

# GENEALOGY.

The Joseph Smith Family—An Unbroken Chain Back to 1638—Remarkable Men—New England Pioneers—Revolutionary War Heroes—Prominent in Civil Affairs—Philosophical and Vivid—Last Testament of Asael Smith.

(This department is prepared by the genealogical committee of the Daughters of the Pioneers. ELIZABETH CLARIDGE MCUNE, Chairman. EDITH A. SMITH, JOSEPHINE BEATTIE BURTON.

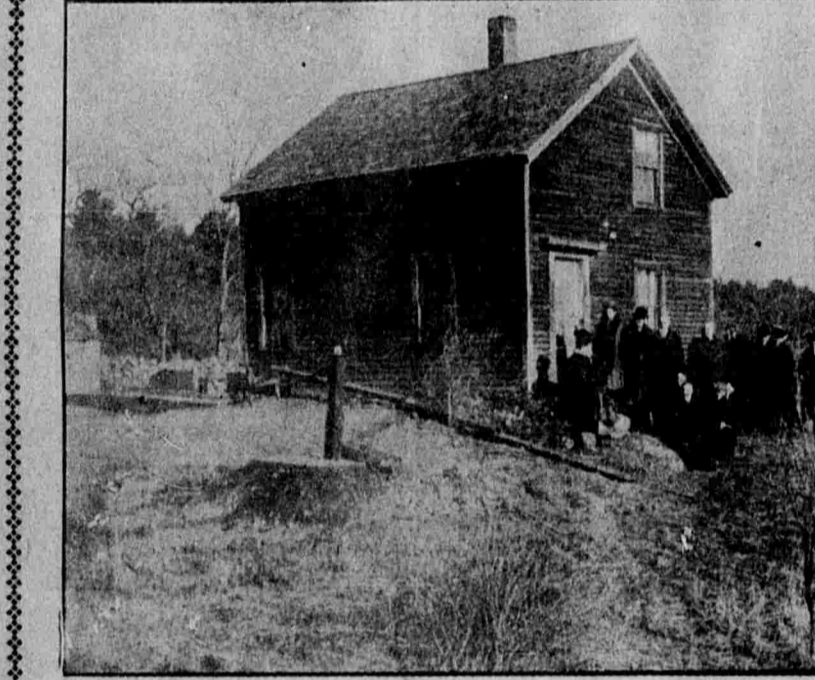
It is proposed, in these columns, to give the genealogical story of some of the well known Utah families. These stories will be both interesting and suggestive. They will furnish data which will be of historical interest as well as of collateral value. At the head of the list is properly placed the families of the man selected by the Lord as His chosen instrument in this dispensation:

**JOSEPH SMITH.**  
The name of Smith has been used, with that of Jones and Brown, as a synonym of multiplicity of persons attached to one surname. This is hardly true. As a matter of fact, there are other names, as common, if not more so, than that of Smith. And, further, there appears to be no family name more easily traced than that of the Joseph Smith family. It is suggestive of an overruling Providence to find that the progenitors of the Prophet were moved upon by a strong impulse to re-

He died Nov. 14, 1785, leaving an estate valued at \$444-12-8. The Salem Gazette of Nov. 22, 1785, in recording the fact of his death made mention of him in the following worthy terms: "Died at Topsfield, on Monday the 14th instant, Samuel Smith, Esq., aged 72—So amiable and worthy a character as he evidently appeared, both in public and private, will render the memory of him ever precious. For a number of years he represented the town in the general court, where he was esteemed a man of integrity and uprightness. His usefulness among those with whom he was more immediately conversant was eminent. He was a sincere friend to the liberties of his country, and a strenuous advocate for the doctrine of Christianity."

"The memory of the just is blessed." Asael, son of Samuel, was born in Topsfield, March 7, 1744. His mother died shortly after his birth and he was left in the care of his father's second wife, Priscilla. The greater part of his early life was spent in Topsfield. Feb. 12, 1767, he married Mary Duty, of Windham, New Hampshire, and took up his residence in that place about the year 1772. From there he moved to Dunbarton and from there he went to Derryfield, now the city of Manchester.

During the Revolution he followed the example of his worthy father, and cast his lot on the side of the patriots.



ROBERT SMITH HOMESTEAD.

At Bosford, Essex County, Massachusetts, Showing Members of Smith Family in Front, December 25, 1905.

cord, in various interesting ways, their names and dates on history's page. Some time ago, Joseph F. Smith, Jr., gathered and published, in a private way, some vitally interesting facts concerning this remarkable family, which goes back to 1638 in America. This information will be given here in full, as called to the strong, splendid characters of these men, as evidenced in their writings as well as in their lives. A narrative of their lives and deeds follows.

In looking over the early history of the United States, one cannot help but see the truthfulness of the words of the Apostle Paul, that "the powers that be are ordained of God." I firmly believe that through the inspiration of the Lord the first settlers of America were moved upon to take up their journey from the old world and make their homes in this land of freedom. Generally they were of humble birth, yet honest, industrious and brave; men, such as the Lord would choose to cope with the many problems which are always to be met and overcome in the settlement of a new country or in the framing of a new nation.

Among these early settlers was a Robert Smith who immigrated in the year 1638. Beginning life in the new world in a humble way he gradually won the esteem of his neighbors, and through his industry and integrity was able to gather around him some of the comforts of life. He married a Mary French and moved to that part of what became the township of Boxford, where he purchased 208 acres of land. Robert was known among his neighbors as a quiet unassuming man, devoted to the welfare of the settlement, and was ever ready to lend a helping hand to the needy. He was the father of 10 children, namely: Thomas, Mary, born October 28, 1658; married John Towne; Phoebe, born August 26, 1661; married Jacob Towne; Ephraim, born October 29, 1663; married Mary Ramsdell; Samuel, born January 26, 1666; married Rebecca Curtis; Asael, born August 15, 1668; married Joseph Towne; Sarah, born June 25, 1670; died August 28, 1673; Nathaniel, born January 29, 1674; married Rebecca Symonds; Mariah, born December 18, 1677; married Peter Shumway. In his will dated August 7, 1693—23 days before his death—Robert appointed his wife Mary and third son, Samuel, his executors. Later by request of his mother and children, Samuel became the sole administrator of his father's estate. He received a letter of administration from Judge Jonathan Corbin, October 3, 1698.

After the estate was divided, Samuel moved from Boxford to Topsfield where he became an influential member of society and held several offices of trust. He married Rebecca, daughter of John Curtis, January 25, 1707. He is sometimes credited with a previous marriage, but whether this is the same Rebecca has not been proved with any degree of certainty. The children of Samuel and Rebecca were: Phoebe, Mary, Samuel, Rebecca, Elizabeth, Hephzibah, Robert, Susannah and Hannah. His second wife, Rebecca, died January 3, 1714, in Topsfield. He married (first) Priscilla Gould, daughter of Zachariah Gould of that village. Their children were: Priscilla, Samuel, Yashnah, Susannah, and Asael. After the death of his wife, Samuel married (second) Priscilla Gould, a cousin to his first wife. Samuel was a very prominent man in the community and served the people the greater part of his life. Among the many positions he held are the following: He was grand jurymen in 1760; in 1770, road supervisor; in 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782 and 1783 he was on the committee of safety; from 1771 to 1779 and in 1781 and 1782 he was assessor and selectman in Topsfield, declining the honor in 1783. He was moderator in 1758, 1759, 1760, 1762, 1764, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1770, 1771, 1772, 1773, 1774, 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 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