Smith House – Mabel Smith (age 35-50) 1917-1932

Hello, my name is Mabel Goff Smith and I live here in the Smith house with my husband, Fred T. Smith and our son Goff.

The architectural style of the house is, at its core, American Foursquare, but it has several other features that are noted in your brochure that you will want to read. There is definitely a Craftsman influence and in many ways it has a prairie style. But like the many eclectic designs on East Main Street, it fit in perfectly here.

My husband and I are both from Canisteo (pronounced Can-nes-TAY-oh), New York, just north of the Pennsylvania state line, in between Ithaca and Buffalo. Fred attended Cornell University in New York, then both he and his older brother Harry came to Jackson in 1906 to work for his great-uncle, W. H. Coleman, after college. I joined him here in Jackson in 1910, after our wedding at my family home in Canisteo. Our house here on Main Street was completed the following year.

We attend the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson and Fred plans to leave a sizeable donation in his will to the church for a new steeple. Fred was what you might call a sports enthusiast. He hopes to donate to the Jackson Little League so they can have a new ball field. And he's always been a supporter of the YMCA on Lafayette, which was built in 1856, one of the first five built in the United States. The building is in need of repair, so he plans to contribute to the construction of a new building on Campbell Street.

We both think it is so important to be involved in the community. Fred had served on "The 100 Club" for many years, which promotes good wholesome athletics in Jackson. They especially help to support sports at Jackson High School, Union University, and Lambuth College. He will be very involved in the planning for the Jackson Jubilee in 1923, where we will celebrate the history of this town with pageantry, dances, concerts and all sorts of fun. Children will get out of school early and the entire city will celebrate for nearly a whole week.

We hope you enjoy the rest of your walk along East Main Street!

Additional notes:

Fred worked for the W. H. Coleman company starting in 1906, eventually becoming an officer, then vice president, and president. He passed away in 1961. His son Goff served in the US Army during World War II. He had degrees in business and engineering from University of Michigan, and a Masters from MIT. He became CEO of American Steel Foundries and CEO of their holding company, Amsted, as well as serving on numerous other boards. He settled in Winnetka, Illinois and passed away in 2008.

Mabel had her dresses tailored in Nashville and New York. She was very involved in the Jackson community and social scene. She played bridge and was involved in the Garden Club. During WWII she led the Knitting effort in Jackson to knit socks and sweaters for soldiers in Alaska.