

[Smith, John Lewis]

Complete History of Babcock Hollow School District No. 11
(excerpt)

John Lewis Smith was the eldest of the family of Charles A. and Azilla [Morgan] Smith. He was born on his father's farm Dec. 31, 1822. On the 4th of March 1847 he was united in marriage with Miss Lois M. LeGro, daughter of Samuel and Betsey (Dudley) LeGro who came from Bangor, Maine, and settled in Bath in 1814. The result of this union were the following children: Charles L., Betsey D., Azilla M. and a son who died in infancy. Mr. Smith began housekeeping in a tenant house on his father's farm and after the purchase of a farm adjoining his father's, he erected in 1852 a part of the present large residence and moved therein in 1853. Since then he enlarged the house, and built other large and commodious buildings.

A large portion of this farm was forest land when he purchased it, be he being a great worker soon had it transformed into one of the most desirable farms in the county. He was especially interested in trees and shrubbery as was shown by the choice varieties on his well-kept premises. He was very fond of hunting and to go bee hunting in the woods was a greater source of pleasure to him than it was to eat. His advantages for an education were such as was afforded by the common schools of this district and one term at a select school in Bath, yet he was qualified to teach school for several winters and able to hold the office[s] of supervisor, assessor and highway commissioner. The duties of these offices he performed in an intelligent and perfectly satisfactory manner. He was endowed with a strong mind and good judgment, and by his energy, economy and enterprise he acquired a large property and was ranked among the leading agriculturists of the county. He had at the time of his death between four and five hundred acres of land. He, like his good Scotch [Scottish] ancestry was a great reader and had a wonderful memory. In his religious views he was a Universalist. His wife was a great worker and proved to be a good helpmeet for him. She was one of the kind that we love to read and talk about, and ever kept her memory green. She was found dead in bed on the morning of March 20, 1877 by her daughter, Bessie, in her 57th year. Then on March 3, 1890 the daughter Azilla died, and her father followed July 6, 1894 in his 72nd year. He, too, was found dead in bed by his daughter, Bessie, from the effects of the grip and the shock of his daughter's death from which he never recovered. The son Charles L. died in March, 1906 of pneumonia.

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