

Colonel William Apsley-Smith. C.B., CMG

11 March 1856 - 1 May 1927

Colonel William Apsley Smith was born on 11th March 1856, at Aldingbourne, Sussex. His father was John Smith and his mother was Emily Jane Cherry.

William was educated at Eton College and at the Royal Military Academy in Woolwich.

In 1876 William joined the Royal Artillery, serving in the Afghan War, the South African War and the First World War.

He was married to Mary Caroline Adye before the 1891 census

In his fathers Will he was recorded as Captain, Royal Artillery which was probated 2nd October 1888

Lived at some time at Apsley House, Longridge, Preston and latterly at Ashdown House, Danehill, Sussex.

He died on 1st May 1927, aged 71. He was buried at Danehill cemetery on 5th May 1927.

William's medals were sold at Bonhams on 29th September 2010 for £3,760.

The Boer War C.B., Great War C.M.G. group of Colonel W.Apsley-Smith, Royal Artillery,

The Most Honourable Order of the Bath, C.B., Military division breast badge in gold and enamel, converted to wear as a neck badge; The Most Distinuishd Order of St.Michael and St.George, C.M.G., neck badge in silver-gilt and enamel; Afghanistan 1878-80, no bar (Lieut Wm. Apsley Smith. R.A.); Egypt 1882-89, dated reverse, no bar (Lieut: W.A.Smith. A/1. Bde. R.A.); Queen's South Africa 1899-1902, four bars, Cape Colony, Tugela Heights, Relief of Ladysmith, Transvaal, engraved (Lt.Coll W.Apsley-Smith, C.B, R.F.A.); Khedive's Star, dated 1882; Japan, Russo Japanese War Medal 1904-1905; Japan, Order of the Rising Sun, third class neck badge in silver and enamel. With minor unrelated medals etc *Some light polishing throughout, otherwise some enamel damage to the first two, otherwise very fine.* (Lot)



Great War C.M.G. group of ...
bonhams.com



Colonel Apsley Smith. C.B., CMG lived in
Ashdown House



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Army Career

- 19 August 1875 - 2 Lieutenant
- 19 February 1876 - Lieutenant
- 1880 - Served in Afghanistan: No 2 (Jacob's) Bombay Mountain Battery.
- 1882 - He then served in Egypt with A/1 Battery and was present in the engagements at Tel-el-Mahuta and Mahsamah and in the two actions at Kassasin (where the battery had 3 men and 5 horses wounded). Medal roll has him with C/B RHA – presumably after the campaign as C/B was not in Egypt in 1882. Awarded Turkish Order of Medjidieh, 5th Class and Mentioned in Dispatches - for what is unknown.
- 1 June 1884 - Captain From Seconded List (1 January 1892).
- 1886 - Passed the Staff College with Honours.
- 1888-1891 - Served as Staff Captain S. E. District and Brigade Major at Aldershot
- 13 May 1892 - Major
- 1894 - 1896 - Assistant Military Secretary to G.O.C. Canada
- 1896 - 1898 - Special Service Officer, Army HQ
- 15 November 1900 - Lieutenant Colonel
- 1899-1900 - Served in the Boer War, initially in command of the ammunition column serving 66th, 14th and 7th batteries, RFA, which were famously engaged and "lost their guns" at Colenso in Dec. 1899. He sent nine of his wagons into action to try to help the batteries but they were turned back.
- In command of a Brigade Division Royal Field Artillery in the engagements at Spion Kop and Vaal Krantz and at the Relief of Ladysmith.
- Commanded the 10th Brigade Division RFA. [on QSA roll for 149 Battery RA]
- Appointed CB [LG 19.4. 1901 p. 2696] Mentioned in Dispatches by General Buller the Feb. 1901 [LG 9.9. 1901] : "Major William Apsley Smith, Royal Artillery, did very good work in command of a Brigade Division". And again 22nd Feb. 1901. British Military attaché at Tokyo, 1904. During the Russo-Japanese War he was attached to the Japanese Army in Manchuria, earning the Japanese War Medal and the Order of the Rising Sun, 3rd Class. [The Times also says awarded 3rd Class of Sacred Treasure but no other ref. found to this]
- Placed on Half Pay after 5 yrs as regimental Lieut. Colonel, 21.11. 1905
- 1906-1908 - On the Ordnance Committee (left the board on 1 October 1908)
- 1908 - 1909 - Brigadier General Commanding R.A., 3rd Division
- 06 August 1914 - 1918 - Acting Quartermaster General



Obituaries

From Danehill Parish Magazine. June 1927I. Obituary.

Recorded in DPHS Autumn 2003.

Colonel Apsley Smith. C.B., CMG passed away after a long illness on Sunday, May 1st.

He had seen distinguished service in the army. He had been Brigade Major at Aldershot and was assistant Military Secretary to the General Officer Commanding, Canada. He served in the Afghan War, and in the Egyptian War, was mentioned in despatches and received the Medal and Star. He was again mentioned in despatches and received, received the Medal with four clasps and was created C.B. for his service in the South African War. He was Military attaché during the Russo-Japanese War, and received the Japanese War Medal and the Order of the Rising Sun. On the outbreak of the Great War, he rejoined and when he finally in 1918, he was C.M.G.

In quiet and unostentatious ways he was a generous friend to the Parish.

C.B. London Gazette 1900.

C.M.G. London Gazette 3.6.1918.

M.I.D. London Gazette 2.11.1882; 8.2.1901; 22.2.1901; 6.7.1918.

Colonel William Apsley-Smith was born on 11.3.1856, he was the son of the late John Smith of Britwell House, Oxfordshire and Mary, second daughter of the late General John Adye, he was educated at Eton and R.M.A. Woolwich. Lieutenant 19.8.1875. Served in Afghanistan in 1880. He then served in Egypt and was present in the engagements at Tel-el-Mahuta and Mahsara and in the two actions at Kassasin. Entitled to Turkish Order of Medjidie, 5th Class. Captain 13.3.1884. He passed the Staff College in 1886 with Honours. He served as Staff Captain S.E. District 1886-88; Brigade Major at Aldershot 1888-1891. Major 13.5.1892. Assistant Military Secretary to G.O.C. Canada 1894-96. Lieutenant Colonel 15.11.1900. He served in the Boer War from 1899-1900 and was present at the battle of Colenso in command of an Ammunition Column, and in command of a Brigade Division Royal Field Artillery in the engagements at Spion Kop and Vaal Krantz and at the Relief of Ladysmith. Commanded the 10th Brigade Division RFA. During the Russo-Japanese War he was attached to the Japanese Army in Manchuria, earning the War Medal and Order of the Rising Sun, 3rd Class. Ordnance Committee 1906-1908; Brigadier General Commanding R.A. 3rd Division 1908-09. Acting Quartermaster General 1914-18. He lived at Ashdown House, Danehill, Sussex. He died on 1st May 1927.



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John and Emily Smith

John Smith was the father of William. He was born in Drayton Basset, Staffordshire. He had five siblings; Reginald, Gertrude, George, Francis and Margaret.

At the time of William's birth was living at Britwell House, Wallingford, Oxfordshire. In the 1861 census John is listed as a landed proprietor at Binderton House (built C1680), Binderton, Chichester with eight servants.

He married Emily Jane Cherry in 1853 in Kensington. She was the daughter of George Henry Cherry of Denford, Bucks (????-1848), and Charlotte Drake-Garrard (????-1905) of Bramcote Hall; her father was MP for Nottinghamshire 1868-80 and High Sheriff and was thereby related to the Polar explorer Apsley Cherry-Garrard.

In 1871 census, John and Emily, aged 59 and 44 respectively, were living at Severn Bank, Severn Stoke, near Upton on Severn, Worcester. John is described as a Barrister "not in practice", JP for Wilts and a landowner.

John died in 1888

In 1908 Emily was still living at Britwell House in 1908.



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Mary Caroline Smith (nee Adye)

24 October 1861 - 20 July 1942

Mary was born on 24th October 1861 in the Indian Ocean (Born at sea). She was the daughter of John Miller Adye (1819-1900) and Mary Cordelia Stopford. She had five siblings.

She married William Aspley Smith before the 1891 census together they had two children Winifreda Emily Smith (1887-1972) and John Apsley Smith (1893-????)

Mary died on 20th July 1942, aged 80. She was buried at Danehill cemetery on 23rd July 1942

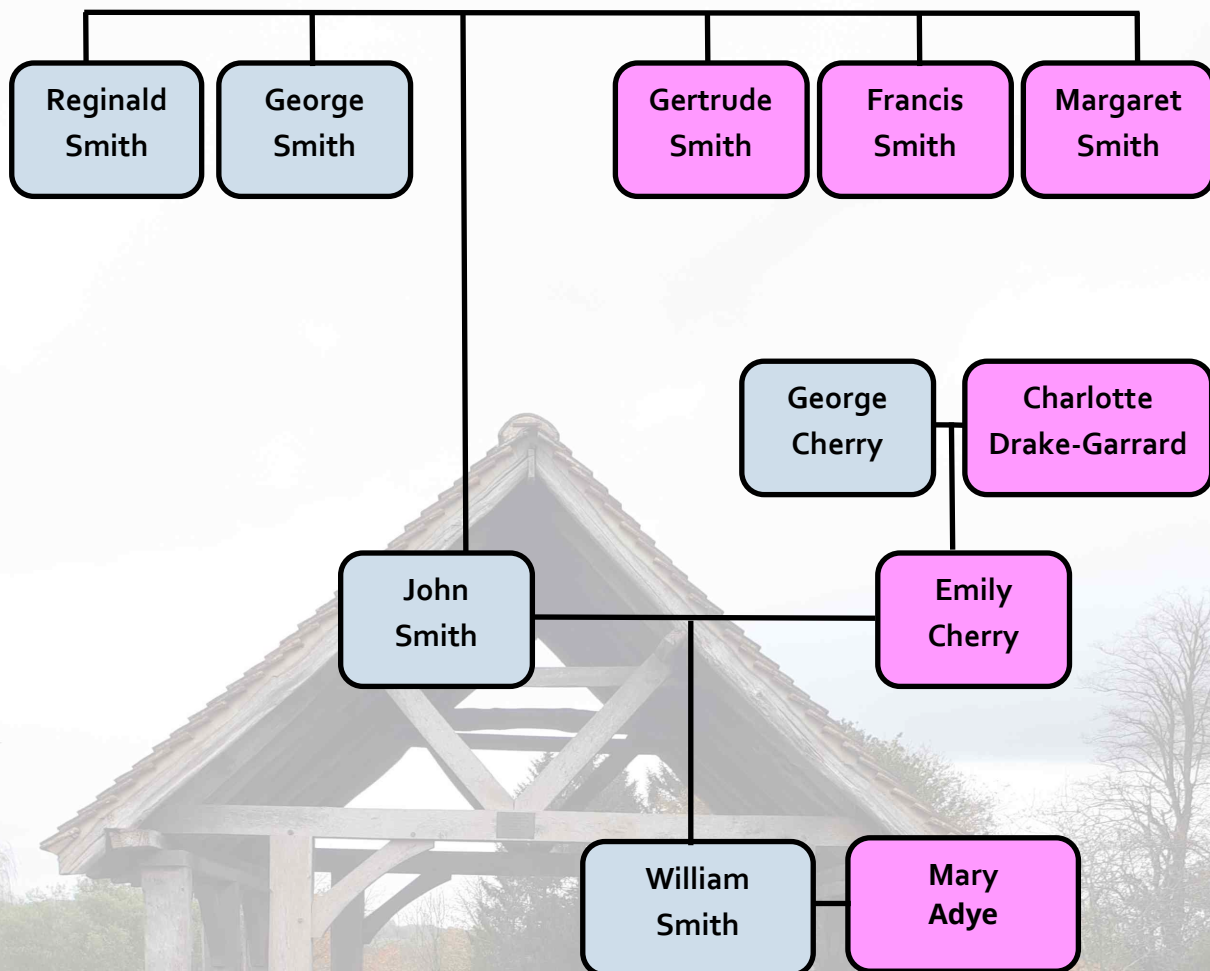
Sir John and Mary Adye

John Miller Adye was born in 1819. His father was James Pattison Adye and his mother was Jane. He has two brothers Willett Lawrence Adye (1818-1878) and Mortimer Adye (1821-????). He was baptised on 5th January 1820 Baptism in Sevenoaks, Kent. He died on 26th August 1900 in Middlesex.

Mary was born in 1831. There is not a lot known about her parentage or whether she had any siblings. It is also unknown when she died. She married John Miller Adye on 7th October 1856. They had John Stopford Adye (1857-????), Winifreda Jane Adye (1860 - 1914), Mary Caroline Adye (1865 - ????), Mortimer Stopford (1867-1926), Evelyn (1869 - 1940) and Mary Caroline (1861 - ????)



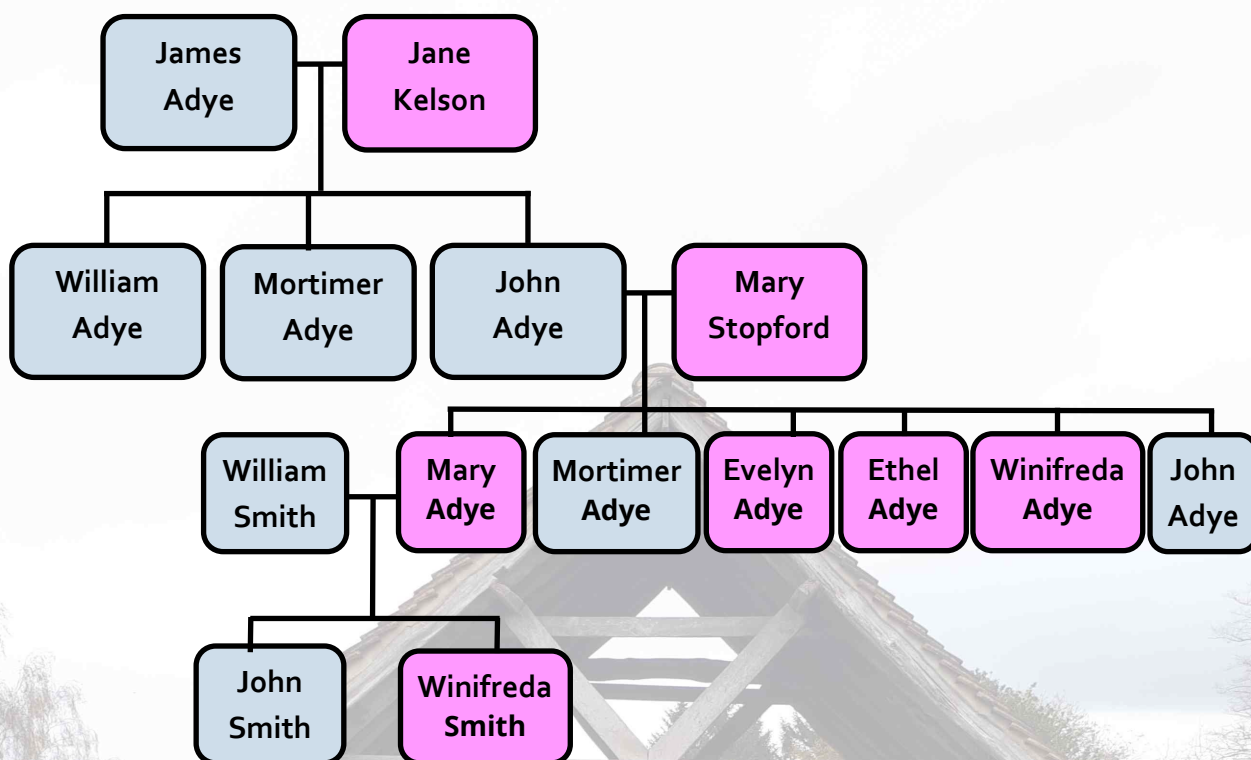
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William and Mary Smith are buried at Danehill cemetery



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If you have any more information about this family that you believe would be of interest please contact the Danehill Parish Historical Society dphs@outlook.com. We'd love to hear from you



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