

JOHN SMITH, JR.

His parents were residents of Quakertown, Hunterdon county, New Jersey. His mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Styres. Of the family of nine children, five are deceased; namely, Polly (who died when eight years of age), Sally E., Daniel, Rachel, and Joseph. Of the surviving children David is now eighty years of age, William seventy-two, Katy Ann sixty-eight, and John, the subject of this sketch, seventy-four, having been born April 25, 1803. His parents moved to the Genesee country in 1807, and settled in what was subsequently the town of Williamson, Ontario county,—now Marion, Wayne county,—but then a wilderness. At that time there was no road on Eddy Ridge. He there took up forty acres, and began to erect a home.

About this time William B. Cogswell bought adjoining him on the north, and Zadock Huggins on the west. In those days not a pound of flour or pork could be had short of Palmyra, and of fruit there was none. Mr. Smith, Sr., took apple-seeds with him from New Jersey, and soon started a nursery. Most of the old apple-trees in the north part of the town sprung from that nursery.

The subject of this sketch was but five years old when his father settled in Marion, but he distinctly remembers the war of 1812, especially the time the British landed at Sodus Point, Pultneyville, and mouth of the Genesee river. It was on Sunday,—he heard the cannonading at those points,—and what few men remained in town were pressed to go to the scene of conflict. His aunts, grandmother, and all the children gathered at his mother's house, and every cannon-shot made the windows of the old log house rattle. But the volunteers from Marion all returned safe.

His mother died May 11, 1819, aged forty-seven years. His father married again in October, 1824, the widow Cooper. John Smith, Jr., married his first wife, Mary Ann Johnson, of Williamson, the 17th of June, 1830. His father died July 18, 1838, in his seventieth year, and his wife departed this life January 29, 1839, aged thirty years. The second time he took to wife Julia Ann Cook, of Macedon, January 9, 1840; she died December 20, 1845, aged thirty-one years. He married his present wife, Elizabeth Granger, of Sodus, June 24, 1846. By his second wife he had three children,—Sarah A., Winfield S., and Myron A. Winfield S. died May 30, 1872, aged thirty years. By his present wife he has had three children,—Libbie E., now the wife of De Witt C. Crane; Eliza J.; wife of William A. Yeomans; and Frank D. M. Smith. John Smith, Jr., and his wife are now in the evening of their days,—the former being seventy-four and the latter sixty-three years of age.