

## 4. Elizabeth Jane Smeltzer Zimmerman

Elizabeth Jane Smeltzer was born on April 25, 1889, daughter of Jacob and Gladys Smeltzer. Like many names of the era in the Pennsylvania Dutch region, the spelling of the name could vary over time, with a more Germanic "Schmeltzer" also being reported. Elizabeth had four brothers (Thomas, Walter, Christian, and Howard) and one sister (Francis).

Little is known regarding Elizabeth's childhood. She grew up in the Kulpmont, Pennsylvania area, which is in Northumberland county just northwest of the Deep Creek Valley in Schuylkill County. Her maternal grandfather, James L. Pell, fought and died fighting for the union at Gettysburg.

Elizabeth had her first child, Mary Emma (or Emma as she will later be known), in September of 1909 at the age of twenty. The father is unknown, but is believed to be from the Shamokin, Pennsylvania area. She had her second child, Mildred Viola, a little over five years later in February 1915. Mildred's father was Henry Tschapp.

Shortly after Mildred's birth, Elizabeth married a widower named John Zimmerman and had six more children:

James Royce            born 12/12/19  
George Raymond      born 2/17/23



*Emma Smeltzer as a child*

Robert Eugene        born 2/27/25  
Jane Elizabeth        born 7/10/27  
Ruth Arlene            born 7/24/32  
Jack Richard          born 2/18/34

*July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1941*  
*Believe in the Lord and*  
*your Prayers shall be*  
*answered*

*Mr. John Smeltzer*  
*Garden*  
*Pa*

*uncle Tom*

John Zimmerman also had 8 children from his first wife, Ida Kessler, who died in 1916. Their names were Mabel, Leona, John, Elva, Allen, Gertrude, Alice and Audrey. It is believed that Ida was not related to the Charles Kesslers.

**Uncle Tom Smeltzer's autograph to  
young Arlene Kessler in 1941**