

Birth: Dec. 21, 1858 Death: Aug. 29, 1941

SMITH, William H. (August 29, 1941) - William H. Smith, 82 passed away Friday at his home. Rosary was said at the residence Friday evening and Requiem Mass at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church, Saturday morning with Father D.M. Buckley officiating. The Mass was sung by the Oblate Choir of San Antonio.

William H. Smith was born at Indianola, December 21, 1858, the son of Henry Smith, who emigrated to this country from Germany in 1845. He spent his early life at Lamar and St. Mary's on Copano Bay and on the Henry Smith ranch near Port O'Connor. On May 18, 1881 he was united in marriage to Alice Ellen Rahtgens, another native Indianolan, who preceded him in death.

After the storm of '86 Mr. Smith, who was in business, was one of the first to leave Indianola, moving to Port Lavaca where he and his brother-in-law founded the Rahtgens and Smith Lumber Yard. He later bought his partner's interest, and operated the business until 1912. After selling the lumber business, he formed partnership with his oldest son, W.H. Jr. and operated a chip chandlery until 1939.

The Smith homestead, where he and his bride resided at Indianola, was moved to Port Lavaca, where it overlooks the bay he loved so well. In this home his eight children were born, the first three, Henrietta Louisa, now Mrs. F. Ullrich of Roswell, N.M.; W.H. Smith, Jr. and Owen E. having been born in Indianola and five, Allie E. (Mrs. G.C. Boyd, deceased); Stanley E., Harry C., Irma and Rae, now Mrs. C.B. Elder; were born in Port Lavaca.

He lived to see each of his children well established in life, the first three sons being partners in the Smith Seafood Company; Stanley interested in the dredging business; H.C. also interested in the Bauer-Smith Dredging Company, is the Humble Oil Co. agent here. Mrs. Ullrich, residing in Rosewell, N.M. Irma, employed at the Post Office and Mrs. Elder, deputy tax assessor.

Many interesting incidents were related by Mr. Smith, regarding the time he was a trail driver on the Old Chisolm Track, back in '78, when herds of cattle were driven through strange and often hostile territory, to Dodge City.

When the county seat was moved to Port Lavaca after the storm of '86, he served as the first Commissioner of Precinct No. 1, having served in that capacity in Indianola.

Interment was in the Port Lavaca Cemetery and the pall bearers were his grandsons, Billie, Joseph, Stanley, Bruce, Owen, Jr., and Carlos Smith and James Boyd. He is survived by seven children, one sister, Mrs. George Braden of Seguin; three brothers, J.P. Smith of Seguin, Ed of Port Lavaca and James of San Antonio; 19 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.