

# DEATH OF THOMAS X SMITH

(On page 395 of Orson Gurney Smith's journal he writes of the last illness and death of his father Thomas X. Smith. Orson was returning from work in Nevada and a trip to California when, on arriving in Ogden he heard of the stroke that his father had suffered,) The following is what he wrote:

F. G. Wright and family 16 miles south east of Auburn. Returned and took train for home same day. Arrived in Ogden Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> (1906) and learned that my Father had received a paralytic stroke. I came home and visited him and found him serious and apparently no show to recover. From that day he seemed to grow weaker and although at times he would rally a little, but only for a time. He retains his every faculty and talk to and pleads with his children to follow him as he has followed after the ways of righteousness. His suffering was intense and wore on him very noticeably and he grew weaker and weaker. His soul's desire was to hear a testimony to the end of his knowledge of the truth of the Gospel and his love for it, and to all who heard him it was a scene of sorrow and joy never to be forgotten. He lived great and he died greater for after 5 weeks of suffering he passed away surrounded by all his children and his wives, two of whom survive him. Thus we lost a noble father and an honored leader. Beloved by all who knew him of our faith. His life held out a picture for us all to look at and ponder over all our lives. His body was prepared and lay in state for 4 days and many called to view. His grave was built of brick and cement and after a funeral in the Logan tabernacle at which a host of friends attended and offered beautiful floral and expressive tributes, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January, 1907 his body was carried to its resting place beside our dear mother. Apostle J. H. Smith, Thomas Morgan, Gustave Thomason, Isaac Smith and Bp. Newbold spoke feelingly and impressive and all seemed to feel alike that a good man had gone.

The house was filled almost to overflowing and a sweet spirit prevailed through out the ceremonies. At the grave the Elison sisters and co. sang "Nearer My God to Thee," The tomb was covered with the cement cover and all securely sealed from wet weather. I know our Father was a good man and will get a good reward for his labors. I have never heard him in all my life utter one word I could not repeat before a lady. I have never seen him comit an act I could not emulate. His was an enabling life, uplifting everyone with whom he came in contact, whose whole desire was to do right and injure none. I am proud to be an of(f) spring of so great and good man, and I feel myself indebted to him for all I enjoy and his obedience to the gospel, for my everlasting advancement in God's noble work for my family and for my knowledge of God and Godliness. He left 16 living children and 2 wives, 62 grand children and 7 great G(rand) C(hildren). One wife and 6 children (are) dead. We cannot regret that he has gone, since if he had lived he would have been a cripple since he had the stroke. His years on earth were 78 and he closed his life near his birthday at the close, a Bps (bishops) labor of 46 years and city judge and