

**GRAEME (MCGREGOR) SMITH**

b. 1 March 1875, Lebanon, Wilson Co., TN

d. 11 September 1949, Chattanooga, Hamilton Co., TN

Husband: Rutledge Smith (1870-1962) md 14 May 1896, Wilson Co., TN

Father: Andrew McGregor

Mother: Eudora Anderson

**GRAEME MCGREGOR SMITH**, was born in Lebanon, TN in March of 1875. She was a great-great-niece of Rachel Jackson, wife of President Andrew Jackson. At 18 years of age, she received a master of arts degree from the Lebanon College for Young Ladies. She began her teaching career in Lebanon and then after her marriage to Rutledge Smith in 1896, she moved to Cookeville and continued her teaching in Cookeville and was very active in the establishment of Dixie College. The Smith's lived in Cookeville after short periods in Washington D. C. and other cities.



*Picture: Graeme McGregor Smith, pg. 190 Putnam County Tennessee 1850-1970 by Mary Jean DeLozier.*

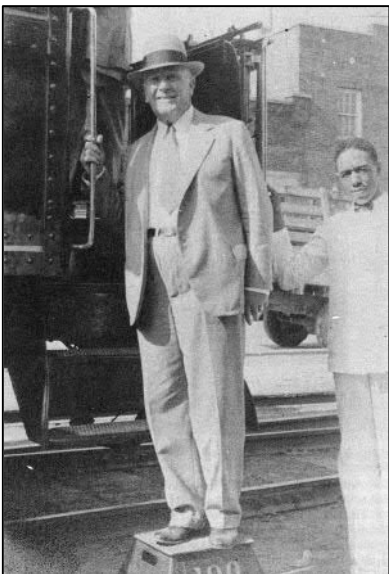
For ten years she edited Major Smith's newspaper, the Cookeville Press. In addition, she took part in the group's charter meeting in Washington in 1897.

She served as state regent and state chaplain of the Daughters of the American Revolution and organized the Cookeville chapter.

Because of her relationship to Rachel Jackson, Mrs. Smith joined the Daughter of 1812, and became president of that organization.

Having a husband and two sons in WWI, she joined the American Legion Auxiliary in Nashville and in time served as president, historian and chaplain for the group.

Mrs. Smith often visited the White House and it has been said of her that she was acquainted with every President since Grover Cleveland. Despite her busy life she found time to be a mother of two sons and a daughter, and to go fishing, and to ride horses. She had visited every state in the Union at the time of her death in September 1949. **Source:** Cookeville City Museum, Cookeville, TN.



Graeme McGregor, a native of Lebanon, received her M. A. degree from an annex of Cumberland University in 1893 and moved to Cookeville to teach. In 1896 she married Rutledge Smith, publisher of the *Cookeville Press*...She was always busy. Her husband fondly called her "Old Battle Axe." "Peace," he claimed, "disturbed her mind." Until she and her husband moved to Nashville during WWI, she was active in the Pierian, Literary and Social, and Current Topics clubs; she helped found the national Parent-Teacher Association; and she was a leader in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Although her name did not appear on its masthead, she edited the *Cookeville Press* for ten years. She also served as president of the Tennessee Woman's Press and Author's Club and the Southern Writers' League. She was a long a member of the Board of the Tennessee Federation of Women's Clubs.

*Picture: Rutledge Smith, publisher of the Cookeville Press from 1886 to 1911, became an industrial agent for the Tennessee Central in 1914, pg. 102 Putnam County Tennessee 1850-1970 by Mary Jean DeLozier.*

Mrs. Smith valued history. She wrote articles for historical magazines, helped raise money for the building of a new Tennessee Library and Archives building in Nashville, and served as state regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution and historian of the Tennessee American Legion Auxiliary.

The Smith home was the scene of lively parties for people of all ages. Politicians, businessmen, educators, and artist were welcome there. Along with all these activities Graeme Smith found time to fulfill her duties as a wife, the mother of two sons, a daughter, and a foster son. **Source:** Putnam County Tennessee 1850-1970 by Mary Jean DeLozier.

**MRS. RUTLEDGE SMITH  
FORMER RESIDENT;  
DIES OF WRECK INJURIES**

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: 15 September 1949

Funeral services for Mrs. Rutledge Smith, 74, for many years a resident of Cookeville, were held Tuesday afternoon at the residence, on Lebanon Road. Dr. Walter R. Courtney and the Rev. Pickens Johnson officiated. Burial was in Cedar Grove cemetery, Lebanon.



Mrs. Smith died at 4 a.m. Sunday at Erlanger Hospital, Chattanooga, where she had been since September 3 when she sustained injuries in the accident on Signal Mountain near Chattanooga but was released from the hospital Monday.

A daughter of the late Andrew and Eudora Anderson McGregor, Mrs. Smith was born in Lebanon, March 1, 1875. She received the Master of Arts degree from an annex of Cumberland University in 1893. Later she came to Cookeville, where she was actively engaged in the teaching profession for a number of years and was one of the leaders in the establishment of the Tennessee Polytechnic Institute.

She was married in Washington May 14, 1896. Major Smith who is chairman of the board of appeals of the State Selective Service, was an Army officer in World War I, has been a newspaperman and an engineer. Major Smith is a retired assistant to the president of the Tennessee Central Railway.

The Cookeville Press for ten years, while owned by Major Smith, was edited by Mrs. Smith. She participated in the establishing of the national Parent-Teachers Association in 1897 and had since been active in that association.

A member of First Presbyterian Church she had, since an early age, taught in Sunday schools of that church.

Mrs. Smith was active in the work of the Daughters of the American Revolution, having served as regent of Cumberland Chapter and as state chaplain. A great-great-niece of Rachel Jackson, wife of President Andrew Jackson, Mrs. Smith had served as president of the Daughters of 1812 and helped to compile a history of the Tennessee society. Several years ago, she was instrumental in having the portrait of Rachel Jackson placed in the White House. In addition, through her various organizations she had assisted in erecting numerous historical monuments throughout the State. A resident of Nashville at the time of her death, Mrs. Smith had served as president of the American Legion Auxiliary there. While state Legion historian, she compiled records for the State on World War I veterans. The records were placed in the State Library. She had also served as State chaplain.

She had toured the state speaking in behalf of the WCTU. She had served as publicity chairman and a member of the executive committee of that organization.

Mrs. Smith served on the board of the State Federation of Women's Clubs for many years. She had membership in the Nashville Chapter of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. She organized and was president of the League of Southern Women Writers and was a member of the executive board for five years. A well-known author, Mrs. Smith had done some work on a history of Putnam County and had written the "History of Wilson County." She was a frequent contributor to historical magazines.

Mrs. Smith had visited every state in the union and had treasured collections from most of them. She had been a frequent visitor at the White House in Washington and was said to have been acquainted with every president since Grover Cleveland.

She had been a member of the Tennessee Historical Commission since its organization.

Survivors in addition to her husband, include a daughter, Mrs. Malcolm R. Williams, of New Orleans; two sons, Albert P. Smith, Sr., Hendersonville, TN, and McGregor Smith, Coral Gables, FL, president of the Florida Power and Light Company; a foster son, Griffin Smith, Little Rock, chief justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court; a sister, Mrs. E. A. Barbour of Springfield, MO; a brother, Harry McGregor, Austin, TX; seven grandchildren.

Active pallbearers were McGregor Smith, Jr., Albert P. Smith, Jr., Wilson Smith, Malcolm R. Williams, Jr., Jack Mann, Morrison Lowe, Benton Carlen and Battle Rodes.

#### **Rutledge Smith**

b. 1 August 1870, Putnam Co., TN – d. 30 May 1962, Miami, Dade, FL, md 14 May 1896, Wilson Co., TN to **Graeme (Mcgregor) Smith**, b. 1 March 1875, Lebanon, Wilson Co., TN - d. 11 September 1949, Lebanon, Wilson Co., TN, d/o **Andrew McGregor & Eudora Anderson**. Rutledge Smith, s/o **Capt. Walton Smith** (1837-1903) & **Marion Richardson Black** (1841-1894).

He was the son of Capt. Walton Smith, who served in the Confederate Army, and Marion Richardson Black Smith. He married Graeme McGregor Smith. They were the parents of Albert Perrine Smith, McGregor Smith and Eudora Anderson Smith (Mrs. Malcolm William). Major Smith, at age 18 brought the Cookeville Press. He later bought the Cookeville Courier and combined the two papers. He was also active in banking, public education and federal government. He served many years as assistant to the president of the Tennessee Central Railway. He was friends with Orville and Wilbur Wright. He was a witness to the crash that killed Lt. Selfridge, the first fatality in connection with aviation. He also witnessed the first cross-county flight by Orville Wright. Mr. Smith had a long association with the Tennessee Central Railroad and was assistant to the president from 1930 until his retirement. Among Mr. Smith's interests was aviation. He was a friend and consultant to the Wright brothers. He was instrumental in bringing their plane, the "Kitty Hawk," back from Great Britain to the United States in 1948.



Photo courtesy of Mrs. Malcolm Williams.

\*Read more about the History of Putnam County, TN and surrounding counties

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