



What a terrible and unpredictable situation for the Smith's who had just made such a major effort to get there. What hardship for those who had worked so hard to build these new homes, farms, villages and churches, through much labor and sacrifice. One must consider the wonderful friends and family members that all of them left from their previous communities. It was a time of great frustration, heartache, and renewed sacrifice to start over somewhere else. These pioneer settlers did not move as a group to any one or two locations. They ended up in many different places with their lives forever changed by the definition of a state boundary line and the unjust clamor for duplicate taxes to be paid in gold or silver which they did not have. It was a kind of economic persecution that brought about a lot of sorrow, relocation and having to give it all up and start over. Of course they had gained considerable knowledge and experience and had some success that helped offset the negatives.

In the spring of 1871 all but one of the Mormon settlers abandoned the Muddy Valley. The George and Catherine Smith family went to St. George and it appears that they lived in or near there for more than a year. They did not return to the Salt Lake Valley until 1873.

### **Residence in Holladay and Cottonwood**

The Smith's did not return to Farmington, but rather chose a delightful place on the east side of the Salt Lake Valley. They first settled in Holladay at about 2300 East 4600 South. Some time later they moved to an area known as South Cottonwood at 1700 East and 6400 South. This would be their final residence and the family worked hard together in 1880 to build an adobe brick house. The children helped to mix the mud for the bricks by tramping in the mixing hole. The adults were busily engaged in building a foundation and setting the bricks for the structure. There are two homes standing now in the approximate location, however they appear to have been built or remodeled much more recently and have the addresses of 1725 and 1733 East. It appears that the old home has been torn down unless it was incorporated in a remodel and is an indistinguishable part of the 1733 East house on 6400 South.

### **A Wonderful Landmark and Memorial**

I was absolutely delighted, as I searched the area described above, to find the location of the George W. Smith Family Farm. It is memorialized at the entrance to Shenandoah Park Avenue. It has a date on it from 1874 to 1990, an amazing 106 years during which it was probably owned by successive generations of the family.



Site of  
George W. Smith  
Family Farm  
1874 ~ 1990

Developed by  
Comerica Builders  
Keller Development Co.

COMERICA  
BANK

Keller

Site of  
George W. Smith  
family farm  
1874 - 1990

*Developed by  
Comerica Builders,  
Keller Development Co.*



6372 Shenandoah Park Ave

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I don't know how large it was in acreage, but I have been told by LeAnne Quick, a cousin who lives in the home that George Fred Smith built about three blocks to the North on Vine Street, that the Shenandoah street was part of the fruit orchard of the George Smith farm in the early years. LeAnne is a daughter of Mary Chelta Smith Quick, who was a daughter of George Fred Smith and a granddaughter of George and Catherine Smith. The developer's of this neighborhood built two impressive brick structures, one on each side of the street at the south entrance. On the west side they highlighted the location as the George W. Smith Family Farm. On the east side they show the name of the avenue and refer to the area as a 'Field of Dreams'. And indeed it must have been, because of the many mansion like homes that are there in a price range of perhaps \$700,000 to \$1,250,000 dollars. George and Catherine Smith and some of their descendants after them owned a very valuable property which has been developed into one of the most affluent and beautiful parts of the east, central Salt Lake Valley. The pictures help convey the modern day significance of the farm they had in this great location. I wish we had pictures of the farm when it was producing crops, vegetables and fruits. It would be quite a contrast. Each person could then contemplate these very different life styles and the challenges and rewards of each. This property is very close to the large LDS Church with the Cottonwood name. It is located at 1830 East 6400 South and it seems likely that it may have been the location of their meetinghouse. Research is needed of the Ward records of their time to glean any information that might be there about them. These records would most likely be in the Church History Library Archives in downtown Salt Lake City.

As I thought of their life in this central location, in the heart of the beautiful valley, I realized that they had finally attained that which could have been very satisfying to them. They lived just west of the great Mount Olympus Peaks, the granite sentinels overlooking the valley. They were close to the canyon and had a good supply of irrigation water. An adequate ditch brought the water right along their property. The soil must have been quite good for farming, gardening and orchards. There were many cottonwood trees and I suppose a significant number of small animals in the woods and fields. They were on an elevation that would enable them to enjoy the sunsets over the Oquirrh mountains in the western skyline. They were surrounded by good people, most of whom shared their religious faith and values. They were living in the center of latter day Zion. In other words, they had lived and fulfilled their dream which inspired them to come to America and live with the Saints of God. The blessings associated with their dream, which they sought and found together and for which they sacrificed so much, were profound and they were able to pass them on to generations of their descendants. It was then and it will ever be a rich inheritance for them all.

THE CHURCH  
OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
OF  
LATTER-DAY SAINTS

1830









## Death, Burial and a Tribute

The end of mortal life must inevitably come for all. One could say that it came far too early for these wonderful people. From the perspective of children and grandchildren, this would surely be true. But, they had fought the good fight and won many battles, some that they had chosen and others that they were given. They were prepared to go on into the next phase of eternal life and continue to progress in a new sphere. They were welcomed home by so many of family and friends who loved them. And they left with the comfort of knowing that they had done their best. The sweet and welcome words, 'well done thou good and faithful servant, enter into thy rest' come gently to mind. They are preparing the way for their posterity to return someday to them, to their eternal family and to their heavenly home.

Catherine Wooten Smith died at the age of 55 on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February in 1883. It was a long five years before George William Smith passed away on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June in 1888 and was able to join her again. An important and well deserved tribute was paid to them at the conclusion of the history that I have quoted earlier that was written by a family member who has not been identified. The full history is included in the Appendix of this text. "Only 3 years after settling in Cottonwood, Catherine's health broken by the many hardships she had gone through, she died at the age of 55. But not before instilling in her children, 7 lovely daughters, and 2 fine sons, qualities of thrift, cleanliness and a love for the Gospel that prompted her to go through such hardships. George lived only 5 years longer, till 1888. These people were not pioneers by birth, they left comfortable homes in England, crossed the sea, to a strange land, and then traveled across the plains, giving birth to a baby... Traveling the length of the state with a family of 7 children only to return again to the Valley... Why did they go through such hardships? Let me tell you. Because they had a testimony of the truthfulness of the Gospel. The descendants of George W. And Catherine Wooten Smith, also know that the Gospel is true; and we are grateful to these wonderful people for giving us the opportunities we now enjoy."

They are buried in the Murray City Cemetery in plot 16. Some family members are considering a new, combined headstone for their graves, and hopefully it will be in place sometime in 2009 or early 2010. *There are eight graves in the plot. Their oldest son George Fred Smith, who was born in Utah, and his two wives are buried there. In addition, two of George Fred's infant children share a grave and two of his older children are buried there separately. One died in the teen years and one was a young adult.*





## **Notes about the Smith Family Farm and Location, Currently in Murray City**

For many decades the Smith farm and their final home were in an unincorporated area of Salt Lake County. This would have been true at the time they lived there and until quite recently. This unincorporated area included what is now Holladay, Cottonwood Heights and the south eastern tip of Murray City. The latter boundary is now slightly south of 6400 South and east of 1700 East up to Highland Drive for a short distance to the north and the south. The City of Murray was not incorporated until 1903 which would have been about 15 years after George W. Smith died.

The City of Holladay, which includes the area where they lived for awhile before they built the home on their farm, was not officially incorporated until November 30, 1999. The area of the Smith farm and home was not officially annexed to the City of Murray until an effective date of April 1, 2003, just 6 years ago. The Cottonwood Heights area was not incorporated until January of 2005. We can conclude that many of the residents, in several generations, of these three adjacent areas of unincorporated Salt Lake County must have preferred their rural and village type environment and life style. They retained it for many generations until the advance of home building, business development, and a concentration of more people led to a majority of votes in favor of incorporation. Today, these are all fine communities in which to live, having many good neighborhoods, schools and churches, shopping facilities, and many services available that are within their boundaries or relatively close to them.

One of the most prominent of the new developments is the campus of the Intermountain Medical Center hospital and related health care facilities in which a very large number of nurses, doctors, therapists, and support staff are employed. The main I 15 freeway through the Salt Lake Valley intersects Murray City and it has a large number of new office buildings on both sides. A number of churches and schools have been built within the last 30 years, which is a small part of the 121 years that have passed since George W. Smith lived on his farm in what was known as Cottonwood or South Cottonwood. The area which includes the former property of the Smith's is now in the Cottonwood 13<sup>th</sup> Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, according to the information that I have received. They meet at the Stake Center at 1830 North 6400 South, just south of Oak Lane, which is another part of a very nice and attractive neighborhood.

# Murray City



