

**Ethelyn Honey**, daughter of John (1845-1929) and Mary (McCurdy) (1862-1959) Honey, was born 17 May 1881, Ingham County. Ethelyn's father, John Honey, was born in New York State and with family settled on farm land in Alaiedon Township, Ingham County before 1860. In 1879 John married Mary in Holt, Ingham County. Ethelyn was the first born child. She attended Okemos School completing the 8th grade and then had one year of high school in Lansing. The highest-grade level at Okemos in this particular year was 8<sup>th</sup> grade and was considered graduation. Because of her May 17 birthday, we believe she started 1<sup>st</sup> grade in 1886. Thus, Ethelyn Honey graduated at age 14 and is in the Okemos Class of 1895. Ethelyn stayed close with her Okemos classmates. [One such gathering was featured in the \*Lansing State Journal\*, June 7, 1951. <click this area to read "The Circle of Friends">](#)

On 3 May 1908, Okemos, Ethelyn married Ora C. Emery. Little is known about Ora or the marriage but Ora, born 14 April 1871, died of pulmonary tuberculosis 29 July 1916 in a Wayne County, Michigan sanitarium. His occupation was listed as engineer. He was interred Pine Ridge Cemetery, Bay County, Michigan. Ethelyn must have had a divorce. She, using her maiden name of Honey, married Benjamin Alexis Smith on 29 August 1914, Bay City, Bay County. Benjamin recorded he was born in Missouri but was a merchant in Williams, Arizona.

Benjamin and Ethelyn were childless but did take in and unofficially adopt nephew, Maurice Edward Smith. Maurice, born in 1920, was enumerated living with his uncle and aunt in the 1940 US Federal Census Pima County. Maurice went on to become pilot of a 7th Army Air Force Mitchell bomber during World War II. He flew combat missions over Gilbert Island, Marshall and Caroline Islands and Japan. He graduated from Tucson Senior High



*Tucson Daily Citizen, December 20, 1945*

Lt. Maurice E. Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin A. Smith, route 1, box 234, has recently returned from Okinawa where he served during the war with the seventh air force. He piloted a B-25 bomber on 28 missions over enemy held territory over Japan, the Marshall, and Gilbert islands. Lt. Smith is a graduate of the Tucson high school and has served in the Army since 1940 when he enlisted here as a private in the air corps. He is now on leave and visiting here with his wife, Marilyn. He was 18 months overseas before returning to the United States in November. (Photo by Reggie Russell.)

School in 1939 and after the war married, became a Stanford graduate and a successful lawyer in California.

In 1955 the Smith's moved to California. Ethelyn died 18 April 1966, Fresno County, California. Benjamin died 15 February 1970, Fresno County. They were interred Fowler Cemetery, Fresno County.

*The Fresno Bee The Republican (Fresno, California) Tuesday 19 April 1966*

### **MRS. ETHELYN SMITH**

Fowler - Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday in the Fowler Funeral Chapel for Mrs. Ethelyn Honey Smith of 411 Seventh St., Fowler, who died yesterday in a Fresno hospital.

Burial will be in the Fowler Cemetery.

Mrs. Smith, a native of Michigan, had lived in Fowler 11 years. She was a member of the Fowler Christian Church and the local Rebekah Lodge.

Surviving are her husband, Benjamin; a son, Maurice Smith, a Fresno attorney; and two grandchildren.

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