

Bassett – History of Buffalo County

RIVERDALE TOWNSHIP--TOWN NO. 9, RANGE NO. 16

Also town No. 8, range No. 16, as embraced in Buffalo County.
1871--George E. Smith, Jas. A. Smith,

LOCATING THE JUNCTION POINT

April 11, 1871, D. N. Smith, agent for the town-site department of the Burlington Railway, in company with Moses Syndenham and Rev. Ashbury Collins visited Buffalo County and located the junction point of the two roads. The records disclose that on May 3, 1871, D. N. Smith purchased of the Union Pacific Railway Company, all of section one (1) and part of eleven (11), township 8, range 16 in Buffalo County--in all 993.10 acres for the sum of \$2,979.30, an average price of \$3 per acre. On April 21, 1871, friendly parties filed pre-emption claims on the north one-half of section two (2) town 8, range 16 and at the earliest possible date pre-emption proof was made on these claims and on November 21, 1871, D. N. Smith purchased these two claims, 300 acres in all, for the sum of \$500 each. In February, 1872, another quarter section of Section No. 2 was purchased by Mr. Smith, agent for the South Platte Land Company. Thus it will be seen that nearly a year before the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad made junction with the Union Pacific, the South Platte Land Company, by its agent D. N. Smith, had secured in a body, covering the junction point, 1,473.10 acres of land at a total expense of approximately \$4,419.00.

Page 187 - The tax list of the county for the year 1872 discloses that in school district No. 7, there were in that year nineteen (19) persons against whom personal taxes were levied;... The names of these persons against which said personal tax was levied were: John Bugler, Asbury Collins, M. M. Collins, Fred and E. Cuddebeck, F. N. Dart, Edward Delhanty, George Enderly, Jacob Enderly, M. F. Fagly, Wilson Hewett, E. T. Jay, John Mahon, W. F. Marsh, Joseph McClure, W. W. Patterson, **James A. Smith**, F. R. Wood, T. J. Walker....Of the nineteen taxpayers herein named, the records disclose that twelve of the number had, at that date, filed upon homestead or pre-emption claims: **J. A. Smith**,....

Buffalo Tales

1985, Oct. - THE ARTS IN EARLY KEARNEY Part II

The desire for books led to Kearney's first community theater when, in 1876, a group met at the office of L. R. More for the purpose of raising money for a library. Mr. More was named president of the Library Association, and James A. Smith was manager for two plays, to be presented as a money-making project. "I've Written to Browne" and "A Little More Cider" were duly presented on July third at More's Hall.

1987, Sept - THE HOTELS OF KEARNEY - Part I, by Margaret Stines Nielsen

The first building in Kearney also served as a hotel at various times. Located in the center of section two, with a room on each of the four quarters, it was occupied by homesteaders George and James Smith, Daniel Rowan and John W. Wright. Asbury Collins, his wife, Louisa, two sons and a daughter-in-law arrived at the Junction house on May 11, 1871.

Mrs. Collins described it as "16 by 16 and built of sheathing lumber" (the outside cut of logs). That evening the Collins family sat down with the claim holders "to tea served in tin cups and plates, with a box covered with newspapers serving as a table". With the addition of a lean-to it became the Collins home; they furnished board for the Smith brothers. The house was later moved to 18th and 1st Avenue; G. W Bryant was proprietor in 1877.

From Louisa Collins' Diary – 1871 [unpublished]

Sunday 14th Last night my dear companion met us at the train . Had us ride five miles in a buggy ... How glad we were to see the light at the shantie windo as we came near we heard sweet music that touched the tenderest cords of my heart... There were three strangers among us Alfred Gay and James who had come with the teams from Red Oak and James and George Smith from Indiana who were singing and playing when we arrived we were met so pleasantly treated so kindly we scarcely realized they were strangers We retired (to a bed on the floor all in the same room) ... awake and find ourselves in a strange land a beautiful country but not a house in sight on this side of the river save the section house occupied by an irish family about one mile distant our present shantie is sixteen by sixteen and serves us as parlor bed room dining room & kitchen

Monday 15 Antelope are grazing in sight This really is a nice country. Here we are feeling again that there is some one here for us to care for out side of our family (some one to lead to the Saviour) The Lord being our helper we will try to do it Alfred is a church member and a good boy but far from home But the other two they tell me they have mother in heaven shall I be to them what I would wish some mother to be to my darling boys if I were gone to that better land But what means that empty flask yes it has had whisky in it Is there where my work begins to try to save are they tipplers are they habitual drinkers. They are strangers we know not They gentlemanly and kind We will try to save them by the help of the Good Lord ...

Federal Census

1860 – Fulton Township, Rochester County, Indiana

Smith, Anthony F., 41, born in Indiana, occupation miller

Amanda, 39, born in Indiana

James A., 19, born in Indiana, student

George E., 17, born in Indiana

Charles L., 14, born in Indiana

Albert F., 7, born in Indiana

Milo R., 2, born in Indiana

Emma S., 18, born in Indiana, domestic

1870 – Logansport Township, Cass County, Indiana

Smith, Anthony F., 52, born in Indiana, farmer

Mary A. 50, born in Indiana

Amanda, 9. born in Indiana

1870 – Branch Township, Stanislaus County, California

Smith, James, 28, born in Indiana, farmer

1870 – McKee Township, Adams County, Illinois

Smith, James, 28, born in Indiana, farmer

Hannah, 24, born in Illinois

Albina, 4, born in Illinois

William, 3, born in Illinois
Grant, 2, born in Illinois
Charlie, 4/12, born in Illinois
Presley, 20, born in Illinois, laborer
1870, Township 13, Christian County, Illinois
Smith, James, 30, born in Indiana, blacksmith (living in a hotel)

1880 – Kearney

Smith, George, 37, married, Retail Stationer & Real Estate Agent, born in Indiana
Smith, Emma H., 32, wife, married, keeping house, born in Indiana
Smith, Paul C, 5, son, born in Nebraska
Smith, Claude V ., son 3, born in Nebraska
Smith, Emma P., daughter, 1, born in Nebraska

1885 – Kearney

Smith, Geo E., 39, born in Indiana
Smith, Emma, 30, born in Indiana
Smith, Sunde, 8, born in Nebraska [Claude]
Smith, Pauline, 3, born in Nebraska

1900 – Kearney

Smith, George E. born June 1842, 58, married 27 years, born Indiana, Insurance agent
Smith, Emma, wife, born Nov. 1853, 46, married 27 years, 4 children, 2 living, born in Indiana
Smith, Pauline, daughter, born May 1879, 21, single, born in Nebraska, bookkeeper

?1910 – Sacramento, California

Smith, George E, 67, head, married 38 years, insurance salesman (where is unreadable)
William McDanials, 39, lodger, married 10 years, RR. Watchman,

1920– Lake Forest, Lake County, Illinois, 210 Westminster Avenue

Smith, George, 78, married, no occupation
Smith, Emma H., 72, wife, married
Smith, Claude, son 42, single, salesman for an insurance company
Smith, Pauline, daughter, single, 30, secretary for a country club

1930 – Lake Forest, Lake County, Illinois

Parmenter, Bert, 59, age 28 at first marriage, physician, born in New York
Pauline, wife, 50, age 46 at first marriage, born in Nebraska, parents born in Indiana
Smith, Claude, brother-in-law, 52, single, broker for insurance, born in Nebraska, parents born in Indiana

Kearney Cemetery Records

Lot 1538, Spaces 1-4, East field – owned by George E. Smith
Space 1 – Mrs. George E. Smith, died Sept. 1921
Space 2 – George E. Smith, buried Nov. 17, 1923 age 80
Space 3 – Paul Clem, b uried Sept. 28, 1880
Space 4 – Claude Van Cleve, died Feb. 28, 1934, buried Mar. 3, 1934, age 56, yrs, 11 mos., 16 days, cause of death myocarditis

Land Patents:

George – NE ¼ 2-8-16 (book A-110)
S ½ SE ¼ 26-9-16 (book B-150)
[the NW corner of 39th & 2nd]

James – NW ¼ 2-8-16 (book A-109)

Probate Records: None**Marriage Records: None****1907 Atlas:**

George listed as a land owner

Squirrel Bounty Book

1894 George turned in five squirrels and received 3 cents for each

Personal Poll Tax – 1890-1894

George is listed

Gene Hamaker's Notes:

[Early Kearney newspapers:
Central Nebraska Press, 1873 – CNP
Kearney Times, 1877 - KT
New Era-Standard, 1884
Kearney Enterprise, ca 1888
Semi-Weekly Hub
Kearney Daily Hub- 1888
Kearney Democrat, 1891

George -

\$90 to Smith (Geo?) & Clem for bldg used for city purposes Kmin Bk A, 158 29 Mar 75
Elected city clerk overwhelmingly Kmin Bk A, 161 12 Apr 1875
Emma H. Smith buys lot 383 KJ from South Platte Land Co. 24 May 1875 for 150
Deed Bk B 535
Emma H & George Smith wall agent 29 April 1882 with Downings on lot 384
who want to build 2 story brick

Geo. E. Smith, city clerk, real estate agent South Platte Co. Wyoming between 9th & 10th
KDP 19 Jan 1876 & CNP 14 Sept 1876
Listed as city clerk – KDP [Kearney Daily Press?] 19 Jan 1876
Smith & Clem bill for rent of room to city Minute Book A, K 13 Mar 1876
Geo. E. Smith loses city clerk race – Minute Book A. K., 7 April 1876

Smith & Clem listed among business & professional men
KWT [Kearney Weekly Times?] 23 Nov 1876

Geo. E. Smith, real estate, Wyoming between 9th & 10th CNP 11 Jan 1877
Pioneer agent, agent South Platte Land Co. KT 19 April 1877
Added large variety musical instruments to stock CNP 8 May 1877

Geo. E. Smith News depot CNP 27 Sept 1877
Geo. E. Smith real estate KDP 8 Dec 1877
Geo. E. Smith for South Platte Land Co. KminBk A 319 9May1877 & 321 11May1877
GES asks \$75 be stricken from "other personalty" for certain house assessed to him on
Lot 1433. Granted K MinBk A, 320 9 May 1877
Defeated for city clerk & police judge Kmin Bk A 373 15 April 1878
Real Estate, books, stationery, musical instruments, news (2) depot, Wyoming
Wolfe, 47

James –

Loses election for City Engineer Minute Book A, K 7 April 1876
Benefit given for Mr. James A. Smith last Friday. Success in spite of weather, local
people put on play "Tottles". Kearney Times 2 Dec 1876
Officer IOGT KT [Kearney Times?] 19 April 1877
Shoemaker attaches some goods bound for Cheyenne at UP depot. Let J.A.S. take boots
without paying. (Assumption is Smith's goods attached.) CNP 6 Sept 1877

City Directory

1889 – Smith Geo E Real Estate 2218 ave D
Real Estate listings include – Smith & Cutting 2121 Central

1892-3 – Smith, George E. 2222 Ave D

School Census – Dist. 7

George Smith only, James not listed
1883 - Claude Clark, 5
1885 – Claud V 7, Pauline 5
1886 – Claude 9, Pauline 7
1887 – Claude 9, Pauline 7

From James Barnes, Professor of History, Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana

James attended Wabash for four years
1857-1859 – preparatory (high school) department
1859-1861 – college freshman and sophomore
George attended Wabash for two years
1858-1860 – preparatory (high school) department

Their home was Rochester, Indiana during the time they attended.

Wabash college is a liberal arts college for men. It was founded in 1832 and began as a preparatory school and expanded into a college. It is located at Crawfordsville, which is 45 miles northwest of Indianapolis.