

SMITH'S of County Cavan Ireland

By Barbara Smith Manzi

These are my ancestors, I'm descended from Philip & Letitia (Stinchfield) Smith.

Owen Patrick SMITH immigrated from County Cavan, Ireland between 1846-1849, during the potato famine. It appears that his wife, Mary E. (CLARKE) SMITH didn't accompany him, because she never appeared on a Census and there is no death record for her in the US.

Patrick settled in Indiana, living both in Johnson & Brown Cos., as a boarder & then as a single man, working as a farmer. Owen Patrick & Mary had their children in Lackanmore, Denn, County Cavan, Ireland, their sons Owen II, Philip & Matthew survived to adulthood.

Their sons: Owen II & Philip left Ireland in Nov 1853 & immigrated to the US, landing at the port of New Orleans, LA in Dec. 1853. Owen II settled in Memphis, Shelby Co., TN by 1860, he worked as an undertaker. He opened his own funeral parlor & by 1870 he had an estate valued at \$12,000. Owen (II) SMITH married Mary STEPHENS around 1861, they had three children: Philip, Edward Michael & Agnes. Mary died around 1865, all three of their children died in childhood. Owen II remarried to Mary CONATY in 1866, she died in 1873. They had three children: Owen Patrick III, Eddie & Matthew. Owen III & Matthew lived to adulthood.

There was a Yellow Fever epidemic in Memphis during the late 1860's to early 1870's. Owen II was very successful because of the epidemic; but he, his wife Mary & three of their children died during because of the epidemic. Only Owen Patrick III & Matthew survived to adulthood and were sent to live with their uncle, James STEPHENS in Chicago, IL, by 1880. Owen III became involved in greyhound racing & perfected the sport. The youngest son, Matthew married Alice SHANLEY in 1899 in Chicago, Cook Co., IL, they had four children.

Philip SMITH went to IN & was living in Daviess Co. in 1854, where he filed for his Declaration of Intention in 1855. Philip moved to Evansville, Vanderburgh Co., IN, by 1858, where he married Letitia STINCHFIELD on 18 Mar 1858. They had ten children between 1859 & 1880. Philip was a poor provider & Letitia filed for divorce from him in 1875, the case was dismissed on Oct 1, 1875. She divorced him on Jan 2, 1881 & they were remarried on Jan 29, 1882 & had an eleventh child, Laura M., on Oct 19, 1882.

Philip & Letitia's oldest son, Hiram S. SMITH was born in 1859. He married Christena WUNDERLICH in 1879, in Evansville, IN, they had four children, three lived to adulthood. Christena died in 1887 of Typhoid Fever. Their youngest son, Major of adopted by Hiram's sister, Alice HOWE.

Hiram remarried in 1892 to Elizabeth ABBING, they had eight children, five children lived to adulthood. Hiram moved his second family to Madison, Madison Co., IL in the mid 1890's. He worked as a laborer & also in the logging business, in 1913 Hiram drowned when he fell through logs on a river, while trying to break-up a log jam.

The youngest son, Mathew SMITH was born in 1846. He came to the United States at age 6 by way of NY, NY on Jul 21, 1851. It isn't known for sure who he lived with until in 1870 when Mathew, age 26 is shown living & working with his brother, Owen at the Funeral Parlor in Memphis, TN. After Owen SMITH II died in Aug 1870, Mathew helped Owen's wife Mary run the Funeral Parlor, until they sold the business to Flaherty & Co.

Mathew SMITH married, in 1872 to Mary Ellen Walsh, they had seven children, only one child, daughter, Mary Catherine Cavanagh SMITH, born in 1880, survived to adulthood. In 1885 Mathew opened Mathew Smith's Grocery Store on 380 Beale St. in Memphis, TN, he still continued to work as a hearse driver too.

In 1892 Mathew became ill so his wife Mary operated their grocery store at the SE corner of Walnut & Pidgeon Root Rd. in Memphis, TN, by herself. They lived in the back of the store. In Jan 1893 they opened a Grocer & Butcher Shop at 25 Polk Ave. On June 23, 1893, Mathew died of Typhoid Fever at St. Joseph Hospital in Memphis, TN.