

## The Descendants of William Lawson Smith (1852-1906?) and Emily Spartis Guthrie (1855-1939) of Texas

This is the continuing saga of the descendants of Jesse R. Smith and Elizabeth Harrison Smith and an examination of the life of their 3rd child and his children and an introduction of his grandchildren. As usual, I'll leave a brief introduction of Ernest and Isabella before delving into the children.

- 4. William Lawson Smith** 27 NOV 1852 • Washington, TX - DEATH Before 1910 Bell, TX?  
Emily Spartis Guthrie 3 MAY 1855 • Lavaca County, TX - 1 APRIL 1939 • Olton, Lamb, TX  
Marriage: 10 Jul 1873 • Bell, TX

William was the 3rd child of Jesse and Elizabeth arriving in 1852 probably in Washington County before the move to Atascosa in late 1850's. He first appears in the 1860 Census in Atascosa County with 6 siblings, his parents, and an uncle. He shows up next in 1870 after the family moved to Atascosa and everyone is still at home. Records show that in Jul 1873, he has made his way to Bell County and married Emily Spartis Guthrie. He would have been 20 and Emily almost 18. Emily had been born near Hallettsville, TX in Lavaca County in 1855 and she was one of the youngest children of William Guthrie and his last of several wives.

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- 25. John Brown Smith** 17 FEB 1892 • Granger, Williamson TX - 24 JAN 1980 • Dallas, TX  
Ola A King 14 SEP 1898 • Cherokee County, TX - 22 NOV 1989 • Pueblo County, CO

John has been a bit frustrating to research as a lot of records related to him seem to be missing. He was the 9<sup>th</sup> child of Emily and William and born in Granger in 1891 which as we have previously noted is near Bartlett between Temple and Georgetown, TX. After his appearance at age 18 in the family home in 1900 and with his widowed mother in Motley, CO. in 1910, he does not resurface in any Census that I can find until 1940. I was finally able to find his WW1 Draft registration which showed him at age 25 to be in Northfield, TX in Motley County which is near where much of the family has been found in this era. Maybe Northfield was too far off of the beaten path for the census taker to find. It's a wide spot in the road. He was married, farming, and was of medium height, stout, with brown hair and eyes. It gives his birthday as 17 Feb 1892. Apart from brother William, all of his family was in west Texas during the 1920 and 1930 period and his son Robert was born in Amarillo in April 1920 which suggests that is where he should be for the census, but he cannot be found. A search of newspapers has not yielded any results either. Let's see what we can garner from the 1940 Census.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Gender	Race	Age	Estimated Birth Year	Marital Status	Attended School or College	Highest Grade Completed	Birthplace	Citizenship	Residence City in 1938	Employment Details	Hours Worked Week Prior to Census	Duration of Unemployment	Occupation
1940 Census	Amarillo, Potter,	212a E Ninth		Rented	20											
Smith	John B	Head	Male	White	47	1893	Married	No	Elementary school, 7th grade	Texas		Dallas	No			26 Fee Manager
Smith	Ola A	Wife	Female	White	41	1899	Married	No	Elementary school, 7th grade	Texas		Dallas	No	45		Silver Salesman
Smith	Robert J	Son	Male	White	20	1920	Single	No	High School, 3rd year	Texas		Dallas	No	66		Bus Boy

## Child of John and Ola

1023    115    **Robert J Smith**    1920    1988    John and Ola Child#1

**115. Robert J (or H) Smith** 18 APR 1920 • Amarillo, TX - 22 NOV 1988 • Hunt, TX  
 Clara Mae Buchanan Whittington - 21 AUG 1913 • Tennessee - 3 SEP 1982 • Liberty, TX  
 Married: Texas – after 1935 – based on the birth of her son from her first marriage.



Robert and Clara's grave marker from Findagrave. Located in Dallas.

As I was going through this, I was reminded that Robert's mother Ola King, was the sister of Chesley Shaw King. He was married to Fontie Smith, the daughter of Samuel Smith and Maggie Grayson. This means that Robert and Fontie

were cousins. Also, because there was such a lack of information on his parents and also a lack of information on Robert, I started looking at other family trees on Ancestry. While most have all of the information that I have, one on the Keetch Brothers tree had the note that Robert was adopted. This may explain why I have never been able to find his birth information. I will go under the assumption that it not the case, but maybe have an asterisk in my mind if he is a direct descendant. Here is what I know.

His first appearance is in the 1940 Census at age 20 working as a bus boy at his mother's café in Amarillo. I found from a news article, that this café was located at 412 South Filmore. It's now the parking lot for the J.M. Jones Federal Building. The census was conducted in April 1940 and in Sep 1940, Robert enlisted in the Army. His records indicate that he was discharged on 13 June 1946, and on 19 June 1946 in Trinidad, Colorado he filled out the required Draft registration. On that card he noted no middle name. (He is variously identified as Robert J, Robert H., and Robert Junior so I don't know which is correct) His point of contact was his mother Ola King who had married Jesse Lingar and she lived at box 512, Aquilar, CO. It is a small settlement north of Trinidad, CO just north of the New Mexico border near Raton. It would appear that he must have been discharge and went to visit his mother. He was 6'-3 3/4"-165lbs-blue eyes-brown-hair-light complexion. Unfortunately, his weight was affected because his left leg had been amputated below the knee. I searched the Colorado and Texas newspapers without success.

Robert's next appearance comes in the 1950 Census where he has married Clara Buchanan who had been previously married to Theodore P. Whittington and they had a son Douglas Whittington in 1935. Douglas is with them as a 15-year-old. Also, his father, John Brown Smith, at age 60 is with them and may have been in ill health as the extra lines on the census show that he had only worked 4 weeks that year. Robert worked as a loan clerk at the bank and Clara was a registered nurse at a local hospital. The Keetch Brothers suggest that Clara had been Robert's nurse after his return from the war with his injuries. I have nothing to confirm this. The street designations on this census are so unclear, I cannot determine where in Dallas this was. It's interesting that Clara was 7 years older than Robert.

Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Race	Gender	Age	Birth Date	Marital Status	Birth Place	Citizenship	Hours Worked	Occupation	Industry
	101 Davley										
Robert	Head	White	Male	29	1921	Married	Texas		44	Loan Clerk	Bank
Clara	Wife	White	Female	36		Married	Mississippi		44	Registered Nurse	Hospital
Douglas	Stepson (Step Son)	White	Male	15		Never Married	Texas				
J B	Father	White	Male	60	1890	Separated	Texas				

Clara's first husband looked like he worked in retail. In 1940, they lived in Big Spring, TX where he managed a soda fountain in a variety store. He had been in Houston in 1935 and Douglas had been born in Fort Worth. After Clara's divorce in the mid 1940's, T.P. married again to Marilyn Smith and was in Fort Worth working in a drugstore with two new sons, Theodore and Raymond born in 1947 and 1948, so Douglas had some much younger half-brothers. A news article from 1948 announcing Ray's birth said that he was their 3<sup>rd</sup> child with the others being Diane and Theodore which leads me to believe that Diane was a stepdaughter to TP. In investigating, I discovered that Marilyn had indeed been married to Hughie Rutland and had a daughter Lena Diane in 1941.

I'm getting into too many rabbit holes here trying to find out more about Robert, and it's not getting me anywhere so I will stop. Clara and Robert had no children together, so this will end this branch of the family tree.

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