

Edward Breckenridge Smith

From an article in the Middle Park Times - November 1, 1918

Edward Breckenridge Smith died at Grand Lake, Colorado, Sunday October 27, 1918, age 32 years. Ed Smith was born in Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado on April 11, 1886. His mother died when he was two years old and he was sent to live with his aunt, Mrs. John Adkins of Hays Center, Kansas. There he remained until he was twelve years old, when he returned to his father at Grand Lake in 1898.



On November 11, 1914 Ed married Miss Bessie Burtner in Denver (Denver County Marriage License Number 60649). Those who survive him in Grand Lake are his wife, who with a little daughter, Esther Louise, age 2 ½ years, father Preston Henry Smith, and sister Mrs. Alfred Eslick. Also sister Mrs. W. J. "Ute Bill" Thompson of Hot Sulphur Springs and sister Mrs. Harry Masterson, of Aberdeen, South Dakota.



Bessie & Esther 1916

His death was caused by pneumonia, a result of the Spanish influenza. He was the youngest and only living brother of Henry A. Smith of Johnston's Stillwater Ranch, who died of the same cause on October 20th. He kept up after he had contracted the disease, himself trying to help Henry, and caring for his wife and baby who were ill, until he lost every chance of recovery. He was a kind and loving husband and father to his little girl to whom he gave the best of a father's affection. The thing most often mentioned by his friends was that he was always doing something for someone else.

Edward was buried at the family plot in the Hot Sulphur Springs Cemetery. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend W. R. Hodges of Grand Lake who also took care of him during his illness.

(Esther was born January 6, 1916 in Grand Lake Colorado to Edward B Smith and Bessie (Burtner) Smith. Her mother married a Mr. Rogers after the death of Edward B Smith in 1918. Bessie then had two more children, William & Lois. Esther married a Johnston. More information can be found under Johnston family.)