

The first wife of Palmer Smythies was Susan Puplet. This is shewn by an indenture dated 2 January 1732 which "Witnesseth that the said Palmer Smythies for and in consideration of the great affection & Love which he beareth unto Thamar Smythies, widow, mother of the s<sup>d</sup> Palmer Smythies, and Susan, William, Humphry, Ann, George, Thomas, & Charles, children of the s<sup>d</sup> Palmer Smythies by Susan his late wife heretofore Susan Puplet" . . . . "hath granted . . . . Edward Leeds and William Bree . . . . the White House . . . . Upon this special Trust and Confidence nevertheless . . . . that they . . . . shall permit and suffer the aforesaid Thamar Smythies, mother of the s<sup>d</sup> Palmer Smythies, to have and receive to her own use and benefit the rents, issues and profits . . . . during the term of her nat. Life if she shall so long continue Sole & unmarried," etc.

From the date of the birth of Palmer Smythies himself and of his eldest daughter Susan (see A 34, below) it is clear that he must have married his first wife *about* 1719 or a little earlier. Her death is recorded by a quaint inscription on a mural monument over the family vault in Mile End Churchyard. The wording is as follows: "Prudent and agreeable | modest without Affectation | sprightly with good Nature | the love of all that knew her | good without Ostentation | pious with Cheerfulness | relying on the Merits of | a crucified Saviour | thro' him beloved of God | SUSAN | the affectionate Wife of | PALMER SMYTHIES | the tender Mother of 10 | Children 7 of which survived | her. Died July the 24, 1731 | And lies buried close up to | this Wall in the Churchyard."

Nothing has so far been ascertained regarding her parents, but it is believed they belonged to Ipswich, where a street called Purplet Street still exists, and that they were possibly members of that colony of Huguenot refugees which at the end of the seventeenth and beginning of the eighteenth century settled in the eastern counties.

The second wife of Palmer Smythies was Elizabeth Brazier, daughter of Rev. John Brazier, Rector of Great Holland and Easthorp, who was a member of an old Essex family descending from Anthony Brazier, Rector of Ingatestone, who died 1609-10 (Letter from J. C. C. Smith, Esq., Probate Registry, Somerset House, dated 30 June 1881); she was, with her two sisters, coheirress of her father (informant, J. K. Smythies her great-grandson in 1880). She married 1732 (see dates: death of 1st wife and birth of first child by 2nd wife); died at Colchester and was buried at St. Michael's, Mile End, in the family vault there. Her will was proved 9 January 1799.

A small oval portrait of Palmer Smythies, painted in oils on canvas by George Roth in 1773, is in possession of Frank Borthwick Smythies, Esq. (B 51), and a copy of it, painted in oils from the original, is owned by Major Raymond Smythies (A 70), also a miniature reproduction on ivory.

(A 32) Furley Smythies, son of William Smythies (A 15) of Mile End, and younger brother of Palmer Smythies, was born 18 September 1693 and baptized 9 October following. (Add. MSS. 19,149, fo. 205.)

(A 33) Hephzibah Smythies, daughter of William Smythies (A 15) of Mile End, was born 14 July 1695 and baptized 11 August following (Add. MSS. 19,149, fo. 205); she married Alexander Meadows and had issue James, Hephzibah, and Sarah. (Add. MSS. 19,086 and will of William Smythies of Witlesham.)

(A 34) Susan Smythies, daughter of Palmer Smythies (A 31), was born 13 Jan. and baptized 25 January 1720-1 at St. Mary's-at-the-Walls, Colchester (Extract Family Bible and Add. MSS. 19,149, fo. 205). She was left £100 and an annuity by her father's will. (See A 31, above.)

(A 35) Richard Smythies, son of Palmer Smythies (A 31), was born 9 Dec.