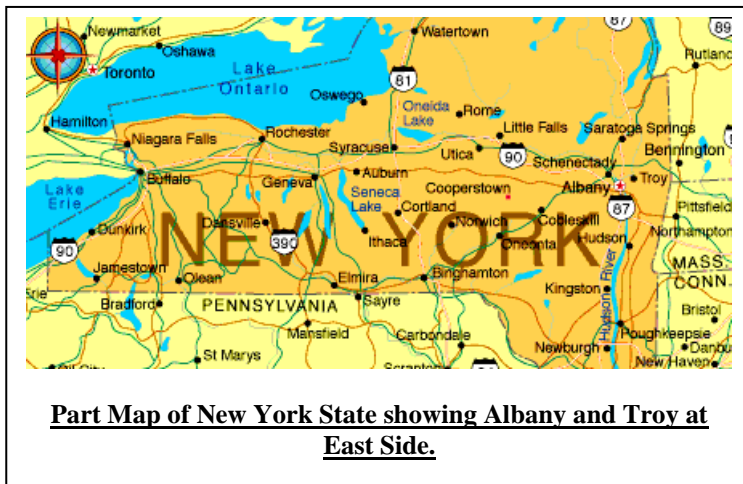


#196 Smith and #197 Van Alstyne

Finding accurate information about events from 200 years ago is very difficult and means that stories such as this must necessarily contain some speculation, but guided by good old fashion logic and common sense.

196 George Smith and #197 Maria Van Alstyne

George P. Smith was born about 1762 in the United States. As a young man he lived in what is now the town (township) of Brunswick, Rensselaer County, but then Rensselaerwick Town, Albany County, New York State and just east of the village of Troy on the Hudson River. (Rensselaerwick Town was the eastern part of the Manor of Rensselaer.) He was most likely born in one of the Lutheran communities down river. At least three of his children were born in Brunswick. The names of his parents were # 392 Peter Smith (confirming that the “P” initial in George’s name stood for Peter) and #393 Christina ---. He was of German descent and his real surname was probably one of the following: Smit, Smidt, Schmidt or Shmid. Tradition suggests that although he was German he was living in a Dutch community. Here he met his wife Maria Van Alstyne². She was born Dec. 1, 1763 in Albany County and was a daughter of #394 Johannes Van Alstyne and #395 Magdalena Sharp³. The witnesses at her baptism in the Reformed Dutch Church were “Wynand and Marytje V. Aalstein”. Wynard was her uncle.



George probably spent his youth on his father’s leased farm which was located in the south-west corner of Brunswick. It was south of the Poestenkill (a small river) and west of the village of Eagle Mills. Incidentally a “kill” is the Dutch word for stream. Only two farms away was one leased by Johannes, Maria’s father. This is undoubtedly how

they met.

It is unknown when or where George and Maria were married. No record can be found to confirm an exact date and location. Presumably it took place about 1783 if Peter their eldest son was born in 1784. Could George and Maria have lived with George’s parents when they first married as it is known that they did so by the time of the 1790 and 1800 censuses?

Note: George’s birth year would compute to 1755 if calculated from his age of 96 as indicated in the 1851 census for N. Dorchester Township, Middlesex County, C.W. However if Maria, his wife, was born in 1763 then in 1851 she

#196 Smith and #197 Van Alstyne

would have been 88 years of age and not 95 as indicated in the census. Assuming George was one year older than Maria this would make his birth year 1762 and his age at that time 89.

The American Revolutionary War lasted from 1775 to 1783. At the beginning George was only about 13 years of age and too young to serve. However by the end of the war he would have been about 21 years. Was he involved in active military service? It is unknown for sure but it seems unlikely. Any of those who served on the British side were quickly and ruthlessly discriminated against in many ways and were eventually forced to leave the country. George and his family remained in New York State for about another 33 years after the war ended thus indicating some tolerance on the part of their Patriot neighbours.

The following information from the book *Loyalism in the Hoosick Valley* by Bernard C. Young gives some historical background. The Gilead Lutheran Church played no small part in fostering Loyalist sentiment in the East Manor of Rensselaerwyck. The pastor at Gilead, Rev. Schwerdtfeger was a staunch Loyalist and made sure his parishioners knew their duty. Over 30 percent of the men who volunteered on the British side in the Battle of Bennington in August 1777 belonged to the Gilead Lutheran Church of Brunswick. Many never returned to their homes again. They were second (and third) generation Palatine Germans whose fathers had worked in the tar camps of Livingston Manor.⁹

The Smiths lived in New York State for many years, probably by farming, although their son, Peter, was a ship's carpenter¹. It could well be that he may have learned this trade from his father, George. Living near the Hudson and/or the Mohawk Rivers there would be plenty of opportunity for boat construction and repair.

The first entry of "George Schmid" in the existing Gilead Lutheran Church records in the village of Center Brunswick was when he and an Elisabeth Kuemmel were sponsors for a baby Elisabeth, baptized 5 Dec. 1784. The parents were Christian Schaefer and Magdalena.¹¹ Was George related to the Schaefers or was he simply a friend? Presumably Maria was in attendance that day. As might be expected the village of "Center Brunswick" was located geographically in the middle of the township.

Apparently George, Maria and family were living with George's parents, Peter and Christina, for the 1790 and 1800 censuses. For details and analysis of these see story #392 for Peter Smith.

Both George and Maria were undoubtedly bilingual in English and German/Dutch.

Three of the Smith children were christened at Gilead in Center Brunswick. Just where was the family living when the other children were born? One might guess



This is the present town of Brunswick.
(A town in New York State is a
Township elsewhere.)

#196 Smith and #197 Van Alstyne

they may have temporarily relocated some distance from the Brunswick area where perhaps Lutheran Church records have been lost. The Smiths would surely have had all their children baptized. There were many communities to the south, down river, perhaps somewhere between Rhinebeck and Kinderhook. This seems the most likely direction as George was probably born down that way. They could also have moved west along the Mohawk River valley to one of the other Lutheran (or Dutch) settlements. They probably did not, although Stone Arabia and Schoharie both had Lutheran and Dutch reformed churches. There were many churches at other places along the valley. Did the family move for some good reason, such as employment? This mobility does seem to suggest that George was working at some kind of trade, as opposed to farming. Could he indeed be a ship's carpenter?

On Dec. 14, 1802 "Georg Schmid und Anna Maria" were witnesses at a baptism for a baby George (b Sept. 30, 1802) son of Casper Tourner (Sp?) and Sara. It is unknown if George and Casper were related. It is interesting to note that Maria was described as Anna Maria.

In the year 1805 "Georg Smith und Maria" were witnesses again to the Gilead church baptism of a baby Magdalena, born Nov. 30, 1804 and christened Jan. 8th the following year.¹¹ Her parents were Francis Jacobi and his wife Elisabeth. Who were the Jacobis? It may be assumed at this time they were members of the Gilead Evangelical Lutheran Church at Center Brunswick, but earlier they were members of the Reformed Dutch of Albany.¹³ On Aug. 19, 1770 a "Frans of Christiaan Jacobi" and Margarita Hoghing was baptized. Witnesses were Abraham and Marg. Cuyler. Siblings Magdalena and Marytie were born Jan. 28, 1766 and May 13, 1768 respectively. Both a Magdalena and a Frans had been baptized in 1760 and 1762 but must have died as children. It seems unclear whether the Jacobi family was originally Dutch or Palatine German. In any case they must have been friends of George and Maria Smith as they asked them to stand as witnesses. Were these two families related or simply friends and neighbours? In the 1790 census of Rensselaerwick Town there were a Harms and next door a John Jacobie who were presumably relatives of Francis.

When the last Smith baby was born in about 1807 his mother, Maria would have been about 44 years old. He was not baptized at Gilead.

There was one last entry in the Gilead church records for George and Maria Smith. On Feb.16, 1808 "Georg Smith und Maria" were witnesses at a baptism for baby Maria (b Jan. 25, 1808), daughter of Peter J. Deforest and Barbara. In this case it is known that Barbara's maiden name was Van Alstyne and that she was a younger sister of Maria Smith. Baby Maria was probably named after her aunt.

By the time of the 1810 census¹⁴ George Smith and family were not living with his father anymore, but they were living next door. The census was begun Aug.6, 1810 and lasted for 10 months. Details are given below.

*1810 US Federal Census
Town of Brunswick*

Columns

- A - Free white males 0-9
- B - Free white males 10-15
- C - Free white males 16-25
- D - Free white males 26-44
- E - Free white males 45 and over
- F - Free white females 0-9
- G - Free white females 10-15
- H - Free white females 16-25
- I - Free white females 26-44
- J - Free white females 45 and over
- K - All other free persons except Indians, not taxed
- L - Slaves

Page 497

Head of Household	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
----- George Smith	3	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0

Here are some comments about this census.

Column "A", listed free white males 0-9, as 3 boys. The first two sons would be Jacob, born 1801, and George A., born 1804, but who was the third son? This third little boy was probably born after George A. and probably about 1807 as the children of George and Maria were born remarkably about every three years apart. For convenience this child will be called "M3". The M stands for male.

Column "B" listed free white males 10 – 15 as zero, so there were no sons born between 1794 and 1800 or at least alive at census time.

Column "C" is interesting as it listed free white males 16 - 25 as two. This means there were two previously unknown sons who were born between 1784 and 1794. Why did they not show up in the Gilead register? The question once more comes up where was the family living in those years? Again for convenience let their names be "M1" and "M2". Perhaps "M1" was born about 1791, approximately three years after Magdalena's birth and "M2" was born about 1794, three years after "M1". Note after combining information from the 1800 and 1810 censuses, these boys must have been born between 1790 and 1794.

Column "D" listed free white males 26 – 44 as zero.

Column "E" Free white males 45 and over listed one. This was surely George himself who was about 48 years at the time.

#196 Smith and #197 Van Alstyne

Column “F” Free white females 0-9, listed zero, i.e. no daughters born between 1800 and 1810.

Column “G”, free white females 10 – 15, listed one. This would be Maria who was about 13 years at the time. She later married Peter Misener in Willoughby Township, U.C.

Column “H” Free white females 16 – 25, listed one. This would be Magdalena who was about 22 years old and obviously not married yet.

Column “I” Free white females 26 – 44, listed one. This is a mystery. Could she be a sister or sister-in-law of Maria, or some other relative, or simply a friend? This person was born between about 1784 and 1766.

Column “J” Free white females 45 and over, listed one. This would be Maria, George’s wife, who was about 47 years at the time.

To summarize the family of George and Maria Smith in the 1810 Federal Census it consisted of: 1. young Peter, about 26 years, and not present as he was already married with his own family elsewhere, 2. Magdalena, c22 years, 3. A male son, “M1”, c19 years, 4. Another male son, “M2”, c16 years, 5. Maria, c13 years, 6. Jacob, c9 years, 7. George A., c6 years, and 8. another little son, “M3”, c3 years, all for a total of eight children.



From a census of 1823⁴ George, Maria and family had moved to Willoughby Township, in what later became Welland County, in the Province of Upper Canada, apparently near the village of Chippawa. But George and family must have been there some years earlier. Daughter Maria and husband, Peter Misener had their first child, John born Nov. 14, 1818 so they had to have been in U.C. by at least early 1818 (winter?) plus some courting time for the young couple. Peter grew up in nearby Crowland Township so they did not meet in the U.S.A. From this it would seem most likely that George and family were in Canada by mid-1817, at least, if not sooner.

Some newly found information⁶ confirms the above family arrival time. Young George A. (b1804) came to Canada from the States ***“as a lad of about twelve years of age, quite likely with his parents”***. ***“Coming through Buffalo, likely in 1816 they found it blackened from the war of 1812”***.

The next question might be where exactly did the Smiths live when they came to Upper Canada? There are 1791 and 1797 maps of Township No. 2 later renamed Stamford Township, which shows a “G. Smith” on Lot 197(168). Is this our George Smith? Probably not! From the Land Records for Stamford, Lot 197(168) was Crown land until May 17, 1802 when a patent was granted to a Thomas Silverthorn. He sold it to Stephen Pier in 1810 who later sold it in 1836

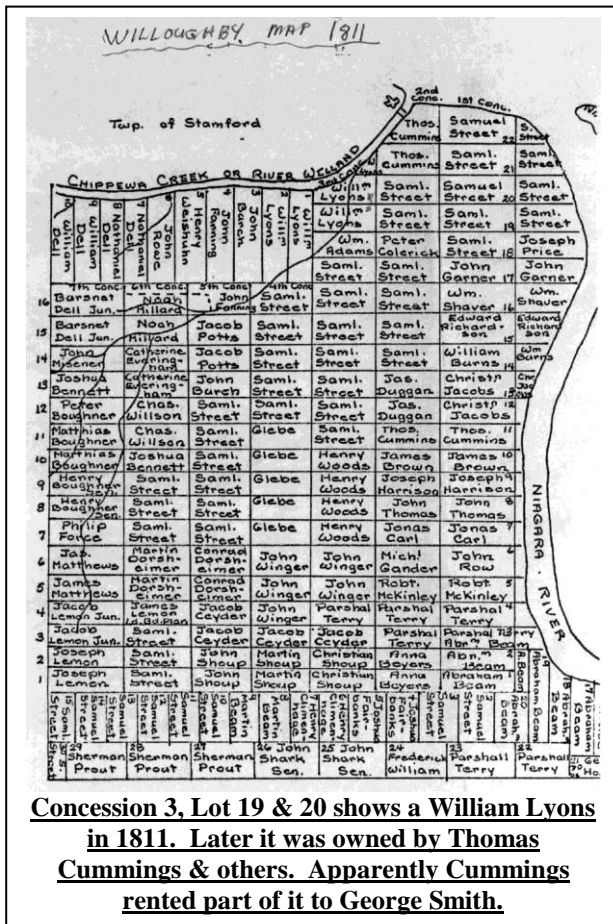
and 1839, with no mention of Smith. There seems to be no entry(s) in the Abstract of Deeds for all of Willoughby or Stamford Townships for a George Smith. He must have rented his farm. We know that their children, Maria, Jacob and George all met their life-mates nearby before moving to other parts of the province.

Again the young George A. Smith information has confirmed the location of the Smith farm. ***“They settled in or near the village of Chippawa. They may have been United Empire Loyalists.***

George A. Smith married Rosina ‘Snively’ about 1825 and lived on a farm boarding the Welland River about seven miles from Niagara Falls”⁶. Apparently when the wind blew from the right direction they could actually hear the falls on the farm.

The 1851 Agricultural Census indicated that this young George Smith was living on Concession 3 west of the Niagara River on Lots 19 and 20 where he held 150 acres. This location bordered the Welland River and was just south of the then village of Chippawa. This confirms the Smith farm location, undoubtedly the same farm where his parents had lived before earlier moving west.

In 1816 George P. would have been about 54 years old and Maria about 53. This is not really a young age to pick up and move everything and everybody to another country! Of course there were no trains at this time and the construction of the Erie Canal had not even been started. It was 363 miles from Albany to Buffalo. Even at 10 miles a day it would take 6 weeks to make the trip. Did they come with a wagon and a few tools such as an axe and a shovel? Peter would have surely brought his carpenter tools. Travel would not have been easy! So why did they move? We may never completely know. Was it for employment or might there be other reasons? The following words describe the social conditions of the time. “The spiritual center for German families was Gilead Lutheran Church in Brunswick. Many Germans were



persecuted for their neutrality during the American Revolution and after the war many, including Gilead’s Rev. Nicholas Schwerdtfeger, emigrated to Canada. The influx of settlers from New England after the revolution changed the German

#196 Smith and #197 Van Alstyne

villages. At Gilead Lutheran Church Rev. Anton Braun introduced English services and German was abandoned after 1812. This marked the assimilation of the German population.” George’s father had passed away in July 1815 and his mother sometime between 1800 and 1803, so this did not hold them back. One thing seems certain there was a strong loyalist⁹ influence in the Gilead Lutheran Church of Centre Brunswick. Could this have been instrumental in their decision to move, especially after the Americans had attacked a British province only about four years earlier? One might guess which side the Smiths secretly chose to support during the Revolutionary War, but this is speculation.

The 1823 Willoughby Township census⁴ listed George Smith with three males and one female. Son Jacob was married in 1821 as were presumably the rest of the older children. So they were no longer living with their parents. The two youngest sons were George A. who was about 19 years of age and his youngest brother “M3” who would be about 16 years old. George A. didn’t marry until about 1825 and “M3” was only a teenager too young to be married. So the three males could well be George and his two youngest sons with the one female being Maria his wife.

When exactly did George and Maria leave Willoughby for Middlesex County? It is unknown at this time. Presumably they were becoming so elderly that they could no longer live on their own. Even by the mid-1830’s they would have been in their seventies – an age at the time which would have been considered very old. Obviously they had the support of a very loving family. One would guess that by at least the late 1830’s George and Maria would be living with their son, Peter and his wife Mary.

By about 1835¹⁵ at least one son, Jacob and his family had moved to North Dorchester, Middlesex County.

The 1842 censuses¹⁶ contain some interesting Smith information. Incidentally the census were supposed to be completed by Feb. 1, 1842, however the census returns for Dorchester were “sworn true” by enumerator Harry Edwards on June 21, 1842. Luckily the censuses for both Willoughby and Dorchester Townships still exist. In Willoughby there were five Smith families, those of:

- 1.) a Alexander born Scotland,
- 2.) a Jacob Smith born in Germany,
- 3.) a Thomas Smith born in England,



This is a current picture of Lot 19 and 20, Concession 3 of Willoughby Township, Welland County as it appeared Mar. 17, 2013. The photo was taken from Chemonda Street near Emerald Avenue looking south from a new subdivision at the south end of the town of Chippawa. The area appeared to have been a farmer’s field up to a few months ago.

#196 Smith and #197 Van Alstyne

- 4.) a George Smith born in New York (This was George A. Smith born 1804.) and
- 5.) a John Smith listed next to George.

One might think these last two Smiths living side by side were related but in fact this John Smith and his wife, Mary were born in Ireland. He was a "Boatman" as indicated by the 1851 census.¹² For George Smith the "total number of inmates" in his family was eight, one born in the USA and seven born in English Canada. For 1842 the size of his family and the location of births agree with known information. From this census it can be concluded that Peter Smith, his wife Mary, and Peter's parents, George and Maria were not living in Willoughby Township in 1842.

In Dorchester Township, Elgin County, Canada West, (Note, Dorchester included both North and South sections at this time.) there were five Smith families present in 1842. They were those of:

- 1.) Lemuel (sometimes Samuel) Smith born about 1805 in Quebec,
- 2.) Jacob Smith (Jacob Smith born 1801 in Brunswick),
- 3.) John Smith (This is John S. born about 1814 and son of Peter and Mary),
- 4.) Anthony Smith with inmate size of seven and finally,
- 5.) Another Anthony Smith Junior with inmate size of three.

The two Anthony's and John were listed beside each other. Jacob was not so close. Apparently when he first came to Dorchester he lived north of the Thames River near where the Slaghts would move to a few years later. Jacob Smith bought property on Lot 7, Concession 3 on October 20, 1844 as indicated by the land records. He later moved to the south side of the Thames River near his oldest brother Peter and his nephew Anthony. He bought 50 acres on Lot 18, Concession B on Jan. 27, 1857 but was apparently living there for some years earlier and indeed was listed there in the 1852 census.

At this point in time it is unclear who these two Anthony's were. Both have young families although Anthony also had a very young married son apparently only 17 years old. Anthony junior doesn't seem to have enough children to be the son of Peter and Mary. Perhaps the older Anthony was the youngest son of George and Maria, i.e. "M3" of their family. Each family had one native of the USA. Both Anthony's indicated that they had been in the Province for 24 years making their arrival about 1818 and close of the assumed 1816 arrival date.

For several reasons this John Smith is of interest. He has an inmate size of seven, but the John S. Smith born about 1814 only had two or three children born by 1842, so who were these extra persons living with the family? Four of them were natives of the USA and three were born in English Canada. One of the American inmates would be John himself. Could the other two be John's grandparents, George and Maria, with John's wife, Joanna, erroneously indicated as born in the US? The record also indicated that John had only been in the Province for only 14 years, i.e. since 1828. Was this just a recording error and should it have been 24 like the Anthony's or was he really in the USA until 1828? If so where and why?

#196 Smith and #197 Van Alstyne

If George and Maria were really living with their grandson, John S., in Dorchester in 1842, where was their son, Peter and his wife Mary living? They were not in Dorchester nor in Willoughby, so they must be somewhere else, but where? Most 1842 census records do not exist any longer so this source cannot be checked. This really only leaves speculation at this point. It is known or appears that Jesse Slaght moved from Niagara to Townsend Township before moving to Dorchester in 1846.²³ Phoebe Slaght (Mrs. John Dempsey) a daughter was born there about 1842.¹⁷ So the question may be asked, did Peter and Mary Smith also move with their daughter, Margaret and son-in-law Jesse Slaght to Townsend for some time before eventually moving to Dorchester? Or were they simply living in some other township in Upper Canada the location of which is impossible to confirm?

By the 1851 census¹⁸ George and Maria were living in N. Dorchester with their son Peter and his wife Mary. Their ages were listed as 96 and 95 years but it is likely their ages were really a few years younger at 89 and 88 as elaborated above. In the Agricultural census Peter was living on Lot 20, Concession A.

By the time of the 1861 census both George and Maria have disappeared and must have surely passed away. It would seem likely given their advanced ages. They probably both passed away shortly after the 1851 census.

It has been reported that they may have been buried in unmarked graves on the family farm⁸. Peter was renting in 1851 so it seems unlikely that he would bury his parents there on someone else's land, although this often happened in earlier times back in Rensselaer County, USA. Alternately perhaps they were buried at the nearby Dorchester Cemetery?

George and Maria had eight known children, namely Peter, Magdalena, M1, M2, Maria, Jacob, George A. and M3.

The oldest child was Peter, born about 1784 and who married a Mary Smith. This maiden name is yet to be confirmed. For his family story see Ancestor #98.

The next known child was Magdalena Scmid born to Georg P. Shmid and Maria on Feb. 3, 1788 and christened Feb. 27, 1788 at the Gilead Evangelical Lutheran Church at Center Brunswick, Brunswick Township, Rensselaer County, New York State. It is interesting to note that her sponsors at her baptism¹⁹ were her maternal grandparents, Johannes and Magdalena Van Alstyne. Presumably she was named after her grandmother. Nothing else is known of her at this time except that she was alive for the 1810 census and that she was not married in the Gilead Lutheran church at least between 1810 and 1816. (There was a Magdalena Smith who married²⁰ a John Conrad Nov. 9, 1822 at Gilead but her mother was Magdalena Smith [a widow] who was a witness to the wedding. So it may be concluded that this Magdalena was not the daughter of the subject George and Maria Smith.)

Of the two sons M1 and M2 nothing is known at this time. One wonders if these lads came to Upper Canada with the rest of the family. It would seem likely as the family seemed quite close; however there were no other Smith families listed in the 1823 Willoughby census. It is possible they were nearby in some other township such as Stamford or Crowland or elsewhere? In 1816 they

#196 Smith and #197 Van Alstyne

would have been about 25 and 22 years of age. Could they have even been married by then?

The next child was Maria born about Oct. 22, 1797 (calculated from headstone) said to have been born in New Jersey but this seems to be incorrect. She was more likely to have been born in Brunswick along with all her siblings. She would have come to U.C. as a young woman of about nineteen years. Here she met her future husband, Peter Misener b Dec. 1, 1790 in Hardwick, Sussex County, New Jersey and hence, perhaps the confusion about her birthplace. Peter grew up from age 2 in nearby northeastern Crowland Township. They married about 1817, as their first known child, John, was born November 1818. In the same year 1818⁵ they moved to the north half of Lot 7, Concession 2, of Beverly Township, Wentworth County near the village of Troy. Peter and his brother Adam operated a sawmill for years. The Miseners had one of the first stoves to be use instead of a fireplace.⁷ Peter passed away Jan. 8, 1877 and Maria in Dec.16, 1885 (both dates from headstone). Both are buried in Troy Cemetery on Highway #5 east of the village.

Known children of Maria and Peter Misener include John b1818, Elizabeth Ann bc1822, Mary Margaret bc1823, Ellen bc1824, Emma bc1828, Jane bc1830, Andrew bc1832, Clark bc1837 and Julia bc1842.

The third last child was Jacob, born Mar. 4, 1801 and christened Apr. 11, 1801 at the Gilead Church. The "Parentes" were the sponsors. (Parentes in German means parents in English.) On Feb. 9, 1821 Rev. W. Leeming, a Minister from Chippawa²¹, married Jacob and Elizabeth Snively in Willoughby Township. It probably took place on the farm of her parents as was common at the time. For almost fifty years they lived on or near Concession B, lot 18, in N. Dorchester Township where Jacob was a farmer. He passed away from "Old Age" on Nov. 4, 1884 in N. Dorchester. Elizabeth (also Betsy or Lizzie) died before the 1871 census was taken. From cemetery records Jacob was buried Nov. 11th in the nearby Dorchester Union Cemetery and presumably Elizabeth was also buried there.

Known children include Catherine b c1821 & married David Shamblaw, Maria b 1822 & married Wm. Shaw, Rosanna b c1828, John b c1829, Mary b c1830 & married Richard E. Shaw, Elizabeth b c1831 & married George Temple, Jacob b c1832, Alford b 1836, Harriet Ann b c1838 took care of her widowed father & never married and finally Melvin b 1848.

The second last child was George A., born Apr. 7, 1804 and christened Apr. 29, 1804 at the Gilead Church at Center Brunswick, Rensselaer, New York. The sponsors at his baptism were family friends and neighbours, "Wilhelmus Kuns und Margareth"²². It is not known if they were relatives. He was the last Smith child to be baptized there. Later about 1825 George married Mary Rosina Snively in Willoughby Township. She was born about Nov. 8, 1808 (calculated from Death Records). Rosina was a sister of Elizabeth Snively. Two brothers married two sisters. About 1855 George, Rosina with most of the family moved to Brooke Township, Lambton County. There they lived on Concession 10 and the west half of Lot 24⁶. There they cleared the forest for farming. George passed

#196 Smith and #197 Van Alstyne

away May 6, 1875 and Rosina Oct. 20, 1883. Both were buried at the Alvinston Cemetery south of the village.

The Smiths raised a family of eleven children. They were Peter b 1826, Catharine b 1829, Mary E. b 1832, William G. b 1835, John b 1838, David b 1840, Carline b 1843, George b 1845, Emma Jane b 1848, Hugh b 1850 and Margaret b 1854.

Did George Smith born 1804 really have middle initial "A" in his name? In the baptismal records at Gilead Lutheran Church there was no A in his name. In all the censuses there were no A's. In many of the marriage and death records of his children there is no A in his name. On his tombstone in Alvinston cemetery there is no A and perhaps most importantly of all in his last Will and Testament²⁴ there was no middle initial A. So where did this middle name, Albert come from? His nephew George A. Smith born 1824 and son of Peter and Mary definitely had a middle initial A. Could there be some confusion with this George? He seems to have been referred to as "George Albert" by some of his grandchildren but this is not confirmed by the formal records.



This is George A. and Rosina Smith. If taken for their 50th wedding anniversary the photo would date to about 1875.

The last child of George and Maria was a son, temporarily named M3 and born about 1807 probably in Brunswick, Rensselaer County, N.Y. His full name and what happened to him are unknown at this time. Perhaps he married about 1832 when about 25 years old. Presumably this would have taken place in Willoughby Township as his parents probably had not yet moved to North Dorchester. This of course is speculation!

This completes the story of George Smith and Maria Van Alstyne.

Written by:	Ross K. Johnson, B.Eng.Sc., P.Eng. Burlington, Ontario, Canada
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Revised:	Mar. 20, 2013

Bibliography

1. "History of Northern Michigan 1305" gave a biography of Wesley T. Smith who lived in the town of Honor about 1910. He was a son of Samuel E. and Heeta Smith. Samuel's parents were George A. Smith and Elizabeth A. Temple. George's father was Peter and this article states that Peter was not only a farmer but also a ship carpenter.
2. Maria's maiden name, Van Alstyne or Van Alstein was given on the birth and baptismal information for her son, Jacob, March and April 1801 at the Gilead Evangelical Luther Church at Center Brunswick, Brunswick Township, Rensselaer County, New York. Although some basic information can be viewed at FamilySearch.org, the microfilm must be viewed to see Witnesses and Sponsors to the events. Microfilm number 0534202 can be ordered from the Mormon Library for a small fee. These records were edited by R.W.Vosburg, New York City, Sept. 1915.
3. Maria Van Alstyne's birth date came from the Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of Albany, New York, 1683-1809. The entry was as follows, Bo. Dec. 1, Maria of John V. Aalstein and Lena Scherp. Wit. Wynand and Marytje V. Aalstein. This entry was for the year 1763. These records are available on the Internet. See <http://aleph0.clarku.edu/~djoyce/gen/albany/refchurch.html>
4. Willoughby Township Census for Year 1823, "A Century of Municipal History", Part I – 1792-1841, Compiled by Ernest Cruikshank. Available at Welland Public Library, 50 The Boardwalk, Welland, On, L3B 6J1.
5. 1901 Census for Wentworth and Brant Counties, Sub-district Beverly B-4, Page 1. Here John Misener gave his age as 82 and his birthday as Nov. 14, 1818.
6. This information came from Elizabeth Smith Haro, 837 Shepard Bush, Birmingham, Michigan USA 48008, June, 1986. Copy available at the Lambton Room, (Lambton Co. Archives), 787 Broadway St., Wyoming, Ont. NON 1T0
7. Entry for Peter Misener, "Pedigree Resource File", database, FamilySearch, <http://familysearch.org/pal/MM9.2.1/SY CJ-8LK>.
8. Reported on the internet at the site of "Vanalstine, Huffman, Perry and Fralick and a few others", by a Richard at rlander @ sympatico.ca but his email appears to be no longer active.
9. "***Loyalism in the Hoosick Valley***" by Bernard C. Young, ISBN 978-0-97349260-0-6, \$15.00, available from Jim and Patti Keller, 2205 Nature Trail Cr., Orleans, On K1W 1E7.
- 10.
11. Gilead baptismal records. See 2. Above.
12. The 1852 Census records are available on the Internet at <http://automatedgenealogy.com/census52/>
13. Similar to 3. above.
14. The 1810 US Federal Census for Brunswick, Rensselaer County, is available on the Internet at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyrensse/rccensus.htm>

#196 Smith and #197 Van Alstyne

15. In the Middlesex County Historical Atlas, Business Directory for the Township of North Dorchester, Jacob Smith has his Date of Settlement listed as 1835. This Jacob is the son of Jacob Smith born 1801.
16. Existing 1842 censuses are available at FamilySearch.org as well as the Ontario Archives in Toronto.
17. Phoebe Smith and neighbour John Dempsey were married Dec. 13, 1859 at Wesleyan Methodist Church, Nissouri Township. The bride was 17 years old and her birthplace was Townsend. This is available at FamilySearch.org under *Canada Marriages, 1661 – 1949* and not under *Ontario Marriages 1869 – 1927* nor *Ontario Marriages 1800 – 1910*.
18. For the 1852 Personal Census information see #12 above. For the 1852 Agricultural Census information which shows Lot numbers and Concession, see Ancestry.com
19. See #2. above.
20. See #2. above.
21. Marriages solemnized by me, W. Leeming, Minister of Chippawa, in ye year of our Lord, 1820, by banns, Jacob Smith and Betsey Sniveley, Township of Willoughby, 9th of Feb., 1821. From Internet.
22. See #2. above.
23. From the Abstract to the Ontario Land Records for Middlesex County, North Dorchester Township, Lot 9, Concession 3 North, 48 acres of land were purchased by Jesse Slaght April 13, 1846. Land records are available on microfilm at the Ontario Archives in Toronto.
24. Probate No. 738 with the Will of George Smith late of the Township of Brooke in the county of Lambton, farmer, deceased, was applied for the 17th of Dec., 1881 by Rosina Smith ... Copy available on microfilm at the Lambton Room (Lambton County Archives) at 787 Broadway St., Wyoming, On N0N 1T0. Apparently George could not read or write as he signed his Will with an "X".