# MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO JOHN SMITH AND MARTHA PICKENS

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Memorial Tribute to John Smith and Martha Pickens by Grace Smith Pettijohn

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## **GRACE SMITH PETTIJOHN**

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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

1912



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#### SMITH-PICKENS.

#### PREFACE.

Believing that a family history is of priceless value, and that many members of the Smith-Pickens family have long yearned for such a record, I have decided to pick up the broken threads as they have been handed down to me, and weave this cloth of gold—rich in quality and texture.

Of the present generation little is written, because it is known to each of us, and later, when other generations shall come on, we shall look to one of the younger ones to write another book and record our deeds.

In the history of all royal families we find noble deeds, fame and grandeur in all forms, but just as prominent do we find shame, disgrace and all forms of corruption. While our family history reveals no heretofore unsurpassed fame, yet it is exceptionally free from disgrace.

If every genius in the world should die, I am convinced that the Smith family would live on, but should every Smith die, I am just as sure that the rest of the world would be troubled to find supplies for their places.

May not we later generations pay tribute to the simple virtues of our pioneer ancestors, and by worthy imitation dedicate our lives to as noble work as did they, and, by so doing, dedicate these pages to their sacred memory?

AUTHOR.

### NOTE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Acknowledgment is made for permission to use names, dates and other material collected from time to time by J. P. Smith; for the untiring response to questions put to S. M. Smith; for letters from D. H. Russell and Col. W. S. Pickens, which gave much of the early history of our family; and for the use of the family tree planned and drawn by Bessie M. and Adelaide Smith.

### SMITH GENEALOGY.

Records of the Smith family are very meager. From the best evidence obtainable it is known that Job Smith, of Scotch-Irish descent, served through the Revolutionary War as a soldier from the State of Virginia, and afterwards went to South Carolina and secured a large grant of land from the State and settled by the waters of Three and Twenty Creek, on which land his body now lies buried.

His children were:

- II. 1.
- John Smith. Dorcas Smith Gasaway. 2.

  - Job Smith.
    William Smith.
  - Bassil Smith.
  - Nancy (Mrs. John D.) Treadaway.
    Mollie (Mrs. Phillip) Porter.

  - 8. Joseph Smith.

William, Job and Bassil Smith were all Methodist ministers. William Smith married Nancy Charles. Their sons were:

- James Smith.
  John Smith. III.

  - 3. Israel Smith.
  - 4. Joseph Smith.

They also had several daughters, one of whom was Martha Smith, who married Robert Pickens III.

John Smith, the son of Job Smith, was a farmer and blacksmith, an energetic, fearless, honest and successful business man. He joined the Methodist Church as soon as it was organized in that country. He lived a consistent religious life, thereby setting an example for his posterity. It is said that overwork and heat from the forge caused the loss of his eyesight about twelve years before his death. About the year 1800 John Smith married Martha Pickens, whose father gave them the land on which they lived and died. It is of the descendants of these two that this account is told.

It is interesting to know that they built their log house one and one-half stories high, eighteen feet wide, twenty-four feet long. It had a shed room and small piazza in front and the house had a brick chimney. The accompanying picture was made recently, and shows the shed room and piazza, as they were called, converted into a wagon shed—thus concealing the front door and the entire house used as a barn. The picture is inserted for the sentiment of our oldest living generation, and we entreat the gentle reader of the rising generation to consider his own birthplace a century hence, should it be converted into a corncrib in the meantime, and be not critical of this, our first Smith-Pickens home.

