

- January 4, 1980

- Smith Family History

- Uncle Fred visited Canada to go to the funeral of Aunt Laura Smith. While he was here asked him to tell me about my Dad Morgan Smith so that I could write something of a history. Uncle Fred is the last one living of his brothers and sisters. My mother Doris Elva Neilson Smith is the last Smith in-law living, but that could be because she was the youngest in-law.
- Uncle Fred is now 92 and in the most remarkable condition, he looks 20 years younger than he is. He has a vivid memory and sharp intellect for a man of his age. His main problem is arthritis in his knees, which has slowed his mobility considerably at this time. He developed diabetes a few years ago but he takes emaculate care of himself in regulating the diet and insulin. He was all ready to catch a bus by himself to Great Falls then get on an airplane to Salt Lake. He still feels very independant at his age.
- I am attempting to write about my father from what Uncle Fred tells me. They were close in age, so their lives are closely intertwined.
- 1884--Richard DeMont Smith [age 24] married Evaline Mooso [age 18] at Wilford, Fremont, Idaho.
- 1885--Monty born
- 1887--Eva born
- 1889--Edna born
- 1881--Orvil born
- 1893--Henry born
- 1895--Jennette born
- 1898--Margaret born
- 1899--Margaret died
- 1900--Vera born
- 1900 --Family moved to Canada
- 1903--Fred born, July 22
- 1905--Morgan born

- 1905--Morgan was born on October 16, 1905, the last of ten children to Evaline Mooso and Richard DeMont Smith. He was born in Magrath on a ten acre lot that the family owned in town. The family had come to Canada from Fremont, Idaho with their seven children. One little girl, Margaret, had died before coming. Two boys Fred and Morgan were born in Canada. Morgan had a lung condition as a baby and seemed to get sick easily. Uncle Fred says that he was a small boy, probably because he was sick a lot. He lost all his baby teeth from sickness.
- 1906--As most of the farm land in the south had already been claimed as homesteads, the family decided to go north to obtain more land. In 1906 Morgan's older brothers Monty [age 21], Orvil [15], Henry [13], Eva [20] and little Fred [3], went to the Cleverville district to break land. They lived in a sheep wagon. There was wide open country with tall grass and no fences or roads. They got 160 acres free as a homestead.

- 1907--In 1907 the family built a home and moved from Magrath to the Cleverville [later named as Champion] area. Their farm was west of Champion on the Firegard road. Eva [age 20] married Dan Pierson. He homesteaded north of Barnwell.
- 1908--Fred started school at the age of 5, at the Sherwood country school. The school house is now a house on the Woolf farm, south of Arlen's farm. Morgan went to school at the Sherwood school as well, but did not start school for a few years after Fred. They walked two miles to the school.
- First Sunday school was held at the Smith home.
- 1909--The oldest brother Monty [age 24] got married. He homesteaded in the area.
- 1910--Was a very dry year, the grass burned up. The bridge for the train was built.
- Father Richard DeMont died. He was 49 years old. He had been to a funeral for a man named Tom. Only six people were there. He helped to cover the grave in 40 degree below weather and came home cold and sweaty. On Monday night he became very sick and was dead the next Tuesday from Pneumonia. His body was sent on the train to Magrath for burial. Uncle Fred had a terrible blood poison from a small scratch on his hand. They sent Orvil to Clarasholm to get some Bi-chloride of mercury. Uncle Fred says that he put his hand in the hot water with the Bi-chloride and was able to have relief from the infection. He had not been able to sleep for nine days. At one time the family had used all the flour in the bin. Grandma prayed that they would have money to buy flour. A man came and asked for help to drive his steers to the river. Henry helped him, but they were not accustomed to taking pay, because they all helped each other. The man gave him Henry five dollars and they were able to buy a sack of flour for the family.
- Monty hauled wheat straw to George Green at Ellison's. He got bran and shorts, which was a by-product of wheat. During the winter the family milked cows and sold the butter at George Mark's store in Champion. In the spring Mr. Marks asked Evaline why she did not owe money, because most everyone else did.
Vera, Fred and Morgan attended the Sherwood School, near Champion
- 1911 E.J. Wood drove a sleigh in severe winter weather from Cardston to organize the Champion Branch.
- Morgan and Grandma drove in to Yellowstone to meet her family for a reunion. They met Uncle Joe, Walter, Albert and Aunt Manda. They took pictures of the gathering.
- 1913--Fred and Morgan attended the new school in the village of Champion, as three country schools had been consolidated. They rode in a horse and buggy to Champion to school. They put their horses in the livery stable until school was over, then harnessed them up to go home. They heated coke in the stove to put in their foot warmers to ride in the buggy. Grandma's brothers visited Champion and stayed 2 weeks. They took them to listen to E.J Wood in Clarasholm. On the way home Wilber asked his mother "Why don't they talk like that in our church?" Albert was an Episcopalian.
- 1914--The family got their first car, a Model T Ford with a Brass radiator. The crops from 1914 to 1916 were very very good. Morgan was baptized in May 1914, the same month his future wife was born at Taylorville.
- 1916--They traded the car in for one with an electric starter. Orvil [age 25] married Clara Anderson.
- 1915--Edna [age 26] married Parley Peterson. They homesteaded about 1 1/2 miles away

- 1917--Henry [age 24] married Rhoda Pitcher. Henry and Orvil moved to the a farm by the river East of Champion. They built a duplex with two kitchens and a common living room. Uncle Fred helped them build it.
- Jenette [age 22] was married to Ralph Hardisty. they later moved to Poluse county, south of Spokane to homestead. All the family were within a ten mile circle on homesteads.
- Fred did the farming without pay, from the age of 14 until he went on his mission. Because of the good crops the last few years Grandma Smith was able to have a large house built, The builder was a man named by McLeod. They needed a place to hold church. The living front rooms were 16 feet by 16 feet. 1920--Morgan continued to go to school in Champion, Fred went to Clarasholm to the Agriculture school. Morgan and his mother visited Monty and his family west of Olds.
- 1921--Henry was very sick
- 1922--
- President Hugh B. Brown, president of the newly formed Lethbridge Stake organized Champion as an independent branch.
- Fred graduated from agriculture school then went to Lethbridge to sell Heinzman pianos and phonographs. He earned 20 dollars a week. He went by train up to the Crows Nest Pass area.
- 1923--In the Spring of 1923 Morgan [age 19] contracted Scarlet Fever. Uncle Fred was met at the train and told that he could not go home because Morgan had Scarlet Fever. He stayed with Parley and Edna for a month. In the fall Morgan went to Lethbridge to go to high school [probably to do grade 10] He lived with George W. Green and he passed his schooling that year.
- 1924--Morgan rented the farm. The well cracked and the water became bad. Fred went on a mission to the Northern States. When leaving on his mission, Fred arrived in Salt Lake at 8:30 pm and left for Chicago the next day at 4:30. He arrived in Boon Iowa at 7:00 the following morning and was sent to Perry Iowa. Monty moved to Aetna.
- 1925---Henry sick. He was sent to Calgary to a bake oven which made him sweat out his Rheumatic fever.
- 1926--Fred came home from his mission in Dec.
- 1927--Fred seeded grain for Henry. The land was blowing so bad he could only open one eye. He decided he had had enough of farming so he was leaving. He went to Denver and to San Francisco. Vera [27] married will Drollinger from Clarasholm in Jan. They were divorced after a very short time. She married Harry Orcutt five years later in 1934. Fred was in Denver from Dec. 11, 1927 to July 1928. Henry moved to Hartley.
- 1928--Henry's wife Rhoda died. The 3 kids [Chase Marvin and Margaret] went to Cardston to live with their other grand parents. Some of his land was taken away by the Province.
- In July Morgan and Evaline drove a new car called a Whippet to Denver to ask Fred to come home and farm so that Morgan could go on a mission. Fred had been selling Skin Lack. Fred had sold his car and was ready to go home with them within an hour.
- 1929--January Morgan went to the Central States Mission. He was in Arkansas most of the time. Uncle Fred took over the farm.
- On Dec. 5 Fred married Zina Jacobs. Fred became branch president.

- In Arkansas Morgan went into a home and found some of his relatives. He noticed a picture of the family that was taken in Yellowstone. He was able to tell who everyone was in the picture and then they believed that he was a relative.
1930--Edna died, Parley moved his family to Utah.
- 1931--Jan., Morgan came home. He, his mother and Vera went to live at Henry's, because Fred was married and living on the farm. Vera was divorced.
- They stayed from Jan until March.
- 1932--Fred and Zina moved to Leavitt. Fred went broke and they took his tractor. He got a job at the sugar factory in Raymond. Later he ran the Red Head service station.
- 1933--Orvil Smith was Branch President of the Champion branch, with a membership of 27. They held their meetings at their home near the river east of Champion
- 1934--Henry married Laura Tolley in Dec.
- 1935--
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- 1936--
- 1937--Morgan and Elva were married..
- Elva had met Morgan Smith before, when she helped Uncle Fred Puzey on their farm at Champion. Fred Puzey's farm was on the same road as the Smith farm, about four miles apart. Fred Puzey lived with his only child, young Freddy, the Mother having passed away in _____. She said that when he came to the door, she felt that she had seen and known him before.
- This was the year of the Cardston Golden Jubilee. Elva got the job as secretary for Cardston's celebration along with Mable Johanson Palmer. During this time, while working in Cardston, Morgan came into her life again and they got engaged that summer, after a short courtship. Elva got her call to go on a mission to _____ about the same time Morgan asked her to marry him. President E.J. Wood told her she was going on a far greater mission. Pres. ^{Parley} Wood performed the marriage ceremony.
- Aunt Verna said that they painted and cleaned the house inside and out to get ready for the wedding. There was a chiveree at the Smith home and Jay Rolfson said the hot cocoa boiled over and kind of burnt on the stove.
- The big day for the wedding came September 22. This was the first wedding in the Neilson family. Aunt Verna was only fourteen and could not go to the temple, so she stayed home to straighten the house for the reception. Neighbors came to help. Sarah Gregson walked across the field and stirred up a nice yellow cake. Mrs. Huber came up the hill to do anything she could. They came unexpected. The dinner was roast beef, gravy, potatoes, and apple salad with walnuts in it. Elva's brothers and sisters were impressed with the love between the Smith brothers and sisters. The Smiths all stood with their arms around each other. The family was very kind to their mother Evaline and she was a very happy person. The Neilsons loved each other but felt they showed it by what they did. Hugging and kissing was very rare. Julius Neilson, Elva's father respected Morgan very much. He called him Brother Smith at first. Morgan was so full of fun. He told Aunt Verna that she would have to kiss her new brother. She was so shy she ran around the car. She told her sister Elva that she couldn't see how she could love someone better

than them. Elva told Verna that it is not the same thing and then she tried to explain why she was leaving the family.

- The newly marrieds went to the Marquis Hotel in Lethbridge on their wedding night. Elva had got a winter coat with a big fur collar, even though it was only September. They were very happy and years later Morgan said that if he had known that marriage was so great he would have got married at eighteen. It is good that he waited for our mom, because she would have only been around nine when he was eighteen. Grandma Smith had told him that there would be plenty of time for him after she was gone. Morgan was her youngest and I guess she thought that the youngest child should take care of the mother.
- Elva and Morgan lived in Raymond the first winter where Morgan had a job at the sugar factory.
- 1938--Arlen was born Sept. 27, the first Neilson grand child. Grandma Olga went to help with the new baby. She said she would like to have the baby for her. It is hard to see your daughter in pain. Arlen was blessed in the apartment above the old meat market in Raymond by Papa [Grandpa Julius], Morgan and Fred. *Morgan blessed Arlen.*
- 1939--
- 1940-- Eldon born January 7--11pounds 4 oz.
- Fred and Zina moved to Edmonton where he built a house on White Ave. He had a dodge car coupe.
- 1941 Carol was born July 5. Verna had gone to the River Place in Carmangay to help Elva, at the end of May. Elva thought she was going to have Carol in June, but she did not come until July, after the town celebration and stampede. Aunt Verna had just got home from a dance date with Avard Toone. Dances in those days went until 3 or 4 in the morning. Elva stood at her bed at 3 oclock AM and told her she had to go. Aunt Verna had to get up and feed about 40 pet lambs. The lambs jumped back and forth until she was so dizzy she just turned them all in together and said "to heck with it." She said that it is good Jesus doesn't give up on his lambs like that.
- 1942--Henry was very sick
- 1943--Fred's boss told him he had to take his holidays in Jan. The weather was 60 below zero. He decided to move. He moved to Tacoma Washington.
Arlen started school at ~~Alton~~ *Carmangay He was in the 3rd gr when he started school in 1944 in Alton*
- 1944 Richard was born March 23. Aunt Verna was in Calgary working at the airforce station. Morgan phoned her the news and asked if she would pick out a dress and flowers for Elva. What a lovely bunch of children, they had now. Aunt Verna said that she could never like any of her own as much. [We will wait and see.]
- *1945 George Albert Smith - Feb May 21*
- 1946 Morgan Smith was called as branch president of Champion Branch.

- Linda born December 25, 1946. Aunt Verna said that when she heard the news about Linda, she kept running and sliding on the ice. She told Uncle Duane that it was the first time that she had felt good since Bob was born, six months before.
- ¹⁹⁴⁸ 1947 Lorraine May 5 Morgan would pick up Lorraine and say "Did you ever see such a pretty baby" Then he'd say "now hold Daddy nice" and he'd dance all around the room singing "root-a-toot-toot."
- ¹⁹⁴⁹ 1948 Lorna December 24 Grandpa had died that July 31. Grandma Olga was at Elva's and Uncle Duane and Aunt Verna was living in the bush at Caroline Alberta. They were coming for Christmas to cheer Grandma Olga and they got stuck in a terrible blizzard. Morgan could hardly get through to Vulcan and he said he hoped that Verna and Duane aren't out in this. They were though, and were rescued by the Williams family.
- 1948--Henry sick. In the hospital. It cost \$ 4.50 a day. The lab was \$2.00. He was not able to work after 1951.
- 1948--Orvil died when he was under a truck fixing it and the hired man put the truck in gear.
- 1949- Alston School closed after nearly 50 years. Kids were bussed to Champion
- 1950
- 1951--Morgan died when his tractor rolled down the side of a hill as he was digging post holes. Fred came back to Champion to run the farm. Shortly after Morgan's funeral Fred went into the pool hall in Carmangay to find someone. He looked so much like Morgan that the men thought they had seen a ghost. He said that he was also driving with Elva after the funeral and people almost ran off the road because they thought it was Morgan alive again.
In August Fred Puzey was called as Branch President of the Champion Branch.
On August 12, 1951, the first Meetings were held in the new church in Champion.
Uncle Fred and Aunt Zina moved to Champion from Washington. They stayed in the brick house with Elva and her brood. There were seven children to catch the school bus.
The weather was rainy that August when Uncle Fred moved his family. The crops were not harvested.
- ^{April 9 - David O McKay Pres of church} 1953--November 22, the Champion church was dedicated by Pres. Hugh B. Brown.
- Uncle Monty and Aunt Alice died when they were in a car head on collision near Stavely.
- 1956--Uncle Henry died from his Rheumatic heart condition.
- Grandma Smith died in May
- 1957
- 1958 Carol and Eldon went to school in Cardston
Aunt Vera died in October
- 1959 Arlen mission to South Africa