

Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery Inventory

State and Water Streets, Dover DE 19903

Lot Number: 112 Space: G (old G-145)

Find A Grave # 11937578

Name: **Smith, James Gordon Jr.**

Birth date: July 22, 1930 Death date: January 15, 1971 Burial Date: January 19, 1971 Age: 40
b. DE

Spouse: Sarah Elizabeth *Townsend* Smith, m. April 23, 1955

Children: James Gordon Smith III

Parents: James Gordon Smith Sr. (1892-1975) and Cora Elva *Bennett* Murphy Smith (1898-1993)

Siblings: Diana Bennett *Smith* Leland (1935-2005); ½ siblings: Charles Dane Murphy (1920-2007); Louise Adele *Murphy* Taylor (1924-2008)

Residence: Harrington, DE

Milford High School, Class of 1946

Cause of death/Burial/Obituary: Died in a plane crash, Shrewsbury, VT

Service/occupation information: Businessman

Officiate: Rev. Gregory Howe

Lot Owner: J. G. Smith; F & G

Inscription:

James Gordon Smith Jr.
July 22, 1930 - January 15, 1971



DIMENSIONS: H 55" W 32" D 20"

STYLE: headstone - large cross; lot barrier

Repairs : Cleaned with D2, July 2020 + 2023



Inventory date: April 10, 2020 Recorder: Ted George

Before crash killed 5 from Dover

Morning News, Mon. Jan. 18, 1971

Plane in trouble, probe indicates



REMAINS—The crushed remains of this light plane yielded the bodies Saturday of five prominent Dover, Del., men who had been on a skiing trip to Vermont.

The plane that crashed into a Vermont mountainside killing five Dover residents came down vertically, indicating that it was out of control and did not plow blindly into the hillside, according to an accident investigator.

Edward S. Hanique, investigator for the National Safety Transportation Board, returned from the hillside late last night and said all the vital components of the aircraft were found and there was no evidence they malfunctioned.

HE refused to speculate over when the plane crashed, saying he had not yet talked with any witnesses or tower personnel.

The six-seat, single engine Piper Cherokee crashed Friday morning at Shrewsbury Mountain, Vt., just after takeoff from the Rutland, Vt., airport after a skiing trip.

The dead are David Gamberg, 49, of 11 High View Ave., Dover; Dr. James McAllister Chase Jr., 39, of 575 Westwood Ave., Woodbrook; Thomas B. Hastings, 46, of 566 Pennsylvania Ave., Dover; James G. Smith Jr., 40 of Dover, and Mathew E.

Mitten, 40, of Dover-Leipsic Road, Dover.

THE dashboard clock on the plane reads 10:08, investigators say.

Officials at the Rutland Airport report that the plane took off at just about 10 a.m. It took off south into the wind, then headed into the west, turning again after a couple of minutes to head north and then east.

Vermont State Police report the plane struck 3,730-foot-high Shrewsbury Mountain at about the 3,600-foot level. The mountain is about five miles east and slightly south of the airport.

The men had left Delaware Airpark in Cheswold, Tuesday morning, for a week's vacation of skiing in Vermont. They decided to return Friday morning. The owner of Rutland Airport said he was not certain but he believed they had not filed a flight plan.

THE plane was discovered Saturday morning, after it was learned that the men had not returned to Dover and a check See CRASH — Page 2, Col. 1

Crash probe points to trouble

News J. Mon. 1.18.1971

(Continued From Page One) had been made of most airfields between Rutland and Dover.

At the controls of the Cherokee was Gamberg, state police said. His copilot was Dr. Chase. Seated behind them were Hastings, Smith, and Mitten.

The crash site is about two miles from the nearest dirt road, state police said, and the rescue party used 15 snowmobiles, to reach the scene.

THE single-engine, six-passenger, aircraft had been hired from Delaware Aviation of North Philadelphia, a subsidiary of Atlantic Aviation of Wilmington.

Services for Mr. Gamberg will be Wednesday morning at 11 at the Torbert Funeral Chapel, Reed and Bradford Sts., Dover.

Mr. Gamberg was the owner of the Simon Department Store, on Lookerman St. in Dover. He served as a glider pilot in the Air Force during World War II. He is a native of Philadelphia.

He is survived by his wife, the former Sherie Simon; three daughters, Andrea, Betsy and Gaby, a son, Richard; his father, Abraham Gamberg of Philadelphia; a brother, Robert of Abington, Pa., and a sister, Mrs. Helen Lilienfeld of Philadelphia.

INTERMENT WILL BE IN Sharon Hills Memorial Park, and the family asks that flowers be omitted.

Services for Dr. Chase will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Christ Church, Dover.

Dr. Chase, of 575 Westwood Ave., Woodbrook, Dover, was a Dover vascular surgeon. Born in Wilmington, he graduated from

Henry C. Conrad High School in 1949, from the University of Maryland in 1952, and from its medical school in 1956.

He served two years in the Air Force, and was stationed at Castle Air Force Base, California, where he served as chief of surgical services. He moved to Dover in 1963.

HE is survived by his wife, Mrs. Retta H. Chase; a son, Jeffrey McAllister Chase, a daughter, Jill Melissa Chase, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James M. Chase Sr. of Wilmington.

Interment will be in the cemetery of Christ Church, Dover. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Kent County Heart Association, the American Cancer Society or to a favorite charity.

Services for Mr. Hastings will be tomorrow at 1 p.m. at Peoples United Church of Christ, Dover.

Mr. Hastings was born in Berlin, Md., and had lived in Dover since 1946. He was a member of Peoples United Church of Christ, Dover City Council, the Dover Rotarians, and the Dover YMCA.

SURVIVING are his wife, Sarah Hastings; two sons, Jeffrey and David; and three daughters,

Beth, Nancy, and Carol, all at home; and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Orlando Hastings of Berlin, Md.

Interment will be in Lakeside Cemetery. The family suggests that in lieu of flowers contributions be made to the Kent General Hospital Building Fund, Dover.

Services for Mr. Smith will be tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 in Christ Church, Dover.

Mr. Smith was chairman of the Democratic Party for Kent County and owner of J. G. Smith Autos, Inc., of Dover. He also owned radio station WNRK in Newark and station WARV in Warwick, R.I. He was formerly director of the Delaware River and Bay Authority.

He was born in Harrington, and graduated from Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass. and Johns Hopkins University.

HE is survived by his wife, the former Sarah E. Townsend; a son, James G. III; a daughter, Elizabeth; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James G. Smith Sr. of Dover; a brother, Charles Murphy Jr. of Milford; and two sisters, Mrs. Sherman Leland Jr. of San Francisco and Mrs. F. Martin Taylor of Wilmington.

Interment will be in the Christ Church Cemetery, Dover. In lieu of flowers the family suggests

that contributions be made to the building fund of Kent General Hospital in Dover.

Services for Mr. Mitten will be tomorrow at 10 a.m. at People's United Church of Christ, Bradford and Reed Sts., Dover.

Mr. Mitten was president and owner of W. B. Mitten & Sons Inc., a Dover contracting firm. He was a member of People United Church of Christ, of Union Lodge No. 7, AF&AM, of which he was a Past Master, and president of Mason Hall Corp. He also was a member of the Delaware Consistory, the Nur Temple, the Tall Cedars of Lebanon, and the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

HE was a retired captain in the Delaware National Guard, and a past president of the National Sojourners.

Surviving are his wife, Lorna E. Mitten; a son, Mathew E. Jr.; three daughters, Yvonne Elaine, Denise Sue, and Holly Michele, all at home; his mother, Mrs. Regina S. Mitten of Dover; two brothers, Robert S. of Seattle, Wash.; and William B. Jr. of Dover; and a sister, Mrs. Regina M. Marshall, also of Seattle.

Interment will be in Barratts Chapel, Frederica. The family suggests that in lieu of flowers contributions be made to the Delaware Heart Association.

James Gordon Smith's last talk was of Democratic politics

By JACK NOLAN
Capital Correspondent

DOVER—James Gordon Smith Jr. spent much of his last afternoon in this central Delaware city he loved, chatting with a reporter.

It wasn't an interview because it was impossible to hold a stiffly formal "interview" with him.

They sat in Smith's office at his Kent County Motor Co. and talked about politics—Democratic Party politics—just as they had one year before practically to the day.

The office looked exactly the same as it had that first day the two had talked.

BUT, the year before, Smith

was about to begin his second year as Kent County Democratic chairman and was looking ahead to a successful 1970 election campaign.

Last Monday, Smith was looking ahead to stepping down as county chairman.

Why? "I've just got my fingers in too many pies. I can't give it the necessary time," he said just before the phone rang and an associate in one of those "business" pies called to consult.

Smith sat back, drew deeply on the stub of a cigar, put his feet on the desk and said the words that a week later would be amplified by fate:

"AFTER all, they are going to

have to find a replacement sometime, so why not now?"

Several Democratic committeemen were at that moment circulating petitions telling Jimmy Smith why not: Because he had done a good job; because he led them to a complete sweep of county elective offices; and, simply, because he could keep them together.

The petitions were to be presented Feb. 9 when the county committee was scheduled to meet to elect its officers.

And who else could be chairman?

"I don't really know, right now," Smith said. "I mean there are many good people in



James G. Smith Jr.

the party who could but I don't know who wants it."

HE said he had been extremely disappointed in the way State Chairman Henry Topel had not delivered last year on his promises to raise money and, while he liked the man, thought it might be best if he stepped down.

Smith also said new leadership was needed in Wilmington and New Castle County Democratic organizations.

It was not in the man to personally attack the leaders because he knew that would just split an already lacerated state party.

He said Topel, Wilmington Chairman Leo T. Marshall and

New Castle County Chairman Edward F. Peterson were doing the best they could.

BUT times were changing and different styles of running a party seemed needed.

"I don't know, though. Maybe I'm wrong," he reflected. "It's just that we seem more gentle mainly down here."

Smith expressed great hope that the recently formed Democratic Renewal Commission would successfully revitalize the party and that, most importantly, the party state convention would follow suit when it is called back to session by Topel.

At the end of the chat, Smith told the reporter he was going

out of town on Tuesday, the next day, and planned to be back Friday and if there was anything else he wanted to talk to him about, just call or drop in.

ONE of Smith's closest friends and his personal attorney was Maurice A. Hartnett III, treasurer of the Kent Democratic Committee.

He last saw Smith at a Dover City Council meeting last Monday night and rode home with him.

"Jimmy had a tremendous sense of humor, a dry sense of humor. As a matter of fact, we even joked about this airplane trip," Hartnett recalled.

He said that Smith was not a

flying enthusiast but "if you want to go somewhere, that's the way you go and he always wanted to go somewhere and see things."

Smith was wealthy, receiving some money from his successful father and earning more himself. He never denied his wealth but neither did he show it.

"I think Jimmy would have thought it a waste to live off inherited wealth," Hartnett said. "He saw money as a tool to be used well."

Smith graduated from Loomis High School in Windsor, Conn., in 1948 and from Johns Hopkins University four years later. He served two years in the army infantry.

The News Journal, Wednesday, January 20, 1971

A Delaware Tragedy

A DISASTER is defined as a calamitous event, especially one occurring suddenly and causing great damage or hardship, thus a word in appropriate use to describe what has happened to Kent County with the death of five of its residents—all men under 50, three 40 or under—in a plane crash.

Kent, the county of the state capital, is a community small enough to let the intimacy of one death afflict the minds and hearts of all, an area where a Dover man is sure to know the Harrington man or his family, a place broad enough in its geography yet close in its family feeling.

James Gordon Smith Jr., 40, was an auto dealer and radio station owner who was chairman of the Kent County Democratic Committee; Dr. James McAllister Chase Jr., 39, was a vascular surgeon in an area where there is no abundance of medical men; David Gamberg, 49, was a merchant who believed his community needed doers as well as sayers; Turner B. Hastings, 46, was a businessman who didn't shirk civic responsibility, and Mathew E. Mitten, 40, was a contractor whose belief in civic action also took him into an active role in Democratic politics.

Each of them, then, is an individual loss to his community. Taken all at once, it is a severe loss to their county and to their state.

Just before leaving on the ski trip, Mr. Smith told an interviewer, "Politics is the life blood of a government. It's the most vital thing an average citizen can do and, while that's high-sounding, it's damn true."

And, speaking of his beloved Kent County and its neighbor, Sussex, he said, "It's just that we seem more gentlemanly down here."

The five gentlemen believed in reaching out to touch their community. Now that they are gone the state-community — Kent, Sussex and New Castle—can only voice sorrow.

News Journal, Wed., Jan. 20, 1971

THIS COPY TO THE DEPT. OF HEALTH
 DH-PHS-BC-67 LOCAL FILE NUMBER [] VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH COPY OF CERTIFICATE OF DEATH STATE FILE NUMBER []
 Book 18 Page 78 00349

DECEASED—NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST SEX DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY, YEAR)
 1 James G Smith Male 3 January 15, 1971

RACE—WHITE, NEGRO, AMERICAN INDIAN, ETC. (SPECIFY) White AGE LAST BIRTH DAY (YEARS) 40 UNDER 1 YEAR MOS. DAYS UNDER 1 DAY HOURS MIN DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) 7/22/1930 COUNTY OF DEATH 7a Rutland

CITY, TOWN OF DEATH 7b Shrewsbury HOSPITAL OR OTHER INSTITUTION (IF NOT IN EITHER, GIVE STREET AND NUMBER) 7c Plane crash

DECEASED STATE OF BIRTH (IF NOT, IN U.S.A. NAME COUNTRY) 8 Delaware CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? 9 U.S.A. MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (SPECIFY) 10 Married SURVIVING SPOUSE (IF WIFE, GIVE MAIDEN NAME) 11 Sarah Townsend

SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 12 unknown USUAL OCCUPATION (KIND OF WORKS DONE MOST OF WORKING LIFE) 13a self employed BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY 13b Salesman WAS DECEASED A VETERAN OF ANY WAR? (YES OR NO; IF SO, WHAT WAR?) 14 unknown

RESIDENCE—STATE 15a Delaware COUNTY 15b unknown CITY, TOWN 15c Dover STREET AND NUMBER 15d 1371 S. State St.

FATHER—NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST MOTHER—MAIDEN NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST
 16 J Gordon Smith 17 Ella Bennett

INFORMANT—NAME 18a Sarah Smith MAILING ADDRESS (STREET OR R.F.D. NO., CITY OR TOWN, STATE, ZIP CODE) 18b 1371 S. State St., Dover, Delaware

PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: [ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (A), (B), AND (C).] APPROXIMATE INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH

19 IMMEDIATE CAUSE
 Fractured skull, laceration, contusion brain
 DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF:
 (B) Compound fractures both Tibia, Fibula lower 1/3
 DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF:
 (C) Multiple internal injuries

CAUSE 20 PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS, CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO CAUSE GIVEN IN PART I. (A) Fractured Ribs, contusion lung

ACCIDENT, SUICIDE, HOMICIDE, OR UNDETERMINED (SPECIFY) 21a 1-15-71 DATE OF INJURY (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) 21b 10:09 AM HOW DID INJURY OCCUR (ENTER NATURE OF INJURY IN PART I OR PART II) 21d Plane crash

INJURY AT WORK (SPECIFY YES OR NO) 21e PLACE OF INJURY AT HOME, FARM, FACTORY, STREET, OFFICE BLDG., ETC. (SPECIFY) 21f Shrewsbury, Vt wooded mountains LOCATION (STREET, OR R.F.D. NO., CITY OR TOWN, STATE) 21g Shrewsbury, Vt

PHYSICIAN 22a MONTH DAY YEAR AND LAST SAW HIM/HER ALIVE MONTH DAY YEAR I DID NOT VISIT THE BODY AFTER DEATH 22b died DEATH OCCURRED AT THE PLACE, ON THE DATE, AND TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, DUE TO THE CAUSE(S) STATED 22c 10.09 a.m.

MEDICAL EXAMINEE 22d ON THE BASIS OF THE EXAMINATION OF THE BODY AND/OR THE INVESTIGATION, IN MY OPINION, DEATH OCCURRED ON THE DATE AND DUE TO THE CAUSE(S) STATED HOUR OF DEATH 22e THE DECEDENT WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD ON MONTH DAY YEAR HOUR

CERTIFIER 23a J. Carleton Stickney M D 1009 a.m. 23b 1 16 71 12 Noon

CERTIFIER NAME (TYPE OR PRINT) 24a Med. Exam. SIGNATURE 24b J. Carleton Stickney M D DATE SIGNED MONTH DAY YEAR 24c 1-16-71

MAILING ADDRESS—CERTIFIER STREET OR R.F.D. NO. CITY OR TOWN STATE ZIP
 24d 99 Center Rutland Vt 05701

BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (SPECIFY) 25a Burial CEMETERY OR CREMATORY—NAME 25b Christ Church Cemetery LOCATION 25c Dover, Delaware CITY OR TOWN, STATE

DATE (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) 25d January 20, 1971 FUNERAL HOME—NAME 25e Ferguson & Hayes Funeral Home 140 S. State St. Dover, Del. (STREET OR R.F.D. NO., CITY OR TOWN, STATE, ZIP CODE)

FUNERAL DIRECTOR—SIGNATURE 26a Robert Dore REGISTRAR—SIGNATURE 26b Sadie R Hamilton DATE RECEIVED—BY LOCAL REGISTRAR (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) 26c 1-18-71

TRUE COPY CLERK'S SIGNATURE ATTEST 27a Sadie R Hamilton TOWN OF 27b Shrewsbury DATE (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) 27c Jan. 30, 1971

The Morning News, Monday, July 14, 1975

The James Gordon Smith Jr. Memorial Bulding will be dedicat-ed the week of the fair in memory of Smith, a former fair president who was killed several years ago in an air crash in Vermont. The museum will house souvenirs, relics and memorabilia for the state fair and the Harrington Raceway.

Morning News, Mon., July 14, 1975

News Journal, Mon. 04.25.1955 **Journal-Every**

Townsend-Smith Wedding Held in Selbyville Church



Miss Sarah Elizabeth Townsend Becomes Bride
Of James Gordon Smith, Jr., of Dover;
Reception Is Held in Ocean City

SELBYVILLE, Del., April 25—The wedding of Miss Sarah Elizabeth Townsend, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Covington Townsend of Selbyville, to Mr. James Gordon Smith, Jr., of Dover, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Gordon Smith of Dover, took place Saturday afternoon in the Salem Methodist Church, Selbyville. The Rev. Dr. Earl Cummings performed the ceremony.

Mr. Townsend gave his daughter in marriage.

A reception followed at the Francis Scott Key Hotel in Ocean City, Md.

The bride wore a gown of antique ivory gros de Londres, the neckline outlined in duchess lace, the full skirt terminated in a cotillion train. Her veil was of matching French illusion, the cap trimmed in tiny orange blossoms. She carried a cascade of lilies of the valley and white orchids.

Miss Diane Bennett Smith of Dover and sister of the bridegroom, was maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Miss Frances Stone Cook, Odessa; Miss Janet Louise Morris, Selbyville; and Grace Garnett Evans, Wilmington.

The attendants were gowned alike in champagne pleated nylon chiffon with scoop necklines and three quarter length sleeves. The full short skirts were belted with champagne satin. Their bouquets were of cornflowers and they wore matching headpieces.

Mr. Charles D. Murphy of

Milford served as best man for his brother. Ushers were Mr. Samuel M. Marshall, Jr., of Milford; Mr. F. Martin Taylor of Wilmington; Mr. Michael T. Keane, Washington, D. C.; Mr. Charles L. Goodrich, Rehoboth; Mr. David D. Wakefield, Washington, D. C., and Mr. William K. Paton, Dover.

Mrs. Townsend, mother of the bride, wore a dress of navy blue silk with matching accessories. Mrs. Smith, mother of the bridegroom, wore cocoa chiffon with beige accessories.

Following a wedding trip to Europe, the couple will reside in Dover.

The bride graduated from Roland Park Country School and attended the University of Delaware. Mr. Smith graduated from Loomis School and Johns Hopkins University.

Elsmere Circle 2
Plans Swap Shop
ELSMERE, April 25—(Special)—Mrs. Harold Shipley of Vilone Village recently entertained members of Circle 2 of

Baltimore Sun, Sunday April 24, 1955

Married In Delaware

Miss Sarah Elizabeth Townsend, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Covington Townsend, of Selbyville, Del., and Mr. James Gordon Smith, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. James Gordon Smith, of Dover, Del., were married yesterday at 4 P.M. at Salem Methodist Church, Selbyville.

The Rev. Dr. Earl Cummings, pastor of the church, performed the ceremony. A reception was held at the Francis Scott Key Hotel in Ocean City, Md.

The bride wore an antique ivory gown of Gros de Londres, with a neckline trimmed with duchess lace. Her illusion veil was trimmed with orange blossoms, and she carried a cascade bouquet of lilies of the valley and white orchids.

Attended School Here

Miss Diane Bennett Smith, sister of the bridegroom, was the maid of honor. The bridesmaids were Miss Janet Louise Morris, of Selbyville; Miss Frances Stone and Miss Grace G. Evans, of Wilmington.

Mr. Charles D. Murphy, of Milford, Del., was the best man. The ushers were Mr. William K. Paton, Jr., of Dover; Mr. Samuel M. Marshall, Jr., of Milford; Mr. David D. Wakefield and Mr. Michael Keane, of Washington; Mr. F. Martin Taylor and Mr. Charles L. Goodrich.

Miss Townsend is the great-niece of former Senator John G. Townsend, of Selbyville, who also served as governor of Delaware. She attended the Roland Park Country School in Baltimore. Mr. Smith was graduated from the Johns Hopkins University.

Baltimore Sun, Sunday April 24, 1955

The News Journal, Friday, March 30, 1973

Smith-Holt

The marriage of Mrs. James Gordon Smith Jr. of Dover and Nicholas Holt of San Francisco took place March 23.

The bride is the former Sarah Elizabeth Townsend, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Covington Townsend of Selbyville. She is the widow of Mr. Smith, former Kent County chairman of the Democratic Party and owner of Kent County Motor and Volkswagen of Dover. He was killed in a plane crash Jan. 15, 1971.

The groom is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Dean Holt of San Francisco.

Mrs. Holt was graduated from Roland Park Country School in Baltimore and attended the University of Delaware.

A graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, the groom also attended graduate school there. He is president of Holt Securities, a member of the Pacific Coast Stock Exchange.

After a wedding trip to London the couple will live in San Francisco.

News Journal, Fri., March 30, 1973