

# John W. Smith (c1798-1828)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 1985

February 29, 1984

Dear Mr. Long:

Your name was given to me by McDowell Publications. I had ask them for a person who did research in Ohio County.

In your book, OHIO COUNTY EARLY SETTLERS, would you have a John Smith, who was a blacksmith, living in this county with a wife, 2 sons and a daughter? Also, I have been told that John Smith and his son was riding a raft in Rough Creek and a man passing saw John and his son Granville T. (G.T.) in trouble and in helping them the man drown and so did John. The boy was saved by the this man but the waters were so rough he died. This was around 1829 or 1830.

Could you also tell me about the records available in the Court House and how early the records begin?

This John Smith was my 3rd great grandfather. His son, Granville T. (G.T.) is buried in Meade County, KY, along with his wife and several children. I would appreciate any help you can give me. Thank you

Sincerely,  
Frankie Jewell Smith Boyd

Route 1  
Brandenburg KY 40108

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January 8, 1985

Dear Mr. Long:

Having written you several months ago about doing research in Ohio County on the Smith Family, I am finally getting around to answering your letter and asking you if you had the time to do an hour or more for me at this time. I am enclosing a check for \$5.00 for whatever time you can give me for this. Some things I need to know are:

1. Anything about the death of John Smith and another man who drown at the same time in Rough Creek in 1829. John Smith and his son, Granville T. were on a raft in Rough Creek and were drowning - this man saw this in passing and jumped in to save them and did save the son, but in doing so, drown along with John Smith. Would there be an article in an old newspaper or in the death records about this (1829).
2. What happened to his wife Elizabeth Smith, did she remarry or was there any settlements about this in 1829.
3. There were 3 children, I think, belonging to John Smith and his wife Elizabeth. They were: Granville T., James and a girl named Jenetta Ann. It is believed the girl married a Jonathan Mitchell in 1840. But I need the proof of all of this. I do know the following: that Granville T. Smith is my 3rd great grandfather and that he married a Martha J. Smith. I also need to know Martha J. Smith's parents. I also have the names of Granville T. Smith's children, they later moving to Meade Co., KY. Granville T. Smith was about 9 years old when his father drown. He is later listed in the Breck Co., census, maybe 1850, was a blacksmith. He did live in Ohio County, because his first son was born there, named, John T., before coming to Meade Co. in 1854 or 1856.

If you have just a short time to work, maybe if you could find the death record and send me a copy. All I have told you is mostly hearsy. I have no proof on anything before Granville T. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,  
Frankie Jewell Smith Boyd

Route 1  
Brandenburg KY 40108

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23 February 1985

Frankie Jewell Smith Boyd  
Route 1  
Brandenburg KY 40108

Dear Mrs. Boyd;

I am sorry it has taken a while to answer your request. For several weeks I could not get up to Ohio County; during one period they had ten inches of snow on the ground. When I finally got started I kept making discoveries on your family and I decided to find all that I could. I hope you feel the wait was worth it. I did research at the Ohio County Courthouse, Ohio County Library, and Owensboro Public Library.

First of all, your fourth-great-grandfather, John Smith, appears to have died in 1828 not in 1829. At the Ohio County Courthouse in the estate records I found records pertaining to the estate of John W. Smith (#848). This was the only John Smith appearing in the estate records before 1860. The date on the records, 1828, and the names appearing, both indicate that this is your ancestor. Two separate documents are contained within the packet; an inventory-appraisal of the estate, and a sale bill of the estate of John W. Smith, deceased. The appraisers were Thomas Taylor, Joseph Gentry, and Richard Barret, they delivered their report to the court May 24, 1828. At the estate sale the following appeared as purchasers from the estate: Elizabeth Smith, Walker Daniel, John Daniel, Nathaniel Howard, Thomas Sullenger, Valentine W. Peyton, Francis Myres, Daniel Robertson, Samuel Wett, Massa Gentry, Thomas Taylor, and Charles Haynes. In all there were fifty separate items sold at the sale. The most frequent purchaser was by far, Elizabeth Smith, appearing twenty-four times. Elizabeth Smith was probably John Smith's widow since a woman appearing on estate sale bills is almost always the widow of the deceased. Another frequent purchaser was Walker Daniel, he was a brother-in-law of your ancestor, John Smith, in 1825 he had married John's sister, Mary Ann Smith. The inventory bill is also recorded in Ohio County Will Book B, page 297; and the sale bill in Will Book B, page 298. No will of John W. Smith was recorded, which is understandable for a young man in his early thirties.

I could not find any other particulars surrounding the death of John W. Smith in 1828. At this early date there were no county newspapers and no official death records were kept.

In the Centennial Edition of the newspaper, Ohio County News, Hartford, Ky., 26 December 1974, there appeared in the column "Lineage Lines" by Harry D. Tinsley an article on the Thomas Smith family, which was written by Mrs. Elizabeth Smith Cox. Mrs. Cox is one of the region's most noted genealogist, she is one of the founding members of the West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, and editor of the Kentucky Family Records published by this group. Mrs. Cox is a Smith descendant, your ancestor, John W. Smith, is also one of her ancestors. Her great-grandfather, William James Smith (1825-1906) was a brother of your third-great-grandfather Granville T. Smith.

Enclosed is a copy of the article by Mrs. Cox on the Smith family. I did not get in contact with Mrs. Cox, she resides in Mclean County and her address is: Mrs. Edgar L. Cox, Route 1, Utica, Ky. 42376. I strongly suggest you contact her, you have three ancestral families in common that I know of - Smith, Stewart, and Weeks.

I have compiled family group charts on your fifth-great-grandparents, Thomas Smith & Vicy Weeks, and your fourth-great-grandparents, John W. Smith & Elizabeth Stewart. They contain the vital information from Mrs. Cox's article as well as additions which I added from my research.

Thomas Smith married Vicy Weeks about 1796 in Virginia. She was the daughter of James and Elizabeth Weeks. Both the Smith and Weeks families were residents of Fauquier County, Virginia. About 1818 Thomas Smith and his family left Virginia and came to Kentucky. By 1820 he was in Ohio County, Ky. In that year he bought 223 acres on Caney Creek in the east central part of Ohio County. The homestead was located near Olaton, Ky., ten miles northeast of Hartford and four miles north of Horse Branch. On this farm is located an old Smith family cemetery. Your ancestors, Thomas & Vicy Smith and John W. Smith are probably buried here. They no not have inscribed markers, but there are many graves marked with field stones, which was the common practice of frontier times. Enclosed is a listing of the Smith Cemetery, there are 13 inscribed monuments.

Thomas Smith appears in the 1820 Ohio County census, the listing for his household is as follows:

Thomas Smith	1 male over 45	1 female over 45
	1 male 16-26	1 female 16-26
	2 males 10-16	1 female 10-16
	1 male 0-10	

Thomas Smith was listed as owning nine slaves. Enumerated immediately following his household was the family of Lewis Weeks, a brother-in-law. Also near the Smiths were the Daniel, Mitchell, and Tilford families who were residents of the Olaton area and who later intermarried with the Smiths.

Soon after arriving in Ohio County Thomas Smith's oldest son, John W. Smith married Elizabeth. Stewart, 20 May 1820, about two years later Granville T. Smith, your third great grandfather, was born to them.

Thomas Smith's oldest daughter. Elizabeth, married James Cooksey in Virginia about 1817, before coming to Ky. The Cooksey family also residents of Fauquier County, Va. came with the Smiths, to Ohio County, Ky. Very interestingly Elizabeth Smith Cooksey was the grandmother of Wyatt Earp, a celebrated western lawman and an American, folk hero. Elizabeth's daughter, Victoria Ann Cooksey married Nicholas P. Earp in Ohio County, 27 July 1840, the Earps left Ohio County and went out West where their son, Wyatt, was born and grew to fame.

Thomas Smith was still living in 1841. He does not appear in the 1850 Ohio County census. He had probably died by then for in 1850 he would have been over the age of 80.

Your fourth-great-grandmother, Elizabeth Stewart Smith, widow of John W. Smith appears in the 1830 Ohio County census. The census listing appears as follows:

Elizabeth Smith	1 male 5-10	1 female 20-30
	1 ma;e 0-5	1 female 5-10

1 female 0-5

John W. Smith and Elizabeth Stewart had four children, two boys and two girls: Granville T., Jenette Ann (m. Johnathan Mitchell), William James (1825-1906), and Eliza C. Smith (1829-1901, never married). The last two have marked graves in Ohio County and Jenette Smith Mitchell lived and died Ohio County but I could not find where she was buried. Jenette appears in the 1870 Ohio County census and in 1873 her husband remarried. If you want to find out more about the Mitchell family I suggest you write David Arthur Myers, Route 1, Box 31, Olaton, Ky. 42361. Mr. Myers has published a book on the Mitchell and related families, and I believe he has done some research also on the Smiths. Regarding your third-great-grandfather, Granville T. Smith, would you please send me some vital information about him, his birth, death, where he died and was buried, and who he married (when & where)?

Elizabeth Stewart Smith remarried in Ohio County to Walter Duke Christian. 26 September 1833. She was then about age 35, and she had three more children: Samuel M., Charles V., and Sarah Elizabeth Christian. All three lived and died in Ohio County.

In the book, Kentucky: A History Of The State (by J. H. Battle, W. H. Perrin & G. C. Kniffin, 1885), in the section on Ohio County appears a write up on the Christian family. This article mentions and gives vital information about Elizabeth Stewart Smith Christian. The article states that before marrying Walter D. Christian "she was formerly married to a Mr. Smith" and had four children by him and gives their names (including Granville T. Smith). Two other important facts about her are given in the article, she was of Fayette County, Ky. and she died in the year 1874 at the age of 77. A copy of this article is enclosed.

Elizabeth Stewart Smith Christian married a third time, 12 August 1851, to Holland Morris. I am not sure where she was buried when she died in 1874. Possibly at the Christian family cemetery near Olaton. Her second husband, Walter D. Christian, and her daughter, Eliza C. Smith (died August 1901), were buried here. If you contact Mrs. Cox you may want to ask her if she knows, Elizabeth, would be her great-great-grandmother. Mrs. Cox probably has additional information on the history of the Stewart family.

At the Ohio County Library I found a notebook (unpublished) entitled A Biography of James Weeks, 1749-1834, compiled in 1980 by George E. Kimble. Mr. Kimble's address is: The Lakehouse - Villa 12, 4540 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, Florida 33583. I am sending twelve pages from this book which contain information about your ancestor, James Weeks (sixth-great-grandfather) and his family. James Weeks was a Revolutionary War veteran. Mr. Kimble has documents regarding James Weeks' military service, pension, and will and you may want to try to contact him to get copies of these.

I again apologize for taking over six weeks to finish your request. For my time spent in researching (9 hours) and xerox copies I request \$30.00, which I hope you find reasonable. If you should be interested in obtaining copies of any of the original documents from Ohio County,

the courthouse there charges 50 cents a xerox page. And if there is something you would like me to check further I will be more than glad to do so; or if you have any questions about what I have enclosed please drop me a line.

Sincerely yours,  
Jerry Long

1701 Alexander Avenue  
Owensboro, KY 42301

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March 10, 1985

Dear Mr. Long:

Thank you so much for all the material you sent on the Smith Family and the Weeks Family. I appreciate learning this new ancestral line. Also the names of others in the same lines that I can write to. I am now anxious to visit Olaton and the old homestead and family cemetery this summer, if possible. This John Smith is my 3 great grandfather. This makes my father very happy to know more of his family and he is anxious also to visit this place. I really can't thank you enough for this information.

I will be writing you again and maybe have some copies made at your convenience. I also want to know more about the Stewart family and will let you know when I can send the money for this research.

I haven't had much time to pursue this since I heard from you, as my parents are both poorly and I am helping them out some every day and also taking them to the Doctor in Louisville every week. But, I will keep in touch with you.

Again, my thanks to you, and I am enclosing a check for the research.

Sincerely yours,  
Frankie Jewell Boyd

Route 1  
Brandenburg KY 40108

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“Lineage Lines”, by Harry D. Tinsley, Ohio County News, Hartford, KY, 26 December 1974, p16:

**Thomas Smith**

Compiled by Elizabeth Smith Cox  
(Mrs. Edgar L.) R.1, Utica, Ky. 42376

Among the early settlers of Ohio County it appears there were two with the name, Thomas Smith. Recorded in Deed Book A, page 355 - dated 1805 Thomas Smith bought 300 acres of land on Sulphur Creek from Benjamin Fowler. In Deed Book E, page 155 - dated. 1820 Thomas Smith bought 223 acres on Caney Creek, cash in hand, from Gabriel Jackson. In 1826 there is an appraisal of the estate of one Thomas Smith, evidently, the one that we find there in 1804.

It is known that our ancestor, Thomas Smith,, lived on Caney Creek and was living in 1841when On April 24 of that year he deeded the same 223 acres on Caney Creek to two of his sons, Lewis L. and Robert H. Smith. Then on June 24, 1841 he bought 354 acres on Caney Creek from John L. May. This was his last land transaction and he died intestate.

Tradition has it that our Thomas Smith and wife, "Vicy", the former Miss Melcenia Victoria Weeks, and their children migrated from Virginia to Ohio County, Kentucky before 1820 bringing with them their slaves, live stock and a small metal chest, filled with gold currency for purchase of land and necessities. This chest is still In possession or a descendant.

It is believed that the Smith family resided in Fauquier County, Virginia. In 1783 Thomas Smith and wife, Elizabeth, probably parents of the younger Thomas Smith, leased land in that county to, Phillip Cooksey. Evidently, they lived not far from the Maryland-Virginia state line. Before the marriage of James Cooksey, son of Phillip and Mary Cooksey, and Elizabeth. the eldest daughter of Thomas and "Vicy" Smith, she shopped in Baltimore for her trousseau. The white silk dress and bridal veil were handmade in that city. The story goes that very soon after the wedding they set off on horse - back with the family for Kentucky and settled in Ohio County where they spent the remainder of their life.

The Smith Graveyard where many of the family are buried is located on the old homestead a distance back of the house across a railroad track. In 1960 the burial plot was well fenced and fairly clean. The monuments were standing, many of them were sandstones and probably a number of graves unmarked.

Thomas Smith and Melcenia Victoria. Weeks were married in the late 1790's according to the ages of their children, all born in Virginia except the youngest son, Robert H., born 1818 In Kentucky.

Children were:

1. John Smith born ca 1798; drowned in Green river at Cromwell - 1829 - while rescuing his eldest son; married May 20, 1820 Elizabeth Stewart, Ohio County.

2. Elizabeth Smith born Jan. 12, 1800; died Feb. 17, 1880; buried in Cooksey-Smith Cemetery at Dan, Ohio County. Married 1st-James Cooksey ca .1817 in Virginia. Married 2<sup>nd</sup> - Perry Iler Feb. 11, 1831 Ohio County. Married 3<sup>rd</sup> - John Railey Sept. 27, 1843 Ohio County.
3. James Smith born ca 1803; died 1829 unmarried. Settlement of estate Nov. 1829 Thomas Smith, admr.
4. Sarah Ann Smith born ca 1806. (One Sarah Ann Smith married John Mitchell - Aug. 15, 1831 Ohio County.)
5. Mary Ann "Minnie" Smith born 1810; died Jan. 9, 1896; married Walker Daniel - Aug. 22, 1825 Ohio County.
6. Lewis L. Smith born ca 1813; died \_\_; married Eliza Tilford Feb. 4, 1832 Ohio County.
7. Maria Margaret Smith born ca 1816; died \_\_; married ca 1834 - Garrison Hoover (as 2nd wife), son of George Hoover and Elizabeth (Garrison) Hoover.
8. Robert H. Smith born May 23, 1818; died March 23, 1881; buried in Coolcsey-Smith Cemetery at Dan, Ohio County. Married Nov. 27, 1854 - Margaret Ross born Feb. 17, 1814; died March 17, 1896, daughter of John Ross of Pa.

Children of John Smith and Elizabeth Stewart:

1. Granville Smith born 1822; served in Civil War and lived to be 94 years old. 1st wife was Martha (?) - 2nd wife was Susan (?)
2. Jenette Ann Smith born Ca 1824: married Jonathan Mitchell Sept. 9, 1840, Ohio Co. Children in 1850 Census: Amanda - age 6 yrs. - Almedia - age 4 yrs. - Judith 1 yr.
3. William James Smith born Sept. 28, 1825 Ohio Co.; died Aug. 30, 1906 McLean Co. Married May 4, 1848 Mahala Margaret Stewart born Oct. 15, 1829; died Feb. 20, 1894, daughter of Carter S. Stewart and Lydia B. (Malin) Stewart. Buried at Stewart Family Graveyard near Liberty United Methodist Church, Ohio County. Wm. James and Mahala Smith moved to the Guffie Community, McLean County ca 1874 where they bought the James H. Hancock farm and lived until death. They had 3 sons: - William Wayne Smith born June 24, 1850; died Dec. 28, 1898; married Jan. 19, 1875 Lucy T. Robinson, Falls of Rough, Grayson County, daughter of Elijah N. Robinson and Letitia (Davison) Robinson.- Lucy was born Feb. 7 1858, Grayson Co.; died Nov. 24, 1935, at Guffie, McLean Co.; - Carter Worth Smith born Aug. 30, 1852; died Nov. 27.1944, married



Dec. 2 1877 Same Ann Leachman born May 10, 1862; died Nov. 8, 1923, daughter of William Parker Leachman and Susan Elizabeth (Moseley) Leachman, McLean. Co.; - John Lewis Smith born July 30. 1852; died Sept. 7, 1924; married Nov. 4, 1886 Ara Lytle born June 26, 1867; died Sept. 4, 1939, daughter of Julius Lytle and Minerva (Moseley) Lytle, McLean Co.

4. Eliza Smith born July 24, 1829; died Aug. 1901; buried in Christian Family Graveyard Ohio Co.

After the death of John Smith- 1829 - the widow, Elizabeth Stewart Smith married Sept. 26, 1833 Walter Christian.

Issue:

1. Samuel Meritt Christian born May 11, 1834; married Oct. 23, 1856 Phoebe E. Tilford, daughter of Andrew. Tilford and Elizabeth (Daniel) Tilford, Ohio Co.
2. Charles Valentine Christian born June 19, 1836; died Dec. 16, 1917; married March 20, 1859 Mary. E. White born March 11, 1841; died Oct. 24, 1922, daughter of Walker White and Julia A. (Mitchell) White, buried at Cane Run Church Cemetery.
3. Sarah Elizabeth Christian born Dec. 18, 1841; died May 11, 1928; married 1<sup>st</sup> - Jobe Daniel; 2<sup>nd</sup> - June 9, 1874 James Axton.

Children of Elizabeth Smith and 1st husband, James Cooksey:

1. John Cooksey died young - unmarried.
2. Victoria Ann Cooksey married July 27, 1840 Nicholas P. Earp Ohio Co. They moved west. Among their children was Wyatt Earp.
3. Margaret Maria Cooksey married March 3, 1843 James Tilford, son of Andrew Tilford and Elizabeth (Daniel) Tilford.
4. James Cooksey born March 20, 1828; died 5, 1896;..married Aug. 21, 1856 Sarah Bell Parks born 1830; died Apr. 22, 1879 buried at Cooksey-Smith Cemetery. James Cooksey, Sr. was - deceased in 1828 - his children shared in estate of his father, Phillip Cooksey, Fauquier Co., Va., deceased 1836.

Children of Elizabeth Smith and 2nd husband; Perry her:

1. Dully Bell Iler born Dec. 5, 1834; died May 27, 1912; married Jesse Park born July 16, 1826; died Dec. 12, 1879 - both buried at Cooksey-Smith Graveyard.

2. Robert T. Iler born 1837; married Sarah Mary Sharp.

Perry Iler deceased by June 24, 1837, date of Estate. Settlement, Ohio Co.

Children of Mary Ann "Minnie" Smith and Walker Daniel: Ref: 1850 Census Daviess Co., Ky. District #1 - Dwelling # 887

1. Elizabeth - age 21 yrs. (b. ca 1829)
2. John - age 18 yrs. (b. ca 1832)
3. Thomas - age 14 yrs. (b. ca 1836, soldier of Civil War, 17<sup>th</sup> Ky. Inf., Co.B, buried in Smith Family Graveyard)
4. Mary - age 10 yrs. (b. ca 1840)
5. Robert H. - age 7 yrs (b. Mar. 14, 1843; died Sept. 12, 1899, wife – Corilla (Mitchell) Daniel – born Oct. 5, 1850; died Oct. 26, 1939. Buried in Smith Family Graveyard)
6. Calvin -age 3 yrs (b. ca. 1847)
7. Margaret – age 1/12 (b. ca Mar. 1850)

Children of Lewis L. and Eliza (Tilford) Smith. Ref: 1850 Census Ohio Co., Ky. District #1- Dwelling # 510

1. Thomas Smith age -18 yrs. (b. ca 1832)
2. Louisa Smith age - 14 years (b. ca 1836 – m. Edward Ford Jan 19, 1876)
3. Mariah Smith age -12 yrs. (b. ca 1838) - m. John E. Ross Nov. 5, 1862
4. John Smith age - 10yrs. (b. ca 1840) - m. Maria J. Petty Feb, 10,1876.
5. James Smith age - 8 yrs. (b. ca 1842)
6. Robert Smith age -2 yrs. (b. ca 1848)

Children of Maria Margaret Smith and Garrison Rooter: Ref: 1850 Census - Ohio Co.; Ky. District # 1 - Dwelling # 513

1. John Hoover age - 13 yrs – born 1835; died 1919 – Buried in Cooksey-Smith Graveyard. Wife – Martha Hester (Felix) Hoover – born 1836; died 1924 – buried by husband. Married Dec. 23, 1856 Ohio Co.)
2. Massie Hoover age - 13 yrs.
3. George Hoover age - 9 yrs.
4. Lewis Smith Hoover age - 4 yrs. – born May 1, 1847; died Feb. 25, 1933. Wife – Ruth E. (Ford) Hoover born Feb. 18, 1852; died Nov. 5, 1931. Both buried in Cane Run Church Cem. (Parents of late Dr. I. J. Hoover)
5. Garrison Hoover age -1/2 yr. – born Feb. 1, 1850; died Sept. 20, 1900. Wife – Mary F. (Miller) Hoover born Feb. 14, 1855; died May 24, 1908. Both buried in Smith Family Graveyard.)
6. Margaret Hoover (twins) age 1/2yr.

Child of Robert H. Smith and Margaret (Ross) Smith:

1. Susan Victoria Smith born Sept. 22, 1857; died 1943. Husband - Kit Carson Byers born 1865; died 1932 – son of Wm. Spurrier Byers. Both buried in Cooksey-Smith Graveyard.

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See also “Family of Thomas Smith & Melcenia Victoria Weeks” by Elizabeth Smith Cox, 4814 KY 140 West, Utica, KY 42376, Kentucky Family Records, Vol. 13, 1988, McDowell Publications, Utica, KY, pp.86-94.

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Kentucky: A History of the State (J. H. Battle, W. H. Perrin & G. C. Kniffin, 1885, Ohio County section):

The Christian Family, Ohio County. Walter D. Christian, the progenitor, a very worthy and honorable gentleman, was a Virginian by birth, a soldier in the war of 1812, and died in Kentucky about 1845, aged nearly seventy years. At what period he immigrated to this State is not definitely known, but his good standing is established by the fact that he filled various offices of honor and trust, among which was that of sheriff. He espoused in marriage Elizabeth Stewart, of Fayette County; she died in 1874, aged seventy-seven years. Their children are Samuel M., Charles V., and Sarah E. (married first to Daniel and afterward to Axton). Mrs. Christian had been formerly married to a Mr. Smith, and bore him the following named children: Granville T., Jennetta A. (Mitchell), James W., and Eliza C. Smith.

Samuel Meritt Christian was born May 11, 1834, in Ohio County, Ky., on the inherited patrimony, where he now resides. He was married, October 23, 1856, to Phoebe E., daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth (Daniel) Tilford, of Ohio County; she was born August 22, 1836, and to them have been born Rebecca A., married to John Wilson; James M., and Granville J. Mr. Christian is a farmer, owning 138 acres of fine land in good condition. Mrs. Christian is a Baptist. Politically, Mr. Christian is a Republican.

Charles Valentine Christian was born on the place where he now resides, in Ohio County, Ky., June 19, 1836. In 1861 he enlisted in Company B, Seventeenth Kentucky Infantry, and remained in service three years and four months. March 20, 1859, he married Mary E., daughter of Walker and Julia A. (Mitchel) White; born March 11, 1841, and from this union sprang Juda A. (Boyd), James W. (deceased), Mahala E., Julia A., Sarah E., Josie, and Lizetta (twins, exactly alike and of equal weight). Mr. Christian is a farmer, having 103 acres of well improved land, in good condition and in a fine state of cultivation. In politics he is a Republican.

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Kentucky: A History of the State (J. H. Battle, W. H. Perrin & G. C. Kniffin, 1885, McLean County section):

WILLIAM J. SMITH a native of Ohio County, was born September 28, 1825, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Stewart) Smith, natives of Shelby County, Va., and who were of Irish descent. He received but little schooling and resided with his parents until the age of eighteen, when he commenced farming for himself; was but three years old when his father lost his life by drowning. He was married May 4, 1848, to Mahala Stewart of Ohio County, a daughter of Carter Stewart and Lydia B. (Malin) Stewart, natives of Woodford and Ohio Counties, Ky. They

have had four children: Carter Z. (deceased), William W., Carter W. and John L. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the Baptist Church; moved from Ohio County, Ky., in 1874, and located where they now reside, on 250 acres of land; he has added to it until he now owns 302 acres, accumulated by his own industry. He is rearing three orphan children: Robert L. Stewart, son of Jacob and Louis A. Stewart, and Lavinia and John G. Hill, children of James W. and Nannie (Gillian) Hill, of Crittenden County.

W.W. SMITH, McLean County, is a son of William J. and Mahala M. (Stewart) Smith, and was born June 25, 1850, in Ohio County. He was brought up on the farm and with but few educational advantages; his parents being in limited circumstances, he was compelled to assist in their maintenance. When twenty-two years of age, he left home and commenced farming on shares and for wages. In 1875 he rented a farm of 150 acres for two years, then bought seventy acres, five miles north of Calhoun. Since then he has purchased two additional tracts - one of 111 acres and one of twenty-six acres, the latter he purchased in 1881. It had good buildings on it and he located there the same year. Soon after he bought another tract of sixty-six acres, and now owns in all 273 acres, purchased within the past ten years. He was married January 19, 1875, to Lucy T. Robinson, of Grayson County, and a daughter of Elijah and Letitia (Davidson) Robinson, the former of Virginia and the latter of Grayson County. The result of this union is five children: Cyrus V., Elvis C., Charles R., Mary O., and Forrest G. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and he is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and was also a member of the Grange. Politically he is a Democrat, and his first presidential vote was given in 1872, to Horace Greeley.

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Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 21 September 2004, p64:

Family's travels shaped lawman Earp

By David Blackburn

One of America's famed gunslinger lawman might not have gotten a taste of the Wild West, or learned the skills to survive in it, had it not been for the nomadic ways of his Hartford-reared father.

Nicholas Earp moved his family - including son Wyatt Earp in his pre-O.K. Corral-gunfight days - between the Midwest and the then-unsettled West several times in the mid-1800s.

During an 1864 trip to California, a teenage Wyatt Earp learned to hunt and defend against American Indian raids.

He first became a peace officer about 1870 in Missouri after living two years in Wyoming, according to "A History of Ohio County, Kentucky."

The 1963 book, compiled from the papers of Hartford attorney and newspaper editor McDowell Fogle, also draws from Stuart Lake's 1931 biography "Wyatt Earp, Pioneer Marshal."

Nicholas Earp's parents moved from Virginia to Hartford soon after his birth in 1813. As an adult, he joined his father's law practice and later became a farmer, barrel maker and bootlegger.

Nicholas Earp married first wife Abigail Storm in 1836. She died after giving birth to their second child.

In 1840, he married Virginia Ann Cooksey, who later gave birth to Wyatt Earp's brothers James (1841) and Virgil (1843).

Among the Ohio County records Fogle cited as detailing the Earps' lives are:

Two marriage licenses for Nicholas Earp.

An 1839 mortgage from Nicholas Earp's brother Lorenzo to Nicholas Earp and Tucker D. Ragsdale for about 100 acres somewhere in Ohio County as part of a lawsuit.

An 1840 quit-claim deed to Nicholas Earp for 150 acres on Caney Creek near Horse Branch in eastern Ohio County.

An 1841 power-of-attorney from Virginia Earp to Nicholas Earp allowing him to represent her in any proceedings dealing with her grandfather's property in Virginia.

Another Earp tie to Ohio County is Walter Earp, a cousin of Wyatt's, who served as Rosine postmaster from 1914 to 1918.

Wyatt Earp was born on March 19, 1848, about three years after his family moved from Hartford to Monmouth, Ill.

About 1850, Nicholas and Virginia Earp moved to Pella, Iowa, where they had five other children, including Morgan (1851).

Morgan and Wyatt Earp served as deputies to U.S. Marshal Virgil Earp at the O.K. Corral gunfight in Tombstone, Ariz., in 1881.

Nicholas Earp is credited with stopping Wyatt Earp as the 13-year-old boy tried to run away and join the Union army with Virgil, James and half-brother Newton Earp in 1861.

Nicholas Earp was convicted of selling liquor in 1859 and lost his land when the judge ordered it sold at a public auction to pay his fines.

A year later, he was sued in Monmouth for failing to pay his debts and taxes, according to Wyatt Earp's ancestry on the "Natural American in Southwest" Web site.

Between 1864 and 1870, the Earps trekked from California to Lamar, Mo., to Wyoming, then back to Lamar.

Lake's biography credits Wyatt Earp's mother with helping shape her sons as they crossed the untamed pioneer land.

"While the influence of Nicholas Earp was the more apparent in his children's lives, Virginia Ann Cooksey unquestionably contributed no small portion of that high courage for which her sons were famed," Lake wrote.

Citing an unspecified incident, Lake added: "... Her fearless initiative in the face of a greater danger than any man may know equaled that displayed by any of 40 frontiersman in her company at the time."

Nicholas and Virginia Earp later moved to San Bernardino in southern California, where he was elected to the county court until just before his death in 1907. Virginia Earp died in 1893.

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Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 28 February 2014, p1B:

Earp part of Park's storytelling repertoire

By Suzi Bartholomy

Bill Park of Owensboro can tell a good story — and he has many to share.

Park, who recently celebrated his 99th birthday, heard first-hand tales about legendary Tombstone lawman Wyatt Earp from his Uncle Joe, who grew up in Ohio County.

Park relates these childhood memories with the enthusiasm of a first-told story.

Earp was the son of Nicholas Porter Earp and his second wife, Virginia Ann Cooksey. Nicholas and Virginia moved from Hartford to Monmouth, Ill., around 1845, where Wyatt was born in 1848.

"Uncle Joe Park knew Wyatt Earp's kin and told me stories about him. I knew about Wyatt long before there were movies made about him," said Park, who is a native of Rockport, Ky.

Park married his sweetheart, Jennie, in 1935, and they were married 74 years when she died in 2010. When the couple started their life together, Park was making about 23 cents an hour at KenRad, the precursor to General Electric. He worked for GE until his retirement in 1970.

"They wanted me to move to Louisville, so I took early retirement," Park said. In his tenure at GE, he held supervisory positions and worked several years in Alabama as a training specialist.

"All my people were teachers except me," Park said. "I was a teacher of sorts at GE, but not from book learning." An engineer asked me once how I knew so much, and I said, experience."

Park was president of his union twice. One contract he negotiated got the women who worked in the factory more money.

"The men didn't like that," he said, "but the women were doing most of the work and not making the same money as the men."

"Bill will tell stories to whomever wants to listen," said his friend, Jake Valdez. "He has way-back stories about hunting and fishing with his dad."

"Bill has wonderful stories," he said. "He's very kind, and a joy to be around."

Park's father was a county doctor who traveled Ohio and McLean counties in a horse-drawn buggy.

"Sometimes, he'd be gone two, three days," Park said. "On the way home, he'd sleep, but his horse knew the way. When they got to the barn door, the horse would stomp his feet to wake up my dad.

"I was 10 or 11 years old when a man came to Dad with a crushed hand," Park said. "He had a room in the basement where he took care of gunshot wounds and accidents.

"I took a look at the man's hand and was about to leave when Dad got a hold of my shirt collar and said, 'I'm going to use you.' He told me to hold a cloth with chloroform over the man's head, and I watched him take off the man's fingers."

Park doesn't seem impressed with his longevity. He's always eaten what he wants and emphasizes that he had not taken any medication until about six months ago.

"My doctor found an irregular heartbeat, and now I take some medicine," Park said. "My doctor said I can't believe you've gone 98 years without taking anything.

"I told him, didn't he know that medicine can kill you?" Park said. "I smoked some when I was in my 20s. One Sunday I was driving down Frederica after church and dropped a cigarette between my legs. I haven't smoked since."

"I've never drank much, either. I might have a beer once in a while or a glass of wine when I go out to dinner," Park added.

He's always in a good mood, Mary Valdez said.

"He'll call in the morning with a big hello that just makes your day," she said.

"We met Bill through a childhood friend who knows his daughter-in-law, Elaine," Mary Valdez said. "We love him. He's a great man."

"I've known Bill for about 40 years," said Elaine Park, who is the widow of his son, William.

"Bill has been a good person all his life. He's very kind and generous," she said.  
"He loves to read his Bible and is well-versed," she added.  
There probably isn't anyone anywhere who would say anything negative about him,  
Elaine Park said.

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Wyatt Earp (1848-1929)