

# *WE ARE TEN*



NH ROOM  
GENEALOG  
Smi

*Gilford Public Library*

Identification for cover picture (taken circa 1927-1928)

Front: (left to right) Anne, Ellen, Winnifred, Samuel holding Gardner, Robert

Back: (left to right) Jessie, Edna, Esther, Royal, Forrest, Frances



## FROM THE EDITORS

This booklet about the family of Samuel and Winnifred is a way of sharing some of our Smith family history with the younger generations. Six of the original ten siblings have passed away, and the youngest of the remaining has just turned eighty. We wanted to record something about each of them for this occasion.

You should begin your exploration of the Smith family history with Edna's book, "The High Maples Farm Cookbook". She relates the background of Winnifred Page and Samuel Smith and stories of the ten growing up on the farm. This booklet focuses on the lives of the ten after they left the Farm. We have also included some old photos, which many of you will not have seen before. We are indebted to Bonny Smith for scanning the pictures onto her web page so that we could access them for this publication. She will continue to provide family photos and writings at [www.cadsmith.com/cousins](http://www.cadsmith.com/cousins) for those who are Internet connected. We are indebted to Allan Turner for assuming the task of keeping the genealogy current and you can contact him at [arturner@cyberportal.net](mailto:arturner@cyberportal.net) to obtain information or provide him with dates of new family members.

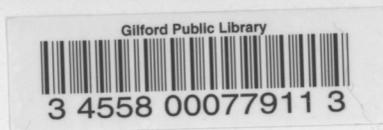
While collecting information for the brief biographies, we noted many similarities among the ten siblings, who, at first glance, appear to be so different. All were strong-willed, independent spirits with what Edna termed "sharp-cornered Yankee characteristics." (That much has been passed down wholesale to the next generation of 29.) All of the women were good cooks; pies and breads were particular specialties. Most were dexterous, and some developed that competency into skilled works of carpentry, decorative painting, woodworking or landscape painting. All developed a love of nature and retained a need and a desire for outdoor pursuits throughout their lives. Some were gardeners, others hikers, and others just observers. All knew the names and habitats of New England wildflowers and trees. This appreciation for nature was enough spirituality for some; for others it led to participation in more formal religious experience.

The ten Smiths all loved children, particularly young children. When the children of their siblings grew older, they tended to single out nieces and nephews who didn't seem to be receiving sufficient attention at home, or those whose interests paralleled their own, for special treatment. Sometimes this extended giving went beyond the family, recalling the periodic extras in their own household growing up at High Maples. All felt fortunate for their lot in life and gave back to their communities through various volunteer activities throughout their adult lives.

Physically, were they alike? Edna aptly describes the physical trait which is most commonly shared: the Smith chin "firmly rounded with a deep half moon mark under the full lower lip."

We know that a one page biography is not sufficient for any of these remarkable people. We know that each of you found at least one of the ten special in some way we have not mentioned. If that is so, we would hope that you would add your own observations to the outlines we have presented as an addition to your own family history.

Joann Weeks Bailey  
Patricia Smith Ley  
**Smith Reunion 2000**  
August 12, 2000



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**Winnifred Alice Page**

Born May 19, 1877

Gilmanton, NH

Winnifred as a young woman, perhaps at the time she completed her course of studies at New Hampton. Her class ring bears the numbers, "99". Born



**The Page Homestead, Gilmanton, NH**

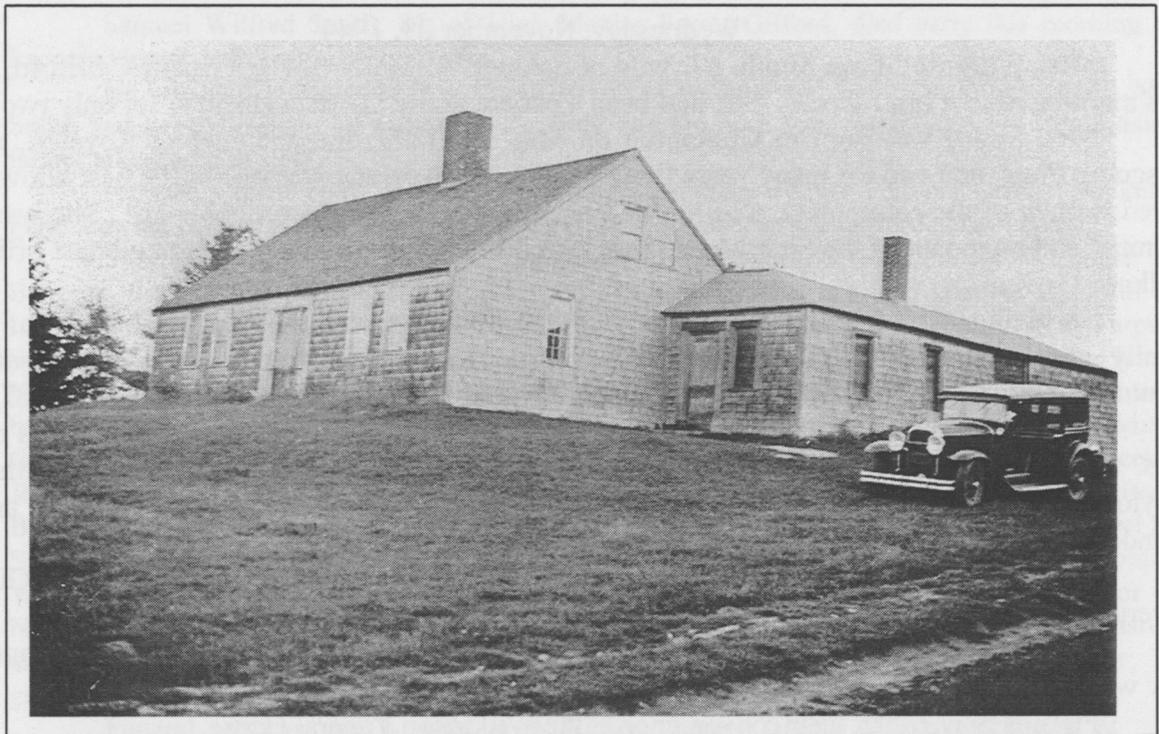
Home of Royal and Annie Osgood Page. Their daughter, Winnifred, and sons, Dwight, Nelson, Roy and Otto, were born here. The house was sold after Royal's death in 1927 and later was destroyed by fire.



**Samuel Wilfred Smith**

Born November 15, 1876  
Meredith, NH

This picture of Samuel as a young man may have been taken when he was a student at New Hampton Literary and Biblical Institution. His diploma is dated 1896. Born



**The Smith House, located in "The Saddle", Meredith, NH**

The "poor hill farm" was worked by William and Lydia Sanborn Smith for thirty years before they moved to Gilford in 1900. Their children, Mary, Charles, Samuel, Wallace and Otis, were born here. This picture was taken about 1928.



**Winnifred Page Smith**

Born May 19, 1877  
Gilmanton, NH

Died November 29, 1944  
Laconia, NH

Buried Union Cemetery  
Laconia, NH

Wednesday, November 29, 1944

Mrs. Winnifred Page Smith, 67, wife of Samuel W. Smith of High Maples, Gilford, died early this morning after a brief illness. She had been a patient at the Laconia Hospital for only two days.

Mrs. Smith was born in Gilmanton on May 19, 1877, the daughter of Royal L. and Annie (Osgood) Page, and had for many years lived in Gilford where she was one of the best known and best loved women of the community, a former teacher and member of the school board. She was an active member and attendant of the First Methodist Church in Laconia, and a member and past officer of Mt. Belknap Grange.

Surviving, with her husband are ten children, four sons and six daughters for all of whom the family attained the goal of a college or professional education: Royal W. Smith, Belmont, Belknap County Agent; Forrest A. Smith, Gilford, milk inspector for Laconia; Robert S. Smith of Lowville, NY; Aero M 3/c Gardner P. Smith, U.S. Navy; Mrs. John F. Weeks and Miss Edna Smith of Gilford; Mrs. Sydney Wooldridge of this city; Mrs. Delbert Page of Croton-on-Hudson, NY; Mrs. Howard Naylor of Greensboro, NC, and Mrs. Donald Dowling of Belmont, MA. There are sixteen grandchildren.

Other survivors include two brothers, Roy T. Page and Otto C. Page, both of Gilford, and several nephews and nieces.

Funeral services will be held at two o'clock Friday afternoon at the First M.E. church in this city with the Rev. Frank P. Fletcher officiating.

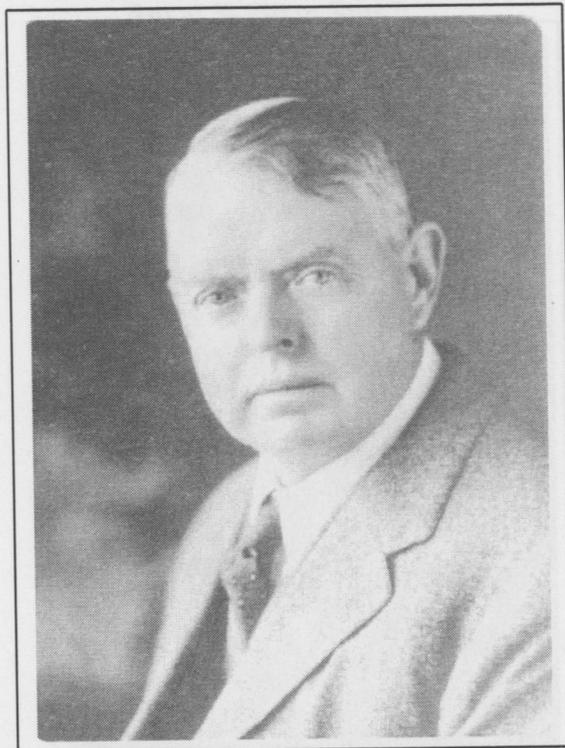
Friends may call at their convenience at the Wilkinson Funeral Home.

**Samuel Wilfred Smith**

Born November 15, 1876  
Meredith, NH

Died December 7, 1957  
Laconia, NH

Buried Union Cemetery  
Laconia, NH



December 7, 1957

Samuel Wilfred Smith, 81, of High Maples Farm, Gilford, died early this morning at Laconia Hospital after a lingering illness.

He was born in Meredith Nov. 15, 1876, son of William and Lydia (Sanborn) Smith. Mr. Smith had been a resident of Gilford since 1900 coming here from Meredith. He was a dairy farmer and retired in 1943.

He was a member of Mt. Belknap Grange, Belknap County Pomona Grange, Belknap Farm Bureau, Gilford Historical Society, and a former member of the Gilford School board.

Surviving are his wife, Mary Page Smith of Gilford; four sons, Royal W. Smith of Belmont, Forrest A. Smith of Gilford, Robert S. Smith of Ithaca, NY, and Gardner P. Smith of Lancaster; six daughters, Mrs. Esther M. Weeks of Gilford, Mrs. Edna A. Berquest of Tarpon Springs, FL, Mrs. Frances W. Wooldridge of Flushing, NY, Mrs. Ellen G. Page of Morris Plains, NJ, Mrs. Jessie L. Naylor of New Canaan, CT, Mrs. Anne L. Dowling of Burlingame, CA; two brothers, Wallace W. Smith of Waltham, MA, and Otis S. Smith of Laconia; a sister, Mrs. Mary George of Highlands, CA; 29 grandchildren, Mrs. Joanne Bailey of Northwood, David S. Weeks, John F. Weeks, Jr., and Robert S. Weeks of Gilford, Mrs. Jeanne Eddinger of Tarpon Springs, Barbara J. Smith of Bath, NY, Stuart F. Smith of UNH, Royal W. Smith, Jr. of Belmont, Samuel N. Smith and Nathan W. Smith of Gilford, Richard F. Smith of Belmont, Misses Susan and Bonnie Wooldridge of Flushing, Robert and Alice Page of Morris Plains, Mary and Howard Naylor of New Canaan, Thomas and Donald Dowling, Jr. of Burlingame, Patricia, Peggy, Morgan, Sharon and Starlee Smith of Ithaca, Dwight, Daniel, Timothy, Peter and Paul Smith of Lancaster; 10 great-grandchildren, several nephews and nieces.

Funeral services will be held at Wilkinson Funeral Home Monday afternoon at two o'clock. Friends may call at the Funeral Home Sunday evening seven to nine. Burial will be in Union Cemetery.



**Esther Marion Smith**

Born September 18, 1903  
Laconia Hospital

Gilford Avenue School  
Laconia High School, 1922  
Plymouth Normal School, 1924

Married John Fremont Weeks  
June 24, 1926  
High Maples Farm

Children: Joann Alice, 1928  
David Stephen, 1930  
John F. Weeks, Jr., 1932  
Robert Bruce, 1934-1988

Died October 19, 1992  
Gilford, NH

Buried: Pine Grove Cemetery, Gilford, NH

Esther, first of Samuel and Winnifred's ten children, grew up to be a sturdy, capable and industrious woman. Interests developed in childhood remained with her throughout her life. For her, family came first, then animals and gardening, followed by handicrafts, and then, community service. She always "did unto others."

Esther's family was truly extended. She cared deeply not only for parents, husband (she and John were married for sixty-six years), her children and her eighteen grandchildren, but also for siblings, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews and a few adoptees.

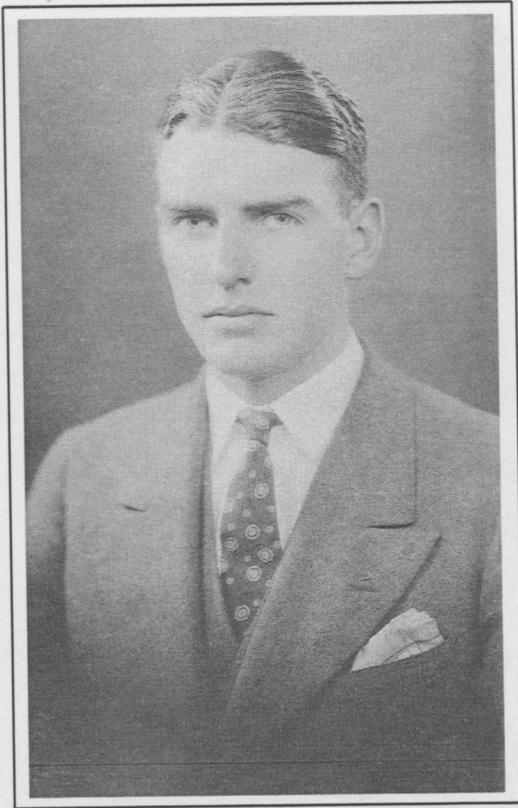
Ancestors, the family before, were not forgotten. Her interest in antique collecting was sparked by memories of grandparents' homes and by stories of older times. Her memberships in the DAR and other heritage organizations were possible because of these ancestors, who were early settlers in NH.

Esther was never without animals to care for, from the sheep she harnessed as a girl, to Anna, the Arabian mare that she owned after the dairy farm was sold, to Blackie, the cat that outlived her. In between, there was the herd of Guernsey cattle, the flock of Suffolk sheep and numerous other horses, ponies, dogs and cats.

Esther and John were skillful gardeners. The weedless vegetable gardens, the long row of blue delphiniums against the blue lake and mountains at the old Gunstock Hill farm and the peony bed at the new house are not to be forgotten.

Handicrafts were always important to Esther. All her adult life she knit, made hooked and braided rugs, refinished furniture or resealed chairs. She was in her sixties when she mastered the art of Early American Decoration. No one ever counted the number of trays and mirrors, tins and boxes, she stenciled or painted, then gave away.

Except for the years at Plymouth and then a teaching job in Littleton before her marriage, Esther never lived more than a few miles from the farm where she grew up. But her life, though not always easy, was as good as the pies and loaves of bread for which she was noted.



**Royal William Smith**

Born December 22, 1904  
High Maples Farm

Gilford Avenue School  
Laconia High School, 1923  
University of New Hampshire, 1928

Married Verna Blanche Friend  
June 26, 1929  
First Methodist Church, Laconia, NH

Children: Barbara Joyce, 1934  
Stuart Friend, 1936  
Royal William, Jr., 1940  
Richard Page, 1946

Died December 7, 1992  
Laconia, NH  
Buried: Union Cemetery, Laconia, NH Bor

Royal was the eldest son in the Smith family. During his years on the farm, he was a friend to Forrest and a mentor to his younger brother, Robert. His early schooling took place in Laconia. He and Esther traveled to school by horse and wagon, often delivering milk on the way. After graduating from Laconia High School in 1923, he worked a year on the farm, then entered UNH and majored in Agricultural Science. While at UNH, he was an active member and house manager of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity.

After graduation, Royal began a 20 year career as a county agricultural extension agent, first in Carroll County and then in Belknap County. As county agent, he introduced new extension programs for farmers and gained recognition beyond county and state lines. Royal married Verna Friend in June 1929. They had been close friends since first meeting as sixth graders at Pine Hill School in Laconia. Verna was a graduate of Plymouth Normal School and taught school in Laconia until her marriage.

Royal and Verna moved to the Friend farm, on Mile Hill in Belmont, when they were married. In 1948, Royal assumed ownership of the farm and, between then and his retirement in 1965, established and maintained one of the best herds of registered Holsteins in New Hampshire.

After retirement, Royal and Verna moved into the old farmhouse at High Maples and spent their time restoring the house and grounds. Royal pursued his life-long love of horticulture by replanting the orchards at High Maples with apple and peach trees. He also built many pieces of furniture from pine and cherry wood, including seven grandmother clocks and hope chests for all his granddaughters.

Royal was a member and a leader in many local and state agricultural organizations. While living at the farm in Gilford, Royal served as selectman, town moderator and municipal judge. He was active in the Laconia-Gilford Rotary Club and was a member of the First Methodist Church for 62 years.

**BST**



**Edna Alice Smith**

Born October 31, 1906  
Laconia Hospital

Gilford Avenue School  
Laconia High School, 1924  
Plymouth Normal School, BE  
Boston University, ME

Married Lawrence Edward Ball  
October 12, 1929  
Whitehall, New York

Married Hugh Gerard Berquist  
September 7, 1947  
Gilford, NH

Children: Jeanne Winnifred Ball, 1930

Died September 6, 1985  
Holiday, Florida  
Buried: Pine Grove Cemetery, Gilford, NH B

Edna, third child in the family of ten, was a part of the “older ones” team that helped their parents raise the younger ones. The sense of responsibility for the family stayed with Edna all her life, as did her enjoyment of being a part of that family. Edna, more than any of the other siblings, kept track of who was where, doing what.

Edna went to grammar school in Laconia and graduated from high school in 1924, in the first class to graduate from the “new” Laconia High School. Two years at Plymouth Normal School followed. She taught school for eighteen years, first in rural schools, then secondary English and Drama in Belmont, Franklin and Laconia. She was teaching in Laconia when she met Hugh Berquist, recently returned from Naval Service during World War II.

They were married in September 1947 and went on to a new way of life in Tarpon Springs, Florida, where they established Hugo’s Wayside Furniture.

Many years before, soon after Edna began teaching school, she married Lawrence Ball and had a daughter, Jeanne. The marriage was brief. Edna returned to High Maples and teaching. During the week, Jeanne was cared for by her grandmother, Winnifred, and by her aunts. Edna supplemented her teaching income by organizing public sugaring off parties at the sap house in the spring, and making, selling and shipping maple syrup and candies.

Although the Berquists always remained residents of Florida, Edna’s heart remained in Gilford. Nearly twenty years after moving away, they built a new home in a corner of the field above the site of the big barn at High Maples Farm. With Jeanne and her family to tend the business in Florida, Hugh and Edna (by then known as Meme) traveled the world and enjoyed long stays in Gilford.

Gathering up memories of family, old stories and traditions, and recipes from all the good Smith cooks, Edna wrote “The High Maples Farm Cookbook”. Published by MacMillan, the book remains a family treasure and one of the ties that binds the descendants of Samuel and Winnifred Smith.

*JWB*



### **Forrest Asa Smith**

Born December 23, 1908  
Laconia Hospital

Morrill Street School  
Laconia High School, 1928  
University of New Hampshire

Married Dorothy Laurinda Weeks  
October 14, 1933  
Rocky Pond, Loudon, NH

Children: Samuel Maitland, 1942  
Nathan Weeks, 1945

Died July 25, 1982, Laconia, NH  
Buried: Union Cemetery, Laconia, NH

Forrest was generally positive about his childhood. He couldn't be expected to act like a grown-up, because he had two older sisters and an older brother, plus four younger sisters to "boss around". Sometimes he may have been a bit disruptive at the nearby one-room red schoolhouse. He did have polio as a child, fortunately recovering use of his limbs, but having to repeat a year of elementary school.

He was very close to his older brother, Royal. They built a crystal radio together and were joint owners of their first car. In college, they joined the same fraternity. He greatly enjoyed sports and spent happy summer Sundays playing baseball (then against the law in New Hampshire) with his pals in the communal cow pasture at what is now Gunstock Area. The greatest thrill of his young life was discovering high school football. With the heavy load of chores on the farm, we have to marvel at the patience and generosity of his father who allowed him to take part in that time intensive sport. Forrest was not unhappy when an infected boil on the back of his neck kept him out of school and caused him to repeat his senior year. He was able to play another year of high school football!

After graduation, he acquired a truck and set out to make a living hauling logs and even working on the original paving of Route 106. In 1929, the Grange, in which the Smith family had been involved for years, awarded him a \$100 scholarship to attend college. Economic prospects were dim and college seemed a good place to be at the time. In his spare time, he and his friends built a camp on Robinson Pond in the Chemung section of Meredith, NH, on a small plot of land given to him by his father. His friends, who considered it to be in a very damp section of the State, named it, "Rainy Day Camp".

Forrest first met Dorothy (sister of John Weeks) when he was 17 and she was 14. After both graduated from UNH in 1933, they married at her brother Norman's camp on Rocky Pond. Forrest worked as milk inspector for Laconia and, for three years, they lived summers at the Rainy Day Camp and wintered in Laconia apartments. In 1936, they bought a farm on Morrill Street, down the hill from High Maples Farm. Sam was born in 1942.

During the war, Forrest contributed farm produce to the effort, and served as Block Warden for air raid drills. Nathan was born in 1945 and they prospered in the postwar years. During the Korean War, price controls on milk led to sale of the dairy herd in 1954. The couple struggled for a few years in an attempt to start a contracting business. Dorothy sickened in the winter of 1956, and died the following spring, just short of her 46<sup>th</sup> birthday. Devastated, Forrest turned to carpentry and the sale of building lots from the farmland to support the boys. In 1960, he sold the farm and built a new house on Sleeper Hill Road, Gilford. While the boys were in college, he managed to be at every football game they ever played.

Forrest began a practice of building furniture for friends and extended family, providing lumber and labor, but accepting contributions for hardware, varnish, etc. His creations continue to exist as cherished possessions in many homes. When his sons married, he gave them land on which to build homes. He lived to see all his grandchildren born. Always fiercely independent, he died in July 1982, satisfied he had lived his life well by living it as he wanted.

SMS



### **Frances Winnifred Smith**

Born November 9, 1910  
High Maples Farm

Morrill Street School  
Laconia High School, 1928  
Keene Normal School, 1931  
Keene State College, BA, 1961

Married Sydney Wooldridge  
June 27, 1936  
High Maples Farm

Children: Susan, 1940  
Bonny, 1942

Died September 10, 1969, Pomona, NY  
Buried: Pine Grove Cemetery, Gilford, NH

After attending the one room schoolhouse just up Morrill Street from the farm, Frances graduated from Laconia High School in 1928 in the same class with her brother, Forrest, and her sweetheart and future husband, Sydney Wooldridge.

After the idyllic post war twenties, they probably had no idea of what the thirties had in store, but they were raised on farms with a strong Yankee work ethic and no tolerance for self-pity. Frances attended Keene Normal School, which later became Keene State College. After a three year course, she received a teaching certificate and taught from 1932 to 1936 in Tilton, NH.

She married Sydney at High Maples Farm in 1936 and they settled in Laconia. They lived for a time in an apartment in the big house owned by Forrest and Dot. Like so many in the Depression, they waited to have children. Susan was born in 1940. By the time Bonny was born in 1942, the world was out of depression and engulfed in another World War. Sydney sent a telegram to Frances at the hospital "with congratulations from the entire world including that part of it which is temporarily discombobulated." He had to spell the word three times for the telegraph clerk.

Early in their marriage, Sydney became interested in the genealogy of the Smith family. He spent many years compiling the unpublished, but still treasured, "The Descendants and Ancestors of Samuel Wilfred Smith and Winnifred Alice Page in America."

Frances devoted the forties and fifties to raising a family and being an exemplary homemaker. She was especially skilled as a cook and baker and baked all of the bread for the family for many years. She also kept up her teaching career by substitute teaching after her children reached school age. She taught in River Edge, NJ and later in Flushing, NY where the family relocated.

In 1959, she returned to college, taking courses at Queens College in NY, which were accepted towards her degree at Keene. She was awarded a Bachelor of Education degree from Keene State in 1961, 33 years after first enrolling. Her accomplishment was, however, overshadowed by the sad loss of Sydney on May 24, 1960. After becoming a widow, she embarked on a new career as owner and director of the Pearl River Nursery School which she established in Pearl River and later moved to Spring Valley, NY. For the remainder of the 1960's, she successfully managed her career and sent her two children to college.

Frances died in Pomona, NY on September 10, 1969. She is buried at Pine Grove Cemetery, Gilford, NH.

**BWS**



**Ellen Genevieve Smith**

Born June 3, 1912  
High Maples Farm

Morrill Street School  
Laconia High School, 1930  
Plymouth Normal School, 1933

Married Delbert Leon Page  
June 15, 1940  
Belpre, OH

Children: Robert Scott, 1941-1995  
Alice Ann, 1944

Ellen shared middle child position in Samuel and Winnifred's family with Frances. Together they had two older brothers and sisters and two younger brothers and sisters. Like the other middle children, Ellen began her schooling in the one room schoolhouse up the hill. Ellen had the most "out-going" personality of all of the girls and always had many friends and "beaus" throughout her high school years.

After graduation from Laconia High in 1930, she worked in Boston as a nanny to pay for a one year teacher certification course at Plymouth Normal School. When she graduated, it was the beginning of the Great Depression. For the next several years, Ellen taught school in Lyme, Hampstead and Meredith, NH. She has many pleasant memories of her experiences in these rural schools.

Ellen married Del Page in Belpre, OH in June 1940, where he was attending Marietta College. In 1944, Del's work at Otis Elevator took them to Ossining, NY. In 1950, they moved to Morris Plains, NJ where they lived until their retirement in 1969. While in NJ, Del established three of the earliest Manpower franchises and Ellen first taught school, then ran a successful nursery school and day care center. The school was located in part of their home, which was one of the few surviving large farmhouses in the area. While running her business, Ellen took an active role in the local business community and also continued her education. During the '50's, Ellen owned and ran a summer guesthouse in Five Islands, ME where she hosted many family members as well as paying guests.

Ellen and Del enjoyed travel to many parts of the world, and particularly made a point of visiting family members stationed abroad. They entertained often at their home in NJ and at the vacation home they built in the Poconos. When ready for retirement, they purchased homes in Florida and Exeter, NH. Del died suddenly in Exeter in 1978. Ellen continued to spend summers in Exeter, and then in Concord, and winters in Florida until 1999. She then moved to Newark, DE to be near daughter, Alice, and her family.

Ellen is the artist of the family. She has a great appreciation of nature, light, and color which is reflected in her work. Her pictures recalling life on the farm and depicting New England landscapes are hanging in many family homes. Children and family were always a priority, and numerous nephews and nieces, especially those from large families, recall receiving extra attention from Auntie Ellen, which made them feel special and important.



### **Jessie Louise Smith**

Born September 18, 1913  
High Maples Farm

Morrill Street School  
Laconia High School, 1932  
McLean Hospital School of Nursing, 1936

Married Howard Benjamin Naylor  
September 14, 1941  
First Methodist Church, Laconia, NH

Children: Mary Ellen, 1943  
Howard Benjamin, Jr., 1946

Jessie, the seventh child of Samuel and Winnifred, was born on September 18, 1913, her sister, Esther's tenth birthday. Esther was given special responsibility for Jessie and the two maintained a bond that the years never severed. When Jessie and her husband, Howard, retired, they built a home across from Esther and John Weeks on Gunstock Hill and Jessie lives there today.

Jessie was the second smallest of the siblings, growing just a bit taller than Frances at maturity. She was so thin and small as a child that Winnifred used to give her yeast cakes for extra nutrition. When she was about 12, she and Frances contracted severe lead poisoning from the pipes which brought water into the farmhouse from a spring in the pasture above. Winnifred used the money she earned from making cheese to have a well dug and new metal pipes installed to bring water into the house.

The girls both recovered well. Jessie grew to be a strong and adept hand at various High Maples Farm tasks, particularly garden work. She became an expert strawberry picker and still enjoys picking berries at Smith's Farm Stand, owned by nephew Nathan Smith.

When Jessie graduated from Laconia High School in 1932, it was in the midst of the Depression. Anne, who was due to graduate the following year, planned to enter nursing school at McLean Hospital near Boston. Jessie decided to join her and spent the intervening year as a driver and aide to her father who was running an unsuccessful campaign for election as the Democratic party candidate for county commissioner of Belknap County.

At the time Anne and Jessie entered the three year program at McLean, it was the premier private psychiatric hospital in the United States with a renowned general nursing school. The training was provided without cost, but the students worked long hours in the hospital. Jessie remembers that her sister, Ellen, then a young teacher, would often slip a little pocket money into her letters. Upon graduation, Jessie lived briefly with Anne and her new husband Don in Boston while taking various private duty nursing assignments. One patient asked her to accompany her home to Stamford, CT.

In Stamford, friends introduced her to Howard Naylor, an accountant with Conde Nast Publications. The two were married less than 90 days before Pearl Harbor. While they hoped that Howard, at age 36, would not be called up, he was drafted and served for the duration of the conflict in the Army Air Corps in NC. After the War, Howard resumed his career. Jessie returned to private duty nursing as soon as practical after the births of her children and continued to nurse into her sixties. In retirement, she has pursued her interests in gardening, family history and community service. Like her sister, Esther, before her, she is an active member of several heritage organizations.

*MENC*



**Anne Lydia Smith**

Born October 9, 1915  
High Maples Farm

Morrill Street School  
Laconia High School, 1933  
McLean Hospital School of Nursing, 1936

Married Donald Douglas Dowling  
May 8, 1937  
New Hampton, NH

Children: Donald Douglas, Jr., 1943  
Thomas Campbell, 1950

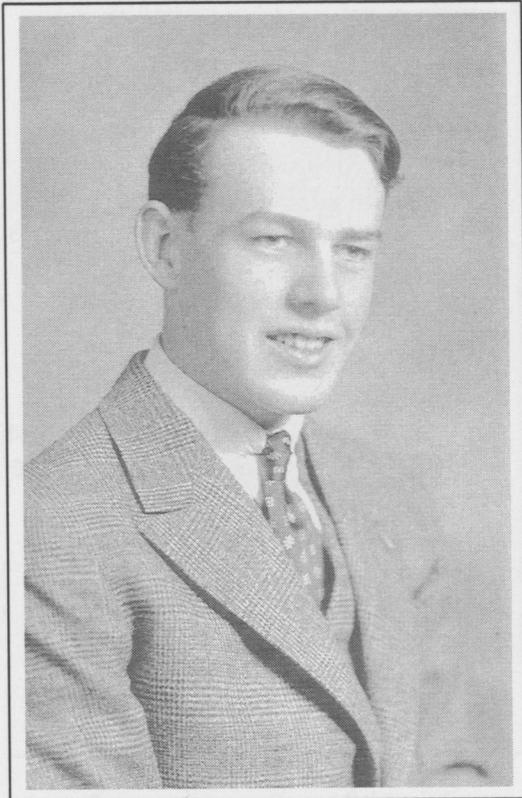
Anne was the eighth child and sixth daughter in the family. She remembers her childhood, particularly the first five years while she was the "baby", as a period of happiness. She loved school. She envied the children who went to the little red schoolhouse up the hill and hung around at recess time until the teacher invited her in. Anne would color and listen to the lessons. The teacher called her "Little Sunshine Girl."

Her love for school continued into high school where she had an active social life. As a senior she and two other girls representing Laconia High School won the Home Economics award for the school in a regional competition. Anne was the only daughter to pursue athletics in high school and earned a letter in varsity field hockey.

At seventeen, she enrolled at McLean Hospital School of Nursing in Waverly, MA. She took a course in psychiatric nursing and graduated at age 20, a year before she was eligible to take the State Boards. Anne met her future husband while at McLean.

Don and Anne's early life together was marred by his battle with tuberculosis. While Anne was pregnant with Don Jr., her husband was recovering in a sanitarium and she returned to her family at the farm. After he recovered, they took jobs in the San Francisco Bay Area where they enjoyed the California climate and the outdoor lifestyle. It was in California that Anne discovered the Parent Cooperative Preschool movement, a passion that was to guide her future career. She served as an instructor for preschool education at the College of San Mateo and helped to establish the first Parent Cooperative Preschool in the area. Later, when Don's career took him to New York State, Anne established and directed Parent Cooperative Preschools in Suffern and Pearl River, NY. While in Pearl River, Anne served as an elder of the Presbyterian Church.

The Dowlings last career move was to Saint Johns, New Brunswick, Canada, where Don directed a childcare institution and Anne formed yet another Parent Cooperative Preschool. Anne was recognized for her work at a ceremony at the World Headquarters of the Parent Cooperative Preschool International organization in Quebec. After Don died in 1995, she was consoled by frequent visits from former Preschool parents and children.



### **Robert Samuel Smith**

Born June 15, 1920  
High Maples Farm

Morrill Street School (grades 1,2)  
Gilford Avenue School (grades 3-6)  
Laconia High School, 1938  
Cornell University, 1942

U.S. Army 1944-1947

Cornell University, PhD, 1952

Married Mary Jean Morgan  
June 20, 1942  
Buffalo, NY

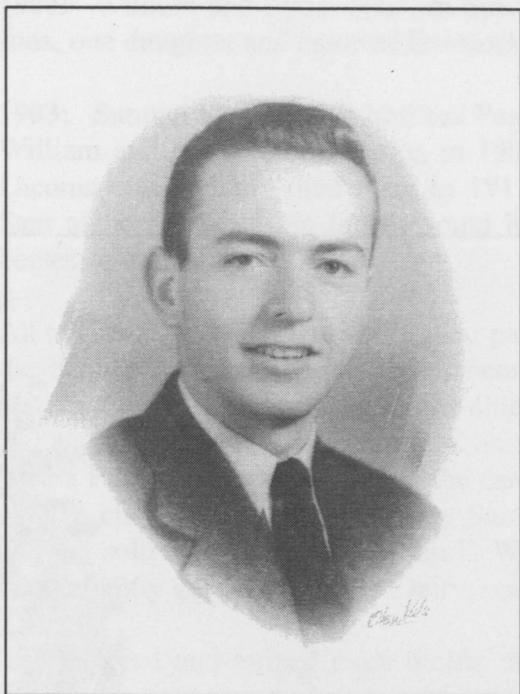
Children: Patricia Winifred, 1944  
Peggy Paige, 1947  
Morgan Scott, 1949  
Sharon Anne, 1951  
Starlee Jean, 1957 B

Robert was a sickly baby and his sisters claim that he owes his life to his great-aunt Jessie, sister of his grandmother, Lydia Sanborn. Jessie, who was an old maid, had time to go where she was needed. Robert participated actively in farm life. He had a pair of oxen, Hokum and Hoey, which he trained, took to fairs, and used to rescue cars from ditches. He finally sold them to raise money for college. He graduated from the School of Agriculture, Cornell University in 1942. Soon thereafter, he married Mary Jean Morgan, who was a year behind him at Cornell, in the School of Home Economics.

After their marriage, Bob was a county agent in Livingston County, NY. Two years later, his career was interrupted by World War II. Bob joined the Army and served in Germany with the Occupation Forces. After the War, he moved back to Gilford to follow in his brother, Royal's footsteps as county agent in Belknap County. In 1949, Bob moved into Veterans Housing in Ithaca, NY with his growing family while working on his PhD in Agricultural Economics. Mary acted as office manager of the housing project to provide support. After obtaining his degree, he joined the Cornell faculty. The four children and wife were finally provided with a large house. Bob's specialty was Farm Finance and he traveled throughout New York State advising farmers on estate planning and taxes. In 1960, he transplanted the entire family to Israel for a year while he advised the Israelis about agricultural finance. In 1968, Mary, Pat, Sherry and Starlee, spent six months with him in Tehran, Iran where he tried to give advice to the Iranians. While at Cornell, he taught a very popular course in personal finance, in addition to his more esoteric farm finance courses. In his later years he was an agricultural expert on the Board of Mutual of New York and served as Chairman of the Board of Tompkins County Trust Company.

Robert has always retained his interests in agriculture and the outdoors. His collection of old farm implements grew so large, he donated most of it to a farm museum in upstate New York. He spends much time in the woods, at his home in Ithaca or the camp in Northwood, walking, chopping wood, searching for wildflowers and feeding the birds. He and Mary have played a mean game of bridge since college days. Bob took up golf while in Israel, but gave it up in his 70's when he could no longer keep up with Scott. He is an avid reader with a particular interest in the Civil War, a humorous and accomplished public speaker, and tells the longest jokes and stories you would ever want to hear.

**PSL**



### **Gardner Page Smith**

Born May 27, 1922  
High Maples Farm

Gilford Avenue School  
Laconia High School, 1942  
University of New Hampshire, 1952

US Navy: 1941-1945

Married Hortensia Allyn Robinson  
August 30, 1947  
Gilford Community Church

Married Edna F. Thomas (Tommie)  
March 22, 1975  
Tampa, FL

Children: Dwight Elliot, 1948  
Daniel Lancaster Page, 1949  
Timothy Alan, 1951  
Peter Steven, 1954  
Paul Gardner, 1956

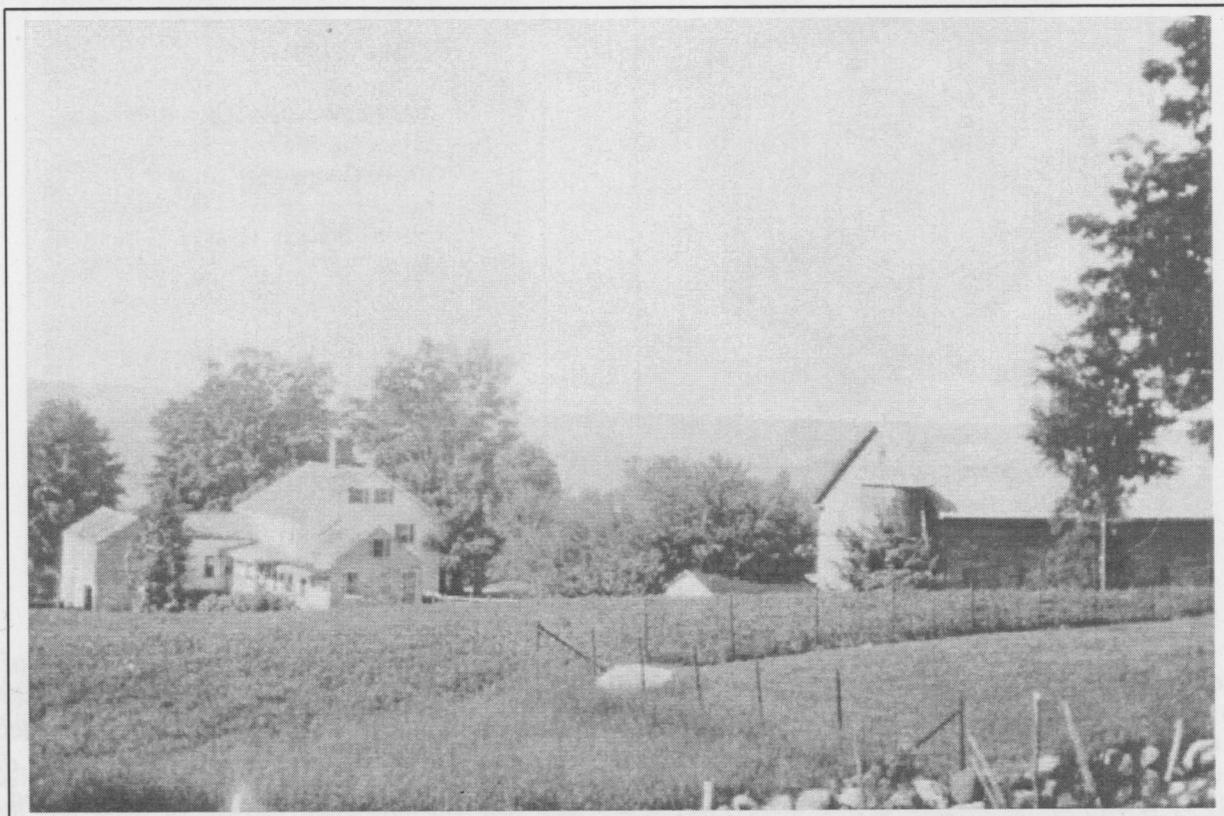
Died March 13, 1991  
Buried: Tampa, FL

When Royal first saw Gardner in Esther's arms, he said, "Hi, Joe," and Joe became the nickname of the last child born to Winnifred and Samuel. Gardner attended the first six grades at the Gilford Avenue School because the school above the farm was then closed. He went on to Laconia High where he excelled on the debating team and in public speaking. His dramatic rendition of Poe's "The Tell Tale Heart" on a darkened stage was memorable. He also enjoyed hiking in the New Hampshire mountains. Gardner graduated in 1940 and spent one year at Cornell before joining the Navy.

During the War, Gardner was assigned to a U.S.Navy weather station in Argenta, Newfoundland. He was discharged in 1945 and returned to High Maples with a plan of succeeding his father on the family farm. While at the farm, he met Allyn Robinson. Their first date was gathering buckets in the sap orchard. They were married in 1947 and Dwight was born the following year. Deciding that his future was not on the farm, Joe took advantage of the GI Bill to earn his degree in agriculture from UNH. After graduation in 1952, he moved his wife and three young sons to Herkimer, NY, where he became Asst. County Agent. Two years later, he was back in NH with four sons, as County Agent in Lancaster County. In 1959, Joe took a job with the US Department of Agriculture and moved with Allyn and five sons to Hyattsville, MD. Joe traveled extensively for the USDA and was enthusiastically received in states visited because of his speaking ability and knowledge of national agricultural programs. He retired after twenty years and moved to Tampa, FL. His marriage to Allyn had ended in 1973. He was married to Edna Thomas, "Tommie", in 1975.

He enjoyed retirement in the South, camping, hiking, and volunteering at various state parks, visiting with his sons and returning often to New Hampshire. He also hiked extensively in England and was a dedicated mountain climber and jogger. He renewed his friendship with Jeanne Ball Eddinger, Edna's daughter, who was just eight years younger and grew up with him at High Maples. Gardner died of cancer in 1991 and Tommie died a year later.

**JWB**



**High Maples Farm, Morrill Street, Gilford, NH**  
(picture taken from the pasture above the buildings)

*(The following information was compiled by Jessie Smith Naylor)*

**1781:** Ezekiel Gilman settled on the forty acres of Section 28, Range 3, which was, at that time, in Gilmanton. These forty acres comprise the original High Maples Farm acreage. Gilman built the original house in 1790.

**1832:** Ezekiel Gilman's widow, Betsy, sold the farm to Zebedee Morrill. His sons, Rufus and William, succeeded their father in ownership. It is believed that the brothers built the large barn and added a second story to the house.

**1850:** William and Rufus leased a small parcel of land on the northern border of the farm to Gilford School District #12. A small schoolhouse was built which was attended by local children.

**1900:** William and Lydia Sanborn Smith purchased the farm and moved with their four sons, one daughter and assorted livestock from Meredith.

**1903:** Samuel Smith and Winnifred Page married in 1902, then purchased the farm from William and his brother, Charlie, in 1903. William and Lydia moved to Morrill Street, Laconia and William died there in 1911. Lydia died the following year in California. Sam always thought his father would have been a better farmer if he hadn't loved his horses so much.

All ten children were born while their parents were living at High Maples. At the time of the Smiths' ownership, the farm encompassed 365 acres, with about 60 acres under cultivation. The dairy herd was the chief source of income. Milk was sold in the stores in Laconia and to private customers on a milk route. Delivery was by horse and wagon until a Ford car was purchased in the early 1920's. Winnifred made the surplus milk into cottage cheese and sold it at Harry Sanborn's grocery store in Laconia for many years. Samuel sold the milk route to John F. Weeks, Esther's husband, in 1930. The milk route subsequently grew into Weeks Dairy, one of the largest dairy firms in New England.

Samuel bred and trained oxen during all his years of farming. Oxen were used in the farm work year round as were horses. In the early 1930's, Sam became the "Strawberry King", growing strawberries for a cash crop before other local farmers realized their potential. He also had peach and apple orchards and vegetable gardens which produced more than the family consumed. Produce was sold in the local markets.

Maple syrup was an important crop. In a good spring season, as much as 450 gallons were made. Winnifred cooked the maple syrup into 'soft sugar' for home use and made maple sugar cakes in special scalloped tins inherited from her mother, Annie Page. When Edna lived at home during the years she taught school locally, she enlarged the maple sugar business, selling maple butter, creams and fancy molded candies through the mail to many states and some foreign countries.

**1927:** Samuel deeded the school house plot to the Town of Gilford with the stipulation that it be returned if the school closed. It later was. Robert converted the schoolhouse into a home for his young family when he returned from the War in 1947 and lived there until returning to Cornell in 1949.

**1945:** Samuel turned farm operations over to Gardner, who had returned from service in the U.S. Navy. Gardner maintained a dairy herd and continued farming for just three years before returning to UNH to obtain his degree. After graduation, Gardner took a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington.

**1950:** The farm was deeded to Royal and Verna Smith who continued to farm at their own property in Belmont until 1965. By that time, construction of the Laconia By-Pass had split the farm leaving only a few acres around the buildings. The barn was razed, the timbers sold and removed. Royal and Verna continued to live in the house growing fruit in old and new orchards. After their deaths, the house was sold out of the family.

## THE WHATNOT

March 24, 1934

One of the advantages of having company is that we do things that we always intended to do but never got around to.

The other day I had some guests and the ideal type of entertainment seemed to be a sugarin' off, so to the Sam Smith sap house in Gilford I went.

The Smiths seem to me the best example I know of an old fashioned family who have taken advantage of the best in modern opportunities and have, moreover, the beautiful spirit of family harmony. There are ten children, all of whom co-operate with each other and with their parents.

Sam Smith and his father, the late William Smith, bought the Smith farm which Daughter Frances has named High Maples. Mrs. Smith was Winnifred Page, daughter of the late Royal Page of Gilmanton, and prior to her marriage was a teacher. The Smith boys have been or are going to the State university, three of the girls are Normal school graduates. Mr. Smith has been a selectman of Gilford, Mrs. Smith is on the school board.

The children are Mrs. John Weeks; Royal, who is the Belknap County Farm Bureau agent; Edna, a teacher in Meredith Center; Forrest, who is in business with his double brother-in-law, John Weeks; Frances, home economics teacher in Tilton; Ellen, teacher in Lime Center; Jessie and Anne, student nurses at the McLean Hospital, Waverly, Mass.; Robert, an eighth grader; Gardner, who goes to the Gilford Avenue School.

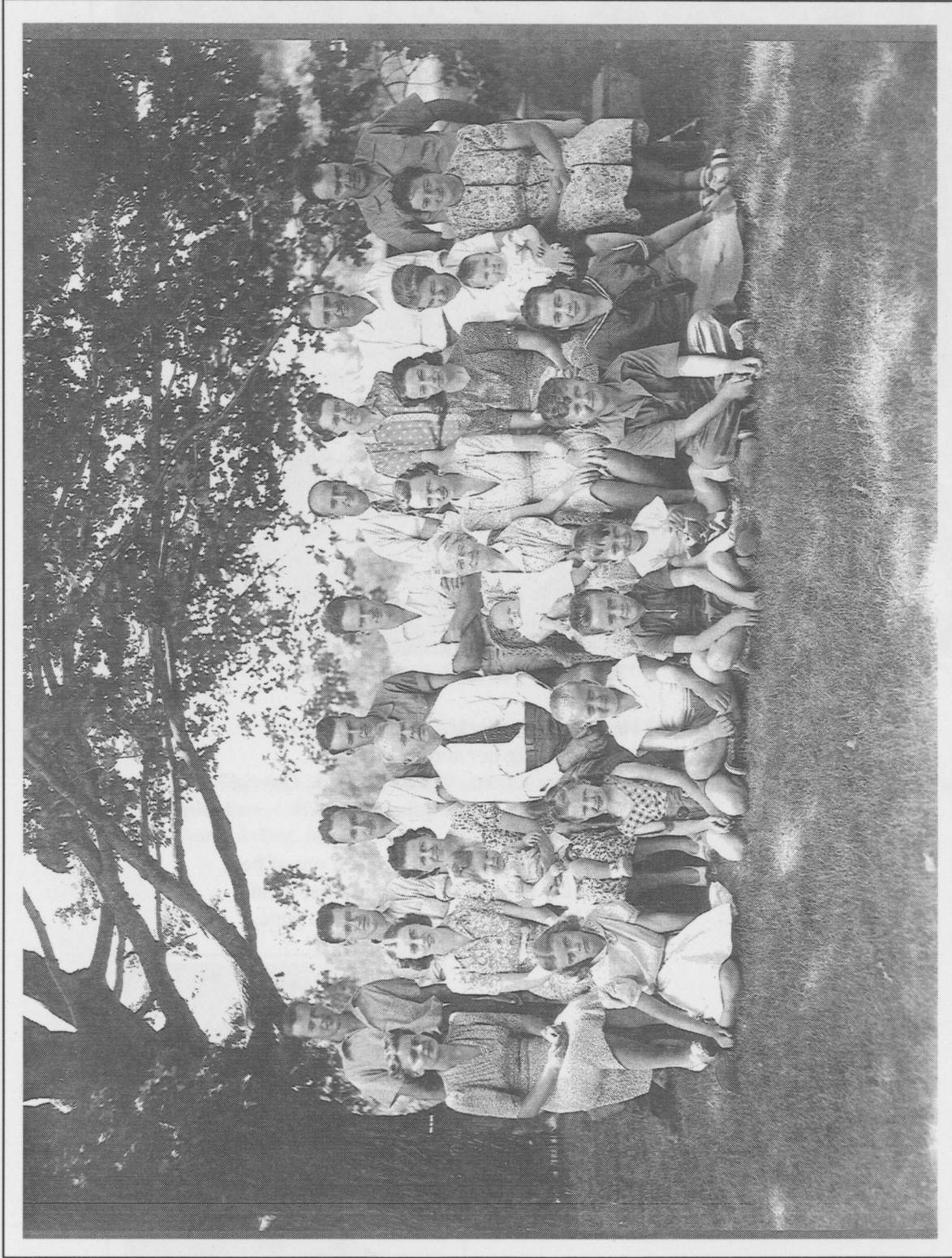
The main interest of the family is in producing milk but they are also the largest maple sugar producers in Belknap County.

A thousand buckets are being used to tap trees and the sap is brought to the saphouse by the pair of oxen which belongs to Robert and which as twin calves were prize ribbon winners. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make a gallon of syrup and what the Smiths produce is between grade A and Fancy. They hope to get 200 gallons this season.

Mrs. Smith had baked rolls for the sugarin' off and bowls of hot syrup, leather aprons on hot snow, plenty of coffee and cream and some of her homemade pickles were provided. I should hate to have had the number of rolls and pickles that I consumed counted but it was some comfort to know that everyone else was keeping up with me. The coffee was made with maple sap.

The latest type of boiling pans, siphons etc. were used by the Smiths, a number of who were in attendance. The syrup is drawn when it reaches the correct temperature. A color standard is also followed.

*(Believed to be from the Laconia Citizen; grammatical errors not corrected)*



**Smith Family gathered under the big maple tree, summer 1941**

Front (l. to r.): Jeanne Ball, Barbara Smith, Bob Weeks, Jack Weeks, Stuart Smith, David Weeks, Joann Weeks  
Second row (l. to r.): Jessie, Anne, Frances (holding Susan Woodbridge), Father Smith, Mother Smith (holding Bob Page), Ellen, Edna, Verna (holding Bill Smith), Dorothy  
Third row (l. to r.): Gardner, Don Dowling, Sydney Woodbridge, Robert, Del Page, John Weeks, Esther, Royal, Forrest

## Mister Fox

As told by Samuel Smith to his children, and grandchildren

A fox went out on a hungry plight,  
And begged the moon to give him light  
For he had many a miles to go that night,  
Before he reached his Den O!

At first he came to the farmer's yard,  
Where ducks and geese declared it hard,  
That their nerves should be shaken and their rest be marred  
By the visit of Mr. Fox O!

He took the grey goose by the sleeve:  
Says he, "Madame Goose, and by your leave,  
I'll take you away without reprieve,  
And carry you back to my Den O!"

He seized the black duck by the neck  
And swung her across his back:  
The black duck cried out, "Quack, Quack, Quack!"  
With her legs all dangling down O!

Then old Mrs. Slipper-Slopper jumped out of bed,  
And out of the windows she popped her head,  
Crying, "John, John, the grey goose is gone,  
And the fox is off to his Den O!"

At last the fox got home to his den;  
To his dear little foxes, eight, nine, ten.  
Says he, "You're in luck, here's a fat duck  
With her legs hanging, dangling down O!"

Then he sat down with his hungry wife,  
They dined very well without fork or knife:  
They'd never ate better in all their life,  
And the little ones picked at the bones O!



**The First Generation: 1971**

This picture was taken at the First Methodist Church at a party to celebrate the publication of "The High Maples Farm Cookbook"

Forrest, Anne, Robert, Jessie, Esther, Ellen, Gardner, Edna, Royal



Frances Smith Wooldridge died  
September 1969

# IN MEMORIAM

## Smith Descendants

### **Robert Bruce Weeks**

Son of Esther and John Weeks  
Born July 20, 1934, Laconia  
Died January 31, 1988, Gilford

### **Robert Scott Page**

Son of Ellen and Delbert Page  
Born March 26, 1941, Parkersburg, West Virginia  
Died August 18, 1995, Kailua, Hawaii

### **Charles William Rochette**

Son of Peggy and Leonard Rochette, Grandson of Robert and Mary Smith  
Born March 28, 1976, Dover  
Died July 13, 1994, Manassas, Virginia

### **Forrest Matthew Smith**

Son of Carolyn and Nathan Smith, Grandson of Forrest and Dorothy Smith  
Born May 3, 1973, Malcolm Grow Air Force Base, Maryland  
Died May 11, 1975, Laconia