

Middleton Smith

(- 11 Oct 1925)

Smith. On Sunday, October 11, 1925, Middleton Smith, beloved husband of Mrs. Marie VanHook Smith. Funeral from his late residence, 1724 Euclid st. n.w., on Wednesday, October 14, at 11 a.m. Interment private.

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Middleton Smith Dies; Noted Scientist

Author of Many Books Retired Years Ago; Expert on Arctic Matters

Middleton Smith, author of more than a score of books on scientific subjects, who retired from the Department of Agriculture several years ago, died at his residence, 1724 Euclid street, at 8 o'clock last night. He was 78 years old and had been ill with heart disease since last January.



MIDDLETON SMITH

Mr. Smith's last book, which he had just finished before his death, was entitled "Two Years Beyond the Arctic Circle." Other books on the far north written by Mr. Smith include "Life and Superstitions of the Eskimos" and "Gardening in Northern Alaska." He spent two years in the arctic region as an observer with the Point Barrow, Alaska, expedition of 1882.

Mr. Smith belonged to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Explorers' Club, and the Arctic Club of New York, of which he was one time vice president. He also was active in the Republican club of this city. Mr. Smith was a native of Bainbridge, Pa., and is survived by his widow, Mrs. Marie Van Hook Smith.

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Middleton Smith Claimed By Death

Arctic Explorer and Veteran U.S. Worker Dies at Age of 78

Middleton Smith, 78 years old, Arctic explorer and author on numerous scientific subjects who had an unusual career in Government service for 41 years died at his residence, 1734 Euclid street, last night; after an illness lasting since January. He was retired in 1922 from the Department of Agriculture, where he had charge of statistical work 22 years.

Mr. Smith knew both the late Admiral Peary and Dr. Cook intimately and was asked, officially, to give an opinion on whether Admiral Peary and Dr. Cook had reached the North Pole. This opinion is to be found in the congressional records. As a vice president of the Arctic Club of New York, Mr. Smith was a member of a party which met Dr. Cook on his return to New York after visiting the Arctic circle.

Went to Arctic in 1881

Mr. Smith's first work with the Government was in 1881, when he volunteered his services in connection with international polar work. He was a member of the Point Barrow polar expedition of the year last mentioned and spent two years with it in the Arctic as a naturalist and observer.

He assisted in editing reports both of that expedition and the Lady Franklin Bay expedition, 1883 and 1890.

Mr. Smith was a special Government agent in the United States eleventh census 1890-94 and from that time to 1900 did statistical work in the Bureau of Statistics, United States Treasury Department. From 1900 until his retirement in 1922, he was doing statistical work for the Department of Agriculture.

Although having reached the retirement age when the retirement act went into effect in 1920, Mr. Smith was retained as a statistician in the Department of Agriculture for two more years by special request of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Author of Many Works

Mr. Smith served as a delegate from the Department of Agriculture to the Eighth International Geographic Congress of 1904 to which he contributed an article, "The Range and Habit of the Resident Birds of Point Barrow, Alaska."

He was also author of numerous other scientific subjects and bulletins. Among these were "Agricultural, Graphics, Bulletin 7s, Department of Agriculture, and was joint author with Dr. O.E. Baker and R.G. Hainsworth of "A Geographic Summary of American Agriculture," and Yearbook, Department of Agriculture, 1917. Other publications of which he was author were "How to Give Elementary Lessons in Zoology," "Life and Superstitions of the Eskimos," "Gardening in Northern Alaska" and "Primitive Methods of the Capture of the Bowhead Polar Whale."

Mr. Smith was the inventor of the single-dot system for graphically showing crops and live stock based upon the United States Census of 1910.

He was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Explorers' Club and the Arctic Club of New York, of which he was one-time vice president, and was also an active member of the Republicans Club of this city.

Mr. Smith was a native of Bainbridge, Pa., and is survived by his widow, Mrs. Marie Van Hook Smith.

Funeral services will be conducted at the residence Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock. Rev. John J. Queally will officiate. Interment will be in Congressional Cemetery.