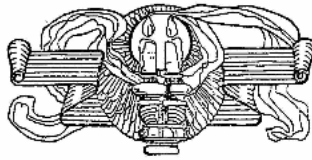


Excerpt from

Notes Concerning the Kellogg's

Dr Merritt G Kellogg  
Battle Creek Michigan @1927

SMITH M. KELLOGG



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WAS born March 16, 1834, in Hadley, Massachusetts, where the Kellogg family had resided for nearly two hundred years. He was next to the oldest of a family of sixteen children, seven boys and nine girls. His father, John Preston Kellogg, was the tenth lineal descendant from the first known ancestor, Nicholas Kellogg, who was born in England in 1488 and lived in Essex, near London. John P. Kellogg brought his family to Michigan in 1835 and settled on a large tract of new land near the city of Flint, then a very small village. Michigan was at that time still very largely in the hands of the Indians, who had a settlement at Saginaw and roamed the central portion of the state in their hunting expeditions, white settlements having only begun along the eastern border and southern portion of the lower peninsula.

The boy thus grew up from the tender age of two years amid pioneer surroundings, and was well acquainted with all the hardships of frontier life. Deer, bears and other wild animals were frequent visitors to the little clearing where their first farming began. The food consisted chiefly of wheat, corn, rye, barley, turnips, beans and potatoes, with dairy products, and provisions were sometimes short; but life under these primitive conditions developed the physical vigor and hardihood needed to insure a long and active life.

His mother, Mary Ann Call Kellogg, died when he was eight years of age, leaving him with two brothers and two sisters. A year or two later his father married Ann Jeanette Stanley, in whom the motherless ones found a real mother, whose tender

care and affection they always appreciated and reciprocated.

Housekeeping on a frontier farm, or rather homemaking, was a real business. Modern conveniences were wholly lacking and the work included many activities that are now conducted in factories by the aid of elaborate machinery. The wool, taken direct from the shearer's hands, was washed, carded, spun into yarn, woven into cloth on a hand loom and then fashioned into clothing for each member of the family. Dyeing, tailoring, dressmaking, even the tanning of skins into leather, shoemaking and harnessmaking, were ordinary household operations which farmers' wives had to conduct or assist in doing, in addition to buttermaking, cheesemaking, candlemaking, matchmaking, and a hundred other activities in which self-independent settlers had to engage. In most of these arts, the boy Smith participated and soon became so expert, even in spinning and weaving, that his stepmother many years afterward often spoke with great appreciation of the assistance he gave her in bearing the heavy burdens of those pioneer days; and this practical training was undoubtedly of great value to him, as in after life he showed remarkable facility in acquiring new trades, an unusual number of which he mastered and at various times pursued successfully.

Educational advantages in a frontier town seventy miles from Detroit, which at that time was only a small city, were of course very limited. At the age of seventeen, Smith went with his older brother Merritt to Oberlin College, then recently opened in Ohio, though he did not finish the course at that excellent institution, then presided over by Finney and other famous educators of the time.

A year or two later, the family moved to Jackson, Michigan, and in 1856 came to Battle Creek. May 13, 1858, Smith married a most excellent young woman,

Maria Dickinson, of Sandstone, Michigan, who was his most faithful and congenial companion until her death in January, 1911. They raised a family of five children, four of whom are still living, with eleven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. Smith became a church member when he was a young man and lived a consistent Christian life. He was a man of unusually amiable, kindly and sociable disposition. He had a remarkably retentive memory and his mind remained active to within a few weeks before his death.

At the age of twenty-seven years, he began to suffer from night blindness, because of which he was excused from military service in the Civil War. This eye affection gradually increased and for the last twenty-three years of his life he was blind. Notwithstanding his affliction, he never complained but was extraordinarily patient and maintained a cheerful, buoyant spirit. Aside from his blindness, he enjoyed excellent, even robust, health most of his life, until very recent years. Until he was long past eighty years of age, his pulse, blood pressure and arteries were like those of a man of forty. His ancestors for ten generations back on the paternal side, were all fairly long-lived, none having died under seventy years; but in reaching the advanced age of ninety-three years and eight months, he exceeded by five years the life span of any of his predecessors.

His children are Arthur E. Kellogg, residing at Battle Creek; Walter Eugene Kellogg, of Armona Park, Illinois; Dr. Lena K. Sadler, and Mrs. Anna B. Kellogg, of Chicago.

The surviving members of his father's family are three brothers and two sisters: Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, Dr. Preston S. Kellogg, Will K. Kellogg, Mrs. Clara K. Butler, and Mrs. Hester A. Kellogg.

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