

# People, places & things

By Portia Myers

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Sen. Ellison DuRant Smith was born in 1864 when his mother was 50 years old. His paternal ancestors came from the "old country" in the 1600s. They were of English and Scotch heritage and settled on the east coast.

In 1747, Arthur Smith left Smith Island on the shore of North Carolina and made his way to the area then known as Sumter District. He must have been a very wealthy man, for he brought with him many slaves and enough money to buy land in addition to the land grant which he received from the King of England.

At one time, he owned as many as 10,000 acres. Arthur returned to North Carolina to marry his sweetheart, Cordelia, and brought her back to Sumter District as his bride. They had four sons and two daughters, John, Steven, Jesse, Elias and daughters, Holland and Rhoda. Jesse married Mary Pauline Lucas of Fairfax County, Va. Their children were William H., Jesse, Sarah, Priscilla Ann, Thomas L., Rhoda, and Margaret. (OUR GR. GR.)

When the father died in 1853, the estate was divided and William H. received the home place and carried on the family traditions. He was later ordained as a Methodist minister, holding many very important charges, one being in Charleston. He continued to live at the family home and built the beautiful old home "Tanglewood," which still stands today. He married Isabella McLeod of near Mayesville. "Miss Bella" as she was known to everybody had a charming personality and her deep religious convictions profoundly influenced their children.

Three children died in infancy, their 16-year-old daughter, Mary Elizabeth, died tragically. The doctor who was treating her for malaria was under the influence of alcohol and gave her arsenic instead of the correct medication. The next child, William Thomas, died of a ruptured appendix while attending Wofford College. The next son, Alexander Coke Smith, became bishop of the Methodist Conference, and Charles, another son, became a Methodist minister. Daughter Fannie married the Rev. J.W. Koger, a Methodist minister and Anna Belle became the wife of Dr. John Andrew Rice, who was at one time the president of what is now Columbia College.

The youngest child in the family was Ellison DuRant Smith. He was always a bright, energetic person, graduating from Wofford College with highest honors and was the winner of four medals.

After a short time spent teaching at Wofford Fitting School, he returned to his beloved plantation where he owned and operated one of the largest and best farms in South Carolina. He purchased additional land, adding to that which he had inherited.

When he was 28 years old, he married Martha Mooror of St. George. She died at the birth of their son, Martius Ellison. Later he married Annie Brunson Farley, a teacher in Lynchburg. She was quite a few years younger than he, and he took his young bride to live at his ancestral home where they reared his young son by his former marriage and four children of their own, Anna Brunson, Isobel McLeod, Ellison DuRant Jr. and Charles Saxon Farley.

About this time, Ellison DuRant Smith became known as "Cotton Ed Smith" because of his interest and compassion for the farmers in the South. He organized the Farmer's Protective Association in 1901 and in 1905 took a leading part in the Boll Weevil Convention in Shreveport, La. Using this convention as a basis, he organized the Southern Cotton Association in New Orleans that same year and was elected president, thereby reaching farmers throughout the Southeast. He served in the South Carolina Legislature from 1896 to 1900. In 1908, he was elected to the U.S. Senate over six other candidates. He was re-elected for five more terms and served his state well.

He was chairman of the Agriculture and Forestry Committee in the Senate and sponsored bills that had far-reaching value for the farmers. He never lost sight of the fact that he was not only representing the farmers of South Carolina but all farmers in the United States. He authored many worthwhile and beneficial bills while in the Senate, was a diligent worker and highly respected. He became internationally known as "Cotton Ed" while boosting the status of the cotton farmers of America. When the King of England visited Washington, he asked especially to meet "Cotton Ed" Smith. When he was elected to the prestigious Interstate Com-

merce Commission, he was the only Democrat elected during a Republican regime. Upon his election, he received a standing ovation. In 1940, he became dean of the Senate. He served in the U.S. Senate for 35 years, eight months and 13 days. He died in 1944 of acute cardiac arrest. His funeral from his beloved ancestral home, Tanglewood, was attended by 1,500 mourners. His long life was dedicated to hard work. He always did and said what he thought was honorable. In the Williams-Brice Museum / Archives is a very interesting exhibit to this noble gentleman and many of his papers are kept there.

*Generations Documented: (Smith's)*

8. Arthur Smith
7. Jesse P. "
6. Thomas Lucas "
5. Thomas Watson Belvin "
4. Samuel Richard James
3. Harriett Sarah Isabella Smith (Dorothy's mother)
2. Dorothy Moseley Hahn
1. Our children

*This paragraph about my Gr. Grandfather nee to Smith Island took*

*RELATIVE? OR (?) Son of Landgrave II Thomas Smith*

*Gr. Gr. Gr. grandfather of DO ROTHY*

*See "Family Group Sheet"*

*OUR GREAT GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS ARE GRANDPARENTS OF "COTTON ED" SMITH*

*We were about 5th Cousins*