

**John J (JJ) Smith**  
1844- 1931

Taken from the publication: PROGRESSIVE MEN OF WYOMING

John J. Smith is a prosperous and enterprising stockman of Bighorn County, Wyoming, living on a ranch near Hyattville, which he took up as a homestead and has greatly improved and beautified. John came to the state in 1866 among the early pioneers, and helped to lay the foundations of its present greatness and progress. He is a native of Pennsylvania, where he was born on January 14, 1844, his parents being Edward and Jane (Johnson) Smith, Ohioans by nativity, who removed to Pennsylvania early in their married life, and in that state their son, John, was reared and educated. In 1861, when he was but seventeen years of age, he enlisted in the Thirteenth U. S. Infantry and served three years. After his discharge he worked in the South, engaged building telegraph lines, until 1866, when he again enlisted in the regular army as a member of the Fifth Cavalry, and was sent with his command to Kansas, and afterwards to Colorado and Wyoming. During his term of service in this regiment, he participated in a number of Indian fights, seeing active service also in other lines of frontier army work. At the end of this term of enlistment he went to the Indian Territory, and, in that region, through portions of the territory and Texas, he carried on a stock business until 1882, when he came north to Nebraska, then, after a four years' residence in that state, he for a second time, changed his base of operations to Wyoming. He took up a homestead, near what is now Hyattville, and there settled down to improve his property and develop the stock business which he immediately started and which he has since conducted with increasing volume and profit, having now 100 cattle and a number of horses, all of good quality, and always kept in excellent condition, so far as skillful and careful attention can keep them so, as he applies to the management of his business an intelligence and a system derived from his long and varied experience, studious and reflective reading and judicious observation. He was united in marriage with Miss Emma Buckmaster, a native of Iowa, but a resident of Johnson County, Wyo., at the time of the marriage, which occurred on October 27, 1887. They have six children, Mollie, Lottie, Ruth, John, Joseph and Jesse.

# Pioneer John J. Smith Passes On

Came to Wyoming as a  
Indian Fighter in the  
Late Sixties

John J. Smith, a pioneer of the Big Horn Basin passed away at Ten Sleep, Friday, July 24th at the age of eighty-seven years.

Funeral services were held from the Ten Sleep Church Sunday afternoon, July 26th, Rev. Jno. Frank Smith officiating and interment was made in the Ten Sleep Cemetery.

A quartette composed of R. C. Kirkpatrick, B. A. Kirkpatrick, S. C. Pritchard and L. A. Parker assisted by Mrs. L. G. Van Slyke all of Hyattville furnished the music consisting of the following songs, "In the Garden," "Shall We Gather at the River," and "Home of the Soul."

The Fallbearers were George B. McClellan, B. F. Wickwire, Sam Capen, Ed. Crothers, John Weintz and Reynold Zeisman.

John J. Smith was born in Pennsylvania, January 14, 1844, the son of Edward and Jane, (Johnson) Smith, natives of Ohio. In 1861, when seventeen years of age he joined the United States Army and became a member of the 13th U. S. Infantry and served three years. After being discharged he worked in the South building telegraph lines until 1866 when he again joined the army and served in the Fifth Cavalry. This regiment was sent to Kansas and later to Colorado and Wyoming where it participated in numerous Indian fights that made early Wyoming history. At the end of his second enlistment Mr. Smith went to the Indian territory where he engaged in the live stock business in that section of Texas. In 1882 he came North to Nebraska where he lived for four years and then again came to Wyoming and the Hyattville section where he took up a homestead and developed one of the better ranches in that section and engaged in the cattle business.

On October 27, 1887 he was united in marriage to Emma Backmaster Carshire. To this union six children were born, Lottie, Ruth, John, Joseph, Jesse and James.

He is survived by his widow and six children. The sons, live at Hyattville and the daughters, Mrs. Lottie Brown at Ten Sleep and Mrs. Ruth Durfey lives at Great Falls, Montana.

There are seven grand children.