

THE JOHN SMELLAGE FAMILY (#887)

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PGS. 319 & 320 – John Barlow Smellage and Ota Theresa Anderson were married September 19, 1924 in Wilson Co., TN. They are the parents of five daughters and one son. The oldest daughter, Johnnie Reba,



was born July 17, 1925 and died July 3, 1998. She was a graduate of Tennessee Tech and George Peabody/Vanderbilt University in Nashville with a Library Science degree. After teaching school and serving as a librarian, she went to Germany and serviced in the “Special Services” as a librarian for the Army. She held this post for 20 years. Renal TB cut her career short. After taking a medical discharge from the “Special Services”, she returned to the States and lived in Oak Ridge until her death in 1998.

(Pictured: John Barlow Smellage and his five daughters. L to R: Betty, Wanda, Evelyn, Reba & Frances Smellage).

The second daughter, Frances Elene, was born October 18, 1926. After graduating from Tennessee Tech, she worked in Oak Ridge as an executive secretary. Frances married Robert B. Neal, a Kentucky graduate, on September 26, 1953. They have two sons: Bruce Alan (born June 23, 1958), and Douglas Brian (born July 11, 1960). Bruce and Doug graduated from the University of Tennessee and own their own businesses. The third Smellage daughter was Evelyn Pauline, born December 16, 1930 and died March 2, 2006. Evelyn married Kendrick Holmes of Memphis, TN. Evelyn was a private duty nurse. She and Kendrick have three daughters: Rebecca, Myra, and Mary Helen. The fourth Smellage daughter, Bettie Sue, born July 5, 1932, lives in Michigan with her husband Joe Koerber. She worked for many years as a children’s librarian. She and Joe have four sons: Joe, born July 22, 1955 and died November 17, 1988, twins Dan and Don, born December 31, 1957, and Steven, born June 20, 1959. The fifth Smellage Daughter, Wanda June, was born May 13, 1934. She married Albert Stewart of Baxter and lived many years in Michigan and Indiana. Wanda worked in food services. Wanda and Albert have two sons and one daughter: Dewayne, born July 3, 1954, Roy, born January 18, 1961, and Kelly, born January 13, 1967. The Smellage son, William Alvin, was born June 28, 1937 and died February 17, 1938. He died at the age of nine months from pneumonia. John was a farmer by trade, but he served many years on the Putnam County court and as a Justice of the Peace. Ota Anderson Smellage died on October 21, 1947 of cancer. John B. Smellage died June 15, 1989 from a heart attack.

Story by: Bruce A. Neal, grandson of John Barlow Smellage, Oak Ridge, TN.

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