

The Rollins House

This wonderful, restored house on West Meadow Street, now owned by the Owen family was originally built before at least 1890 and makes it one of the oldest still existing houses in Smithville. Unfortunately we have been unable to determine the exact year the house was built.

The group photograph was taken in the summer of 1893 shows sitting in chairs on the front porch William Penn Rollins (1841-1921) and his wife Rosella P. Aker (1847-1906), standing behind them from left to right are John Stroud Morton (1867-1930) and his wife Martha "Mattie" Rollins (1870-1954), she is holding the baby Lula L. Morton (1892), then Charles Rollins (1869-1899), Lillie Rollins (1875-1967), Nicholas "Nick" Rollins (1873-1918) and Franklin "Frank" Rollins (1871-1952). In front sitting on the stoop are William Penn Rollins (1878-????) and Rollie Rollins (1882-????).

John Stroud Morton's wedding to Martha Rollins took place in this house in 1892.

William Penn Rollins was the grandson of Joshua (Rollins) Rawlings (1766-1801) and Mary Sophia Kennedy (1779-1868), his Father and Mother were : Lee Rollins (1801-1854) and Susan Penn (1804-1869), Lee emigrated from Bourbon County, Kentucky, to Clay County, Missouri, with his mother, Sophia, his wife, Susan, their five children, and their slaves in the fall of 1830 and settled about 3.5 miles northeast of Smithville. The journey took them six weeks.

Rosella P. Aker (1847-1906), was the granddaughter of John Aker (1785-1835) and Mary Sidener (1792-1881) and her Father and Mother were Willis F. Aker (1812-1857) and Martha Nancy "Patsy" Owens (1816-????). Her Grandparents were the first Akers to arrive in Clay county and are buried at the Aker cemetery.

John Stroud Morton (1867-1930) was the grandson of John Morton (1802-1851) and Juliette Harris (1801-????) and his father and mother were Columbus H Morton (1836-1885) and Sarah Brasfield (1842-1910).