freight that came into West Point. The closest rail road station at that time was in Ione, Amador County. Thomas also contracted to haul



KATE REYNOLDS SMITH  
at age twenty

**THE THOMAS R. SMITH FAMILY**  
 Posing for a family portrait on a  
 typical Sunday afternoon in West  
 Point. Left to right: Thomas Smith,  
 Sidney Andrew, James Alexander,  
 little Claude Thomas and their  
 mother, Kate Reynolds Smith.



quartz from the various mines in and around West Point.

On the first day of June, 1877, Thomas was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Reynolds, some twenty years younger than he, by Ira Hill Reed, County Judge of Calaveras County.

Kate Reynolds was born in Cornwall, England, on August 13, 1857. Her father, John J. Reynolds, had come to California in the early 1860's seeking gold. In 1875, Kate and her mother, Jane Reynolds, came to California to be reunited with John. Upon the arrival of Jane and Kate, the family moved and settled in West Point.

Judge Ira Hill Reed had been an early day miner and resident of West Point, and upon leaving the town sold his home to Thomas

Smith. In addition, in 1877, Thomas filed a homestead upon 160 acres of land just south of and adjoining the West Point townsite, and here the family home was established. John and Jane Reynolds continued to occupy the so-called Reed Home. This home was torn down in the 1890's and a new building was erected in its place.

From the marriage of Thomas and Kate Smith, four children were born. The first, a daughter, died in infancy and is believed to have been buried in the West Point Cemetery, however there is no marker on her grave. The second child, Sidney Andrew, was born March 9, 1880 at the old Reed Home. The third, James Alexander, was born the 26th day of April, 1882, also in the Reed Home. The



**THOMAS AND KATE'S  
 "DREAM HOUSE" AS IT  
 LOOKED IN THE 1930's.**

The young couple commenced construction on their home in the early 1880's. This fine example of Victorian architecture remains today as a reminder of our past and is still the home of Thomas and Kate's grandchildren, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Claude Smith.

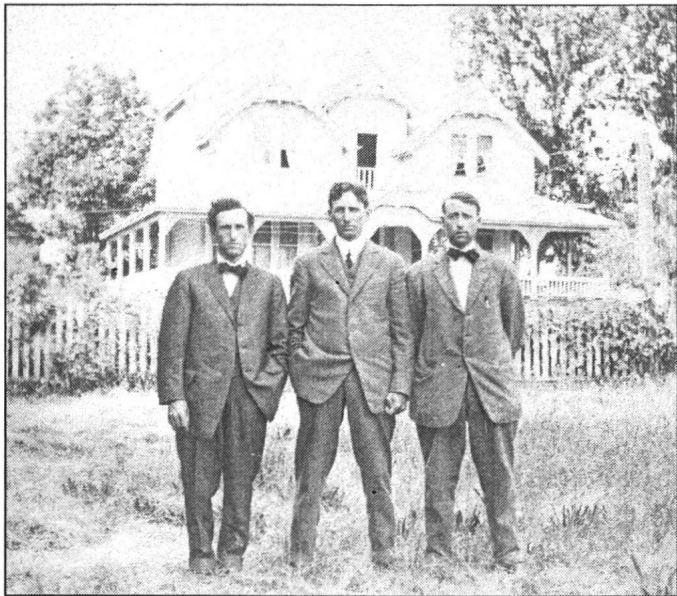
fourth child, Claude Thomas, was born June 11, 1887 on the Homestead.

During most of his married life, Thomas Smith was Clerk of the School Board of the Lincoln School District in West Point. When the West Point Union School District needed a new location for their school, Thomas gave of his land so that a new school could be built (This site was on Highway 26, south of the Brockmon Home, where Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Dunlap now reside).

Thomas enjoyed growing things. He was an avid horticulturist, and especially enjoyed the growing of grapes and experimenting with walnut trees. Like his brother, Thomas was also very active in both civic and community affairs.

In the later part of the 1880's, the mine at Central Hill known as the Union Shaft Placer Mine was held by Thomas and his associates John Jackson and Superintendent Brown from the Lockwood Mine near West Point. It is also believed that Ira Hill Reed had a controlling interest in the Union Shaft. During the life span of the mine, which was less than five years, there was approximately \$100,000.00 taken from its veins. The mine was burned to the ground in 1893, the fire believed to have been started by vandals.

The building of Thomas and Kate's "Dream House" was begun in the early 1880's. This house is still standing and is presently owned and occupied by their grandson Kenneth Claude Smith. Kenneth is the third generation of Smith's to live in this house.



### THREE SMITH BROTHERS

standing outside the home of their parents in West Point. From left to right: Claude Smith, later to be supervisor from Mokelumne Hill township for 16 years; Sidney A. Smith, teacher in Calaveras County turned civil engineer for Contra Costa County for years until his retirement; and James A. Smith, Superior Court Judge in Calaveras County. Photo taken in early 1910's.

Thomas Richardson Smith died in May, 1914, at the family home of a heart attack. Kate Reynolds Smith continued to live in the family home with her youngest son, Claude, until her death in 1937 while at the home of son J.A. Smith in San Andreas. Kate is buried in West Point alongside her husband.

### The Sons of Thomas and Kate

Sidney, the eldest son, began his career as a teacher in Calaveras County. But soon decided teaching was not for him and took to surveying. His work took him throughout most of California, Oregon and parts of Washington. He later returned to West Point, to marry Miss Mabel Wilson. Mabel's father, Thomas A. Wilson, ran the grocery and general merchandise store in West Point for many years. Upon his retirement, Mabel's brother Arthur, or Artie, continued in the business.

Sidney and Mabel moved to Walnut Creek where they raised their family. Two sons were born out of this marriage, Sidney Wilson Smith and Robert Willard Smith. Sidney was employed by Contra Costa County working in the Department of Highways and Bridges as Road District Supervisor. He retired from there in 1949, with over 30 years of service. Mabel, prior to her marriage, had been a school teacher in Calaveras County but did not continue to work afterwards.

Although Sidney and Mabel moved away from Calaveras County, their love for the area did not cease. Both of them continued to return to the place of their birth. Along with brothers Alex and Claude, Sidney purchased and invested in land around West Point. Mabel passed away in 1959, Sidney in 1969. Both are buried in the family plot in West Point Cemetery.

Their oldest son, Sidney Wilson, or Bill as he was called, graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in Civil Engineering. He was then employed by the U.S. Geological Survey where he remained until his retirement at the age of 60. He and wife Charlotte lived in Menlo Park. They had no children. Bill passed away in 1974 of a heart attack, only one year after his retirement.

Robert Willard, or Willard as he was known, graduated from Stanford with a degree in Business Administration. He was employed and still is, by Stanford Research Institute. Willard and first wife, Betty Doctor, had two sons, Kirk and Creighton Smith. Kirk and wife Lynn, reside in Pioneer, Amador County, where he is currently manager of the Pioneer Water District. They have one son, Mathew. Creighton, and wife Karen, live in Pine Acres, outside of Pine Grove, Amador County. He is currently employed by the County of Amador, working in the Health/Sanitation Department. They as yet have no children.

Willard and second wife Florence are now residing in the Palo Alto area.

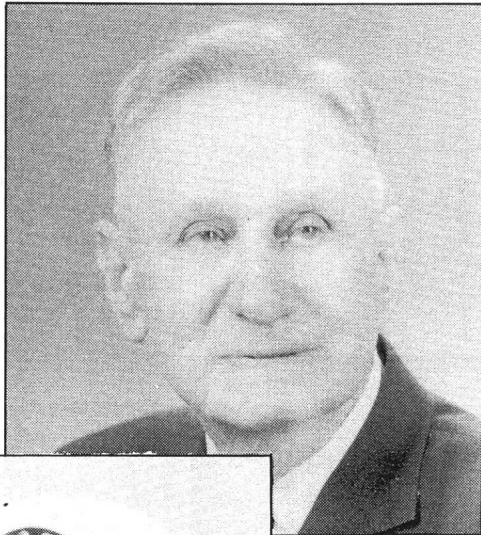
### "Here Comes the Judge"

James Alexander, whom most of you know as Judge Smith, was the second son born to Thomas and Kate Smith. Upon completing his schooling at the Lincoln District in West Point, Alex passed the exams and was issued a teaching certificate. He later became a

**CAMP TAYLOR**  
 When Sidney Smith decided to undertake a career in surveying he attended the Vander Naillen's School of Engineering. This is the class he was with when they were on a Field Party at Camp Taylor.



**SIDNEY  
 ANDREW  
 SMITH**

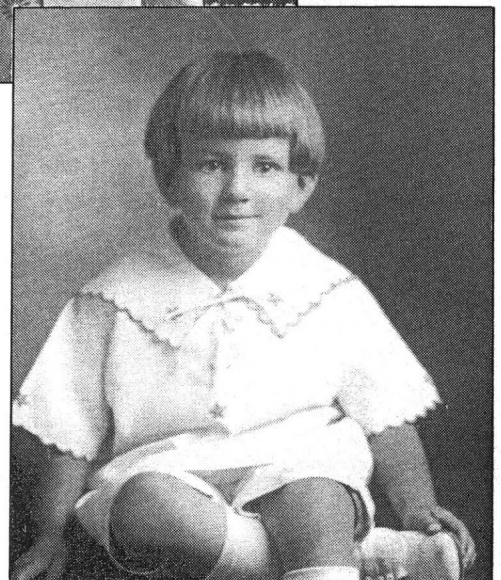


**MRS. SIDNEY  
 ANDREW  
 (MABEL)  
 SMITH**



**LT. SIDNEY  
 WILSON  
 (BILL)  
 SMITH**  
 photo  
 taken in  
 1946

**ROBERT  
 WILLARD  
 SMITH**  
 photo  
 taken  
 in the  
 1920's



principal for some of the county's schools. He then attended Hastings Law School, at the University of California at Berkeley. He did not graduate but instead returned to Calaveras County to become County Clerk.

After much study on his part, Alex was admitted to the State Bar in 1909. In 1918, nine years later, he was elected Superior Court Judge for Calaveras County. He served continuously in this office until his retirement in 1956. For each term after his initial election, Alex ran without any opposition. Throughout his 38 years as Judge in Calaveras County, Alex was called to sit on the Superior Court benches in Los Angeles and San Francisco counties. During this span as Judge, it was said that he had only one of his decisions appealed; and that was only because the prosecution was not satisfied with the amount of money awarded as settlement and requested more.

In 1911, James Alexander was united in marriage to Miss Idell Parsons Idell, who was from Murphys, had also taught school in Calaveras County prior to her marriage. There were no children born from their marriage.

Following his retirement, Alex devoted himself to his lifelong hobby of Calaveras history. In the early 1950's he was one of the instrumental figures in the founding of our Historical Society. He was also, until his death in 1964, the only President it had.

Both he and Idell belonged to many organizations and clubs. He was the holder of the Silver Beaver Award for his contributions to scouting, and also had been given a Life Membership in the Parent-Teacher Association for his work as an educator. In addition, he and Idell were part of the original membership of "Save the Water of Origin for Mountain Counties". He was a charter member of the Native Sons; held Life Membership in the Azalea Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star; and was affiliated with the



**IDELL PARSONS SMITH**  
Wife of Judge J.A. Smith



**JUDGE J.A. SMITH**  
Many Calaveras residents who sought the advice of Judge Smith remember him just as he is pictured here in his office at the old Courthouse on Main Street in San Andreas



Scottish Rite Bodies of Stockton; Ben Ali Shrine in Sacramento; and the Calaverans of San Andreas Blue Lodge. In 1960, Alex was bestowed the title of "Mr. Calaveras County" by the Board of Supervisors for his many contributions and public service record in Calaveras County.

Alex died of a heart attack on January 27, 1964, at the age of 82. Idell passed away only a few month later. They are both buried in the People's Cemetery in San Andreas.

Claude Thomas was the youngest of the Smith sons. He along with his two brothers attended school at the old Lincoln School House. He chose not to continue his education, but decided to go into business for himself.

With the death of his father, Thomas Richardson, in 1914, and his brothers gone from the family home, Claude felt the need to remain on the homestead and tend to farming and ranching. In his earlier years, he operated a butcher shop, and in 1920 was elected Justice of the Peace for the West Point area. He served in this capacity for three terms, from 1920 to 1932. In March 1919 he was united in marriage to Miss Grace Porteous also of West Point. The ceremony was performed by older brother Alex. One son was born to Claude and Grace, Kenneth Claude Smith, of whom we will talk later. Claude's marriage to Grace ended in divorce six years after their marriage.

In 1932, Claude was elected Supervisor of District Two of Calaveras County, and served 16 consecutive years in this office until 1948. This was the position his uncle John Richardson Smith had held 34 years earlier.

Claude was always interested in civic affairs and served on the Calaveras County Republican Central Committee for several years. He was also a Director of the Mark Twain Hospital from its inception, serving as a member of the Board of Directors for 12 years thereafter. In addition, he was on the Board of Trustees serving the West Point Union School District.

In the early 1900's, Claude was principal owner of the West Point Ditch Company, furnishing water to the community of West Point. In 1952, this operation was purchased by the Calaveras County Water District, and is now known as West Point Improvement District No. 3.

In the late 1920's Claude and Alex purchased the old McGhee Ranch outside of West Point toward Lily Gap. This property was sold in the middle 1950's.

In 1933, Claude and Alex also became joint owners of 140 acres of land adjacent to the original homestead. This property was known as the Quintaro Ranch. Here they established a walnut orchard comprising 60 acres. This orchard remains in family ownership as a producing orchard to this day.

Claude was married twice more. His second marriage was to Miss May Adams. This marriage ended with May's death in 1952. His third and final marriage was to Rhoda Elizabeth McCormick.

Claude's death came in April of 1967, just a few month's short of his eightieth birthday. He is buried in the West Point Cemetery along with his many illustrious family members before him.

Claude Thomas' son, Kenneth Claude, was born in June, 1920. Following his graduation from Calaveras High School, he moved to Sacramento where he attended and graduated from Sacramento City College with a degree in Business Administration. In 1941, he married his high school sweetheart, Miss Cora Jones, from Sheep Ranch. Three children were born of their marriage, Kent Allan, Gary Dean, and Debra Jean.

During World War II, Kenneth enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and served three and a half years, with two years in the South Pacific. At the end of the war, and his discharge from the service, he and Cora resided in Sacramento, where he was employed by the Fidelity Title Insurance Company. He was later employed by the State Department of Beaches and Parks for five years, handling all land acquisitions. From there he moved to the State Lands Commission serving 17 years as Public Lands Officer, in charge of the California State Land Office. Upon the death of his father Claude, Kenneth and Cora moved to West Point to live on the Smith Homestead. Kent and Gary remained in Sacramento where each graduated from California State University, Sacramento, with degrees in Biology and Environmental Resources,



CLAUDE THOMAS SMITH

## Officers of Calaveras County Historical Society

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### LAS CALAVERAS

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<b>Assistant Editor</b>	<b>Miss Anne Richard, Angels Camp</b>
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Las Calaveras is published quarterly by the Calaveras County Historical Society. Individual memberships (\$5.00 a year). Family (\$7.00) and Junior memberships (\$1.00) include subscriptions to Las Calaveras. Non-members may obtain copies of Las Calaveras from the Secretary. The original historical material in this bulletin is not copyrighted and anyone is invited to use it. Mention of the source will be appreciated.

The Calaveras County Historical Society, a non-profit corporation, meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Grange Hall in San Andreas — except for dinner meetings which are held each quarter at different places in the county.

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### Back Issues

A list of our back issues is available for the asking. Out of print issues will be supplied as "xerox" copies. Price to members is 60 cents a copy, and a discount is given for orders over \$10.

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respectfully. Debra died, in 1964, as the result of a tractor accident.

Kent Allan married Judith Kiefer in 1970, but this marriage ended in divorce four years later. He recently married Patricia Perkins of Sacramento. Both Kent and Patricia work for the State Department of Fish and Game in Sacramento.

Gary and Cheryl Kiefer were married in September, 1973. Upon his graduation from college, they moved to Calaveras County residing in Mokelumne Hill for a short time. Next, they moved to West Point and are presently living in the summer home of Alex and Idell on the Smith property. Cheryl is currently employed by the County Office of Education in Government Center, San Andreas. Gary is working along with his father on the Smith Ranch, and in addition is employed by Research Ecology Associates, in which they do contract work in the areas of recreational and wildlife management.

### DUES

We wish to take the opportunity to remind members that dues for the coming year are now payable. Cost for single membership is \$5.00; family membership is \$7.00.

### ESSAYS

Copies of the essays from our last contest will be available for members soon. To avoid the high cost of the printing of these essays, we will only send the booklet to those who order. Please let us know as soon as possible those of you who are interested in receiving the essay booklets. If you signed up for one at the last meeting do not submit your name again.

### "CALAVERAS COUNTY DESCRIBED AND ILLUSTRATED"

There are still copies of the soft-bound edition of "Calaveras County Described and Illustrated" available for sale. These may be obtained by sending a check or money order for \$5.25 per book to the Society's mailing address: P.O. Box 721, San Andreas, Ca. 95249.

### NEW MEMBERS

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### IN MEMORIAM

William Wells