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Smith, Levi Walker (1842 -)

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SMITH, LEVI WALKER

File No. B-1250

Levi Walker Smith was born in New York, New York on October 12, 1842.

Levi Smith was the son of Ephram and Phoebe Smith, both born in the state of New York. Levi has nine brothers and sisters. They were Sylvester, Willard, Ephram Jr., Myron, Wallace, Edward, John, Angeline, and Mary Anne.

There was very little schooling in those days and the children had to walk two and one-half miles to school. Rather than go, they usually went fishing.

Levi Smith served almost a year in the Civil War. He marched from Savannah, Georgia to the sea. This is the famous march about which the song, "Marching Through Georgia" was written. Mr. Smith says that he remembers that they did plenty of marching and that their meals consisted of hard tack, beans, and black coffee. He said, "There were no machine guns in those days, only muskets, which were so large and heavy they almost knocked a man over. People now days don't know what hardships really are."

Levi Smith left New York and went to Wisconsin. He traveled part of the way by steamboat and the remainder of the way by team.

In 1866 Levi Smith married Mary Johanna Shroeder of Maryland. They were married in the Methodist Church of Eau Galle, Wisconsin by Reverend Fred Wentz. Mary Johanna Shroeder was born January 21, 1849.

Levi W. and Mary J. (Shroeder) Smith came to Minnesota about 1876. They came as far as Saint Cloud by railroad and the rest of the way by stage coach. When asked why he came, he stated, "I guess I took a notion just like the rest of them."

Mr. Smith bought a farm a few miles from Sauk Centre. When he first came they had a very raining season. While plowing his land he walked

knee-deep in mud. His haying was done with a hand scythe, often working until nine or ten at night.

In 1878 the railroad was built as far as Sauk Centre and there was great celebration as the people no longer had to make the long trip from Sauk Centre to Saint Cloud for supplies.

Mr. Smith had no actual experience with Indians, although he does remember of the great massacre which swept down from Saint Paul. He remembers of two prominent Indians: Chief Massanka and Winebago Bill.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith had eight children, all but three are dead. They are Fred, Minnie, George, Walker, Elmer of Sauk Centre, Mary of Sauk Centre, Mabel of Sauk Centre, and Myrtle who is dead. There are nine grandchildren.

Levi Walker Smith resides with his daughter, Mabel, of Sauk Centre. He moved to town twenty years ago and has lived there since. He is an old man ninety-four years of age. Despite his age he is able to take care of himself with very little help.

Interviewed: Levi W. Smith
Date: August 7, 1936
By: Melba Peterson

Publication granted

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE LEVI WALKER SMITH BIOGRAPHY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Mary C. Smith	Mar. 25, 1883	Raymond	Levi W. Smith	
2. Myrtle J. Smith	Nov. 29, 1885	"	" " "	

<u>Mother's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1. Mary		A	561	22	
2. Mary		B	28	12	

SMITH, LEVI WALKER

Second interview to affirm or correct the information in biography as compared to information as listed in the legal records in the stearns county court house.

AFFIRMED:

The children of Levi and Mary (Schroeder) Smith are Fred , Minnie, George, and Walker who are all dead; Elmer of Lyman Prairie; Mary C, now Mrs. George Whitney of Lyman Prairie; Mabel J. of Sauk Centre, and Myrtle who is dead, as listed in the biography.

ADDITION:

Levi Walker Smith died on January 28, 1937.

Mary(Schroeder)Smith died in 1914 .

Reinterviewed: Miss Mabel Smith
Date: November 19, 1937
By: Melba Peterson