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I am seeking all genealogical and biographical details for the family documented below including their ancestors, children, and grandchildren and the spouses thereof, including the full names of those spouses' parents. All additions and corrections within this scope, however speculative, will be greatly appreciated.

Robert Smith of Bethlehem Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey

When I began researching my roots, I quickly traced my descent from Abraham and Sarah (Smith) Williamson of Greenwood, Steuben County, New York, within existing family records. Abraham and Sarah named their eldest sons *Robert* and *John*. After I learned that Abraham's father was named *John*, I speculated that Robert was named in honor of his otherwise then unknown maternal grandfather, Robert Smith. In April 2003, using an Internet search engine, google.com, I found a posting from 2000 in the archives of NJHUNTER-L@rootsweb.com (a discussion list for genealogy in Hunterdon County, New Jersey) by Glenn Van Vliet that provided a solid match.

Robert Smith of Bethlehem Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey made his will on 8 February 1812; it was proved on 27 November 1813. His heirs included his wife, Jemima, and his daughter, Sally. Abraham and Sarah named one of their daughters Jemima. *Sally* is a common nickname for *Sarah* so it appeared highly likely that young Sally Smith married Abraham Williamson after her father's will was made but before it was proved. Indeed, with Robert Smith's passing, there may have been some pressure on his daughters to quickly find another means of support as soon as they were old enough to marry. Following a Dutch tradition, Abraham and Sarah named their eldest son *Robert* instead of *John* because the maternal grandfather had predeceased the paternal grandfather.

In April 2004, Dot Williamson provided Hunterdon County, New Jersey deeds which proved that Sarah (Smith) Williamson was indeed the daughter of Robert and Jemima (___) Williamson. In May 2005, Dot provided another set of Hunterdon County deeds which provided more details on the children of Robert and Jemima (___) Smith and their spouses.

In addition to Glenn Van Vliet and Dot Williamson, I also wish to thank Mike Morrissey for providing some of the records cited below.

1. ROBERT SMITH, born circa 1762 or earlier; died in Bethlehem Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey between 8 February 1812 when he made his will and 27 November 1813 when it was proved; he married, say 1780, JEMIMA___. Jemima died after 22 May 1817 when a deed was recorded for a land purchase that she had made but before 27 March 1838 when her

children executed a deed pertaining to their parents' property including her Jemima's 1817 purchase.

Robert Smith's origins are currently unknown but Glenn Van Vliet provided the following speculation in making reference to Robert's will:

Robert Smith who died in 1813 was probably a grandson of Jasper Smith, one of the first judges in Hunterdon Co., and who probably died in 1754. GRV has a copy of the will of this Robert Smith dated 8 Feb 1812, inventory 26 Nov 1813 and proved 27 Nov 1813. Joseph Smith, Sr. signed by mark as an executor. (*New Jersey Colonial Documents, Calendar of Wills, 1810-1813, Vol. XII*, edited by Elmer T. Hutchinson).

Actually, Robert Smith died without a will so his estate was equally divided among his ten children. No doubt, Glenn's speculation was derived from the following which lists all the children of Robert and Jemima (___) Smith, with the exception of Elizabeth:

ROBERT SMITH, of Bethlehem twp., prob. a grandson of Jasper 1st, died 1813, m. Jemima and had ch." (Theodore F. Chambers, *The Early Germans of New Jersey; Their History, Churches and Genealogies*. [hereafter *EGNJ*; Dover, NJ: Dover Printing Co., 1895], 499)

Robert is *not* identified as a grandson of Jasper³ Smith (*Jasper*², *John*¹) in Lewis D. Cook's genealogy on "The Smith Family of Bedford, N.Y., and Maidenhead, N.J.," (*Genealogies of New Jersey Families: From the Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey* [hereafter *Cook*; Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.; 1996])

However, in alphabetical order, Robert's sons bore the given names of Asher, David, John, Joseph, Robert, and William. Asher is certainly the most distinctive name among these so perhaps Robert was a kinsman of some degree to Asher⁵ Smith (*Jasper*⁴, *John*³, *Jasper*², *John*¹), of Maidenhead, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, born about 1766 (*Cook*, 762). Asher⁵'s father, Jasper⁴, outlived Robert Smith but his will of 1817 makes no reference to any grandchildren of a deceased son named Robert. Another interesting possibility for further research is John⁴ Smith (*John*³, *Jasper*², *John*¹) of Maidenhead whose will of 20 August 1812 makes references to his "sons and daughters" without explicitly naming all of them (*Cook*).

Robert Smith died in 1813. It was not until 27 March 1838 that a deed was executed to resolve the ownership of his property:

W^m R. Smith & wife & others to Asher Smith. This Deed for the conveyance of land made [27 March 1838] between William R. Smith and Sarah his wife of the Township of Bethlehem... John R. Smith and Susan his wife of the County of Warren, Robert Smith and Eleanor his wife of the County of Warren, William Gano and Jemima his wife of the Township of Bethlehem..., Joseph Smith and Elizabeth his wife of the Same Place and David Smith and Mary his wife of the County of Warren all of the State of New Jersey of the one part and Asher Smith of the Township of Bethlehem... of the other part, Whereas Robert Smith late of the Township of Bethlehem... was at the time of his death in possession of certain

lands and tenements Situate lying and being in the said Township of Bethlehem... as by a reference to a Deed of Conveyance from Peter Hendrickson and Anna his wife dated [3 February 1796]... for one hundred and Seven and a half acres—To a Deed of Conveyance from Robert Johnston and Esther his wife on [10 December 1801] for forty Eight and a quarter acres, And to a Deed of Conveyance from William Quick and Hannah his wife dated [14 Dec 1816; Robert's widow, Jemima, was the sole grantee of this transaction as shown further below] and recorded in [27:318-19]... leaving children and as Such, heirs at law, the following viz. Elizabeth Smith wife of Peter Wyckoff Sarah Smith wife of Abraham Williamson Jemima Smith wife of William Gano William Smith John Smith Robert Smith Joseph Smith David Smith and Asher Smith, being all the children and heirs at law of the Said deceased... (*Hunterdon County Deed*, 78:149-152)

Robert's daughter, Hester was not mentioned in the 1838 deed cited above. This may indicate that she had died by then. Hester and her husband, Abraham Housel, had executed a quitclaim deed to her one-tenth share of Robert's farm in 1817:

Abraham Housel and wife to David Smith. This indenture made [18 February 1817] Between Abraham Housel of the Township of Bethlehem... of the one part and David Smith of the Township of Bethlehem of the other part, Whereas Robert Smith late of Township of Bethlehem... deceased died... two certain tracts or lots...one from Peter Hendrickson... the other from Robert Johnston... Whereas the aforesaid dec^d died Intestate leaving Children viz. William, Elizabeth, Joseph, Robert, John, David, Hester, Sarah, Jemima, Asher. Hester wife of Abraham Housel... (*Hunterdon County Deeds*, 27:323-24)

At the time of this death in 1813, the longest-held portion of his farm had been purchased in 1796.

Robert Smith to Peter Hendrickson. Mortgage Deed dated the 1st day of May in the year of our Lord 1796 From Robert Smith of the Township of Bethlehem County of Hunterdon & State of New Jersey To Peter Hendrickson of the Township of mansfield woodhouse County Sussex For all that Tract of Land Situate in the Township of Bethlehem... bounded as follows... to John Baptists land... near William Baless... containing one Hundred and Seventeen & a half acres... The principle Sum Due and Expressed here is one Hundred and Eighty Seven pounds payable agreeable to the conditions of the several Bonds Bearing Equal Date here with Proviso when... Recorded August... 1796. (*Hunterdon County Deeds*; 2:197)

Note that Robert Smith was already a resident of Bethlehem Township by 1 May 1796. The lack of an earlier grantee deed for Robert specifying a residence other than Bethlehem may indicate that his parents were also residents of Bethlehem.

Following Robert's death in 1813, Jemima probably bought a small house and lot for her widowhood in 1816:

William Quick to Jemima Smith. [14 December 1816] Between William Quick of the Township of Bethlehem... and Hannah his wife, party of the first part, and Jemima Smith of the Township... aforesaid party of the second part, for in consideration of the sum of Twenty Dollars ... doth... sell... that certain plot of land Situate... in the Township... aforesaid... containing fifty two hundredths parts of an acre... recorded May 22^d 1817. (*Hunterdon County Deeds*, 27:318)

Robert's daughters, Sarah (Smith) Williamson and Elizabeth (Smith) Wyckoff, eventually executed quitclaim deeds to relinquish their one-tenth shares of his farm to their brothers, Joseph and Asher Smith:

This Indenture made the second day of March in the year of our Lord eight hundred and twenty seven between 1827, Abraham Williamson of the township of Ulyses [*sic*, Ulysses], Tompkins County and the State of New York and Sarah his wife, of the first part, and Joseph and Asher Smith of the township of Bethlehem Township, Hunterdon county and the state of New Jersey of the second part, witnesseth, That whereas Robert Smith late of the township of Bethlehem, count of Hunterdon and state of New Jersey aforesaid, deceased, was lawfully seized and possessed of a certain tract of land or parcel of land in the township of Bethlehem aforesaid, and by his last will and testament, did will and bequeath unto each of his children an equal share of the aforesaid farm, or that each one should have an equal share of the same, and whereas Sarah Williamson aforesaid is one of the children of the aforesaid Robert Smith deceased. Now this indenture witnesseth that the said Abraham Williamson and Sarah his wife do for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars money of the United States in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged (being paid by the said Joseph and Asher Smith) and every part and parcel thereof doth acquit, release, grant and convey, all their right, title, interest and claim of all their estate, right, title, interest, claim, unto the aforesaid land or plantation or farm, being the one equal tenth part of the same, and forever discharge, and convey the same to the said Joseph and Asher Smith their heirs and assigns each an equal share... Sealed and delivered in the presence of Andrew Creveling, W^m W. Loder. (*Hunterdon County Deeds*, 53:529-530)

Abraham signed this transaction while Sarah simply made her mark. On 5 July 1827, Benjamin Hopkins, a Commissioner of Tompkins County, certified that Sarah executed the deed "freely with out fear, or compulsion of her said husband."

On 11 May 1832, Peter Wyckoff of Ulysses, Tompkins County, New York, and his wife, Elizabeth, executed a similar deed to Joseph and Asher Smith of Bethlehem:

...one equal undivided tenth part of one hundred and fifty acres of land of which Robert Smith late of Bethlehem died seized in said in said [*sic*] town of Bethlehem, bounded on the south by John Hoppars land and west by land of one Case. (*Hunterdon County Deeds*, 53:531-532).

On 1 December 1832, Joseph Smith and his wife Elizabeth sold their interest in the two-tenths of Robert Smith's farm acquired from his sisters, Sarah (Smith) Williamson and Elizabeth (Smith) Wyckoff, to his brother Asher Smith:

...the said Joseph Smith and Asher Smith hath formerly purchased jointly two of the shares of the children of said deceased, towit, of Abraham Williamson and Sarah his wife, the said Sarah being a daughter of the said Robert Smith... the other share of Peter Wyckoff and Elizabeth his wife, the said Elizabeth being another daughter of the said Robert Smith... the said deeds conveys unto Joseph & Asher Smith two tenth parts of one hundred and fifty acres of land being the homestead farm of the said deceased (*Hunterdon County Deeds*, 53:534)

Children of Robert and Jemima (___) Smith; birth order uncertain but listed in order of the 1817 quitclaim deed of their daughter, Hester (Smith) Housel:

- i. WILLIAM R; b. say 1782; m. SARAH ___; resided in Bethlehem Township as of 27 March 1838.
- ii. ELIZABETH, b. 7 Dec 1784; d. [Tompkins Co.,] NY 26 Oct 1855; m. April 1806 PETER⁶ WYCKOFF (*Peter⁵, Martin⁴, Pieter³, Nicholas², Pieter¹ Claesen*), b. NJ 10 March 1785, d. [Tompkins Co.,] NY 30 July 1864, son of Peter⁵ and Martha (Hageman) Wyckoff of Greenwich Township, (then Sussex, now) Warren Co., NJ ("Wyckoff Family" database of Mike Morrissey at RootsWeb.com's WorldConnect Project).
 Children, surname *Wyckoff*: 1. *John*, b. Warren Co., NJ 2 Sep 1811; d. NY 10 Feb 1831. 2. *Elias*. 3. *Joseph*. 4. *William*. 5. *Arcalous*, b. Warren Co., NJ 10 April 1816; d. 1898; m. (1) Wellsburg, Chemung Co., NY Frances G. Hopkins, d. Wellsburg 10 Aug 1854; m. (2) 19 May 1857 Melissa D. Treeman, d. 31 Aug 1865; m. (3) 10 APR 1877 Caroline C. Benedict-Hull. 6. *Jennie Jane*, b. Jacksonville, Tompkins Co., NY 19 Aug 1818; m. Waterburg, Tompkins Co., NY 25 Oct 1838 Huron Trowbridge, b. Ulysses, Tompkins Co., NY 12 July 1812. 7. *Martha Ann*, b. 31 July 1822; m. David Wicks, b. 1828. 8. *Peter S.*, b. 24 Jan 1824. 9. *Charles Wesley*, b. 1826; m. Cynthia ___, b. 1828.
- iii. JOSEPH, b. 4 April 1785; died [Bethlehem Township] 20 Dec 1863; buried in the cemetery of Asbury United Methodist Church, Asbury, NJ; will dated 05 Dec 1863 and proved 4 Jan 1864; m. (1) before 1808, ANN/ANNA ELISABETH ANDRES/s, dau. of Barnet and Mary (Fine) Andres/s, d. before 22 Aug 1824; m. (2) 22 Aug [1824] ELIZABETH THORP, b. Alexandria Twp., Hunterdon Co., NJ 4 May 1789, dau. of Ephraim and Elizabeth (___) Thorp, d. 2 Oct 1857, Bethlehem, Hunterdon Co., NJ, bur. cemetery of Asbury United Methodist Church; resided in Bethlehem Township as of 27 March 1838.
 Children, by Ann(a) Elisabeth Andres/s: 1. *Robert S.*, b. 18 Oct 1808; d. 2 April 1889; will dated 23 Feb 1889 and proved 13 April 1889; farmer, m. 24 May 1834, in [Bethlehem Township] Lydia L. Dilts, b. 23 Feb 1818,

Hunterdon Co., NJ, dau. of Harmon and Ida (Kline) Dilts, d. Bethlehem Township 28 May 1905; both are buried in the cemetery of Asbury United Methodist Church; resided at Jugtown (now West Portal), NJ. 2. *Joseph Rusling*, b. before 8 Feb 1812; d. aft 5 Dec 1863. 3. *Caroline*, b. 16 Nov 1818, d. 7 Sep 1850; m. 15 Nov 1834 Dr. Moses Farrow, Dr., b. Bethlehem Township 9 March 1809, son of ___ and Catherine (___) Farrow, d. 1 Aug 1891. 4. *Barnet Andress*, d. after 5 Dec 1863. 5. *Mary Ann*, d. aft 05 Dec 1863; m. Richard Crea, d. aft 05 Dec 1863.

Children, by Elizabeth Thorp: 6. *Rebecca*, b. 22 Dec 1825; d. 15 Dec 1873; m. (1) Hunterdon Co., NJ 8 May 1847 Charles D. Boss, d. before 1852; m. (2) 12 Aug 1852 Dr. Moses Farrow, widower of her sister, Caroline. 7. *Jemima*, died after 5 Dec 1863; m. Christopher Chamberlin, d. after 5 Dec 1863. 8. *Elizabeth*, died after 5 Dec 1863, m. Amos Rake, d. after 5 Dec 1863.

- iv. ROBERT, b. say 1787; named in honor of father; m. ELEANOR ___; resided in Warren Co., NJ as of 27 March 1838.
- v. JOHN; b. say 1789; m. SUSAN ___; resided in Warren Co., NJ as of 27 March 1838.
- vi. DAVID; b. say 1791; m. MARY ___; resided in Warren Co., NJ as of 27 March 1838.
- vii. HESTER "HETTY," b. say 1793; m. ABRAHAM HOUSEL; resided in Bethlehem Township as of 18 February 1817 (*Hunterdon County Deeds*, 37:323-24)
- viii. SARAH "SALLY"; b. NJ (*Census Records*) 8 June 1795 (*Williamson Family Bible Records*, hereinafter *WBRs*); d. Town of Greenwood, Steuben Co., NY 6 June 1849 (*WBRs*); m. [Hunterdon Co.] 15 Feb 1813 (*WBRs*) ABRAHAM⁶ WILLIAMSON (*John*⁵, *Peter*⁴, *William*³, *Willem*² *Willemsen*, *Willem*¹ *Gerritsen*), b. NJ (*Census Records*), probably in Bethlehem Township, Hunterdon Co. 2 April 1791 (*WBRs*), d. Town of Greenwood, Steuben Co., NY 3 Dec 1874 (*WBRs*) "Aged 83 yrs 8 Mo. & 1 Day" (*tombstone*), son of John⁴ and Charity (Richey) Williamson of Bethlehem Township; resided in Tompkins Co., NY as of 5 July 1827; soon removed to Greenwood; my director ancestors; for more information, please see the Williamson documents and links at <<http://www.perry.streeter.com>>.
- ix. JEMIMA, b. say 1797; named in honor of mother; married WILLIAM GANO; resided in Bethlehem Township as of 27 March 1838.
- x. ASHER; b. say 1799; resided in Bethlehem Township as of 27 March 1838.

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This is a complete every-name index for the entire document; each woman is indexed under her maiden name and her married name(s). A question mark, (?), indicates an unknown maiden name.