

DAVID EDWARD SMITH.

David Edward Smith, an honored member of the legal profession of Adams county, was born in Mercer county, Ohio , on December 20, 1867. He was less than one year old when the family came to Indiana and has resided in Adams county ever since. He attended the district schools and was later graduated from the Decatur high school and completed his school work with a two-years course in the Indiana University at Bloomington. After leaving the university he further prosecuted his law studies in the office of Van Vorhis & Spencer, and in January, 1892, was admitted to the bar of Adams county. He at once became a member of the law firm of Schurger, Reed & Smith, which continued until 1898, when Mr. Reed removed to Fort Wayne, and the firm has since been Schurger & Smith, and the volume of legal business transacted by this firm is second to none in the county. Mr. Smith is an active worker in the ranks of the Democratic party, serving as a delegate to county, district and state conventions, where he makes some splendid stump speeches, and his advice is continually sought in the councils of his party. He has served four years as prosecuting attorney. Fraternally Mr. Smith is a thirty-second-degree Mason and Knight Templar, being past master of Decatur Lodge, No. 571, Free and Accepted Masons, and past exalted ruler of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

On March 27, 1897, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Ethel Hale, the daughter of John D. Hale, and to this union have been born four children: Byard H., Ramona, Dorathy and Gretchen.

The paternal grandparents were Robert and Mariah (Drake) Smith, natives of England , and who were the parents of two children. Upon emigrating to the United States they first located in Columbiana county, Ohio, subsequently removing to Piqua, where Mrs. Smith's death occurred. The husband then removed to Sidney, Ohio, and here died at the advanced age of eighty-two years. They had four children, all of whom attained their majority, married and reared families, namely: Ann , who was twice married, first to John O. Wiley and second to James Clarkson; she resides at Piqua, Ohio; John E., who resides at Decatur; Mary, who married Charles Clarkson, and died in Illinois; James Harrison, who is the father of our subject.

James Harrison Smith was born in Columbiana county, Ohio , on October 5, 1844, and was reared on a farm and removed with his family to the western part of the state. At Sidney, Ohio , in August, 1861, he enlisted and was mustered into service as private in Company K, Twentieth Ohio Regiment, and so served until July, 1865. He participated in the battles at Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg and in the numerous engagements encountered while with Sherman on his march to the sea. While at Raymond, near Vicksburg, he was wounded and was taken prisoner and confined in Libby prison.

After being mustered out of service he returned to Sidney, Ohio, and was united in marriage with Miss Hettie Smythe. In 1868 he removed to Adams county, where for a number of years he worked in saw mills and factories, and finally settled at Decatur, where for eighteen years he served as justice of the peace. He is past commander of Sam Henry Post, No. 63, Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have two children - David E., whose name introduces this sketch, and Eva G., the wife of Dorsey Hoagland.