

THE ISAAC CATES AND MARK SMITH FAMILIES

The pictures on the following pages are from a history of the pioneer Cates and Smith families of Washington County, written by Margaret Ann (Smith) Troutman and soon to be published by the Washington County Historical Society.

The Cates family came from Catesby, England, settling first in North Carolina and then on into Tennessee. A John Cate was the first Cate coming into Tennessee from North Carolina. He had at least 12 sons. These sons married and scattered all over Tennessee and other states.

In Jefferson County, Tennessee, on March 24, 1807, Isaac Cate and Susannah Maynard were married. There were other Cates in Tennessee. A list of taxpayers of 1800 in Jefferson County includes Charles Cates Sr., Charles Jr., John and John Jr., and William Cates.

Mrs. Troutman says: "I am sure that the Isaac Cates and Susannah Maynard who were married in 1807 in Tennessee are my Cates ancestors who went to Arkansas Territory and were living in Pope County in 1830 (Census of 1830). In the 1840 Census of Prairie Township, Washington County, Arkansas, there lived Isaac Cate (one male between the ages of 50 and 60), one female between the ages of 40 and 50 (this would be Susannah), and three children. The next household listed was that of Ephraim Cate (between the age of 30 and 40), one female between 20 and 30, and three children. On the other side of Isaac Cate lived John Cate. He was between 20 and 30, and his wife was between 15 and 20. Her name was Comfort."

In the 1850 Census of Washington County (Marrs Hill Township) are the following:

- Household 42 -- Thomas F. Weldon 26, wife (Malinda Cate) 20 and one son.
- Household 44 -- Susan (Susannah) Cates 60, Ephraim Cates 40, and three children.
- Household 45 -- John Cate 33, Comfort 28, and six children.
- Household 47 -- Louicey Smith 37 and six children, all born in Ark.

Mrs. Troutman found seven Cates and Smith marriages between 1846 and 1857, in the marriage lists published in FLASHBACK.

And in Goodspeed she found that Isaac Cates was appointed an election judge in Clear Creek Township, Washington County, for the first state election in 1836. Another election judge was A. (Allison?) Smith in Illinois Township.

The story of the pioneer Cates and Smith families is a fascinating one, as can be seen from the accompanying pictures. Mrs. Troutman was successful in finding many old photographs. She has appeared previously in our publications, with articles on the Robinsons and Morrisons of Benton and Washington Counties, especially John Robinson who is buried in Thornsbury Cemetery on the Benton-Washington County line. He is one of the few soldiers of the American Revolution buried in our county.

Captain and Mrs. J.M.Chandler and their highly gifted daughter, Miss Lillian Chandler, were among our dearest friends. We had known them since our arrival in the State. Their house was our second home. Mrs. Chandler was a daughter of the noted pioneer preacher, Rev.Young Ewing and a sister of Mr. John M. Ewing of Siloam Springs who blessed the "young couple" during their first pastoral adventure in the West. The father and mother are long ago with the redeemed. The daughter resides in Los Angeles.

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My Fayetteville ministry enabled me to touch the lives of thousands of the flower of the young manhood and womanhood of the commonwealth, and hundreds of those whom I came to know and love are now prominent in business, educational, political and religious circles.

I had in my church and choir a vigorous and gifted young man by the name of Lee Cazort, who was a student in the University, from Lamar. In the coming years he was destined to become a prominent figure in state politics. He was the youngest man ever elected speaker of the House and president of the Senate, and is one of two men who have held both positions. He served four years in each house of the Arkansas General Assembly. In 1924, he contested for the nomination for Governor against Tom J.Terral, Judge John E.Martineau, Hamp Williams, Jim G. Ferguson and Jacob R. Wilson. Mr.Terral was nominated, having received 46,000 votes. Mr. Cazort came second with 38,000 votes. In 1928, he was elected Lieutenant-Governor. I have watched his "climb" with real joy. A man of destiny is the "Honorable Lee Cazort".

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When the parting time came -- which meant severing the sacred ties existing between pastor and parishoners -- many tokens of kindness were bestowed upon us. A farewell reception was given in our honor, presided over by Dr. George W. Droke. Speeches of felicitation were made by Dr.William Sherman, Dr.John Hugh Reynolds, Dr.W.A.Whittle, and Dr.Droke. A lovely solo was sung by Mrs.James E. McConnell.

I had the Sunday night previous,preached my final message to a house packed to its utmost capacity, taking as my text "The God of love and peace be with you". Miss Mamie Phillips- beautiful in soul and voice--sang the "goodbye" solo.

I left a large harmonious church. Hundreds had been added to the roll of members. Great congregations had waited upon my ministry. I left with love in my heart for all. On Sept. 27, 1908 we departed for St.Louis...Rev.J.W.Herring, a transfer from Huntington, West Virginia, succeeded me..... Thus closed four delightful years at the "Athens of Arkansas."

(Editor's note: Chapter headings in Mr.Fletcher's book are the names of the churches he served, thus:

- 2 - Siloam Springs
- 3 - Eureka Springs
- 4 - (California)
- 5 - Fayetteville
- 6. First Church,St.Louis
- 6 - Mt.Auburn, St.Louis
- 7 - Winfield, Little Rock
- 8 - First Church, Texarkana
- 9 - First Church, LittleRock
- 10 - Laurel Heights Church, San Antonio, Tex.)

FROM THE SMITH-CATES FAMILY ALBUM



Picture of Mary Mankins Cates and husband, John Cates. She was daughter of Peter Mankins, Jr.
(Belongs to Lydia Johnson, c/o S. Scorkers
R. 1, Box 196, Sappala, Okla.)

The Washington County Historical Society has in preparation a history of the Smith-Cates families of our county. The pictures on these pages are from this history, which was written by Mrs. Margaret Troutman, a direct descendant.

At the left is a picture of Mary Mankins Cates and her husband, John Cates.

Below is a photo of William Henry Smith and wife, Margaret Jane Morrison. The Morrisons lap over into Benton County and are related to the Robinsons, Douglasses, and other families.

(Photos courtesy of
Mrs. S. D. Troutman
Hazleton, Indiana)



William Henry Smith and wife, Margaret Jane Morrison

FROM THE SMITH-CATES FAMILY ALBUM



From left to right: James Muse Smith, Robert Allison Smith, and Britt Finley Smith, sons of William Henry and Louisa (Cates) Smith.



Hardware store of Britt and Jim Smith at Lincoln, Ark., in 1906.

FROM THE SMITH-CATES FAMILY ALBUM



From the collection of Smith-Cates family photos.

Photo at left is of relatives of the Smith or Morrison families.

Photo below shows a baptizing at Osage Mills. Most of the persons present were from the Methodist Church at Highfill.

The arrows on the picture point, left to right, to:

Grandfather William Henry Smith,; Morrison Douglas, son of Sarah Emily Morrison and Thomas Hopkins "Hop" Douglas; William W. Smith, son of Wm. Henry Smith.



Baptism at Osage Mills, Arkansas. The girl being immersed is Henrietta Douglas, foster daughter of Milton and Dora Douglas.

Photos by courtesy of Mrs. Margaret Troutman,
Hazleton, Indiana