

## GRAEME MCGREGOR SMITH

**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 Ruthledge 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.*

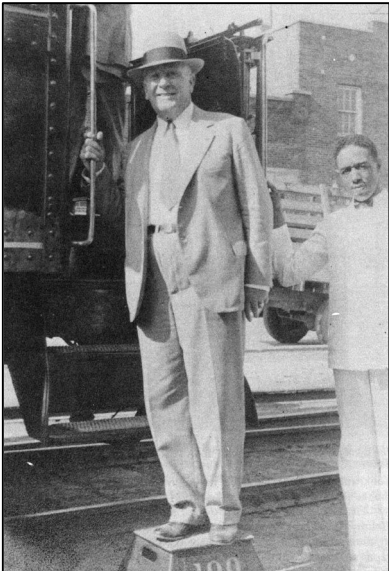
For ten years she edited Major Smith's newspaper, the Cookeville Press. In addition, she took part in the group's charter meeting in Washington in 1897.

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.

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