

JOSEPH W. SMITH, farmer, is a native of St. Mary's Township, this county, born December 7, 1843, a son of Zachariah and Susanna (McClellan) Smith, who were of German and Irish descent. His parents settled in Adams County in a very early day, his father being the first sheriff of the county. Joseph has in his possession deeds signed by Andrew Jackson. His father was drowned while attempting to cross the St. Mary's River, and his mother is still living. Joseph remained at home with his mother until 1862, when he enlisted in defense of his country, and was assigned to Company I, Eighty-ninth Indiana Infantry. His regiment was captured by General Bragg at Munfordville, Kentucky, and after their parole participated in the Red River expedition and the Missouri and Tupelo expedition, and were then ordered to Nashville, where they fought two days, and at one time took more prisoners than there were soldiers in their regiment. Mr. Smith participated in many severe battles and skirmishes, the more important being as follows: Munfordville, Kentucky, September 14, 1862; Fort DeRussey, Louisiana, March 14, 1864; Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, April 9, 1864; Marksville Prairie, Louisiana, May 16, 1864; Yellow Bayou, Louisiana, May 18, 1864; Tupelo, Mississippi, July 14, 1864; Nashville, Tennessee, October 15 and 16, 1864; Fort Blakely, Alabama, April 9, 1865. He was honorably discharged July 19, 1865. In February, 1866, he was married to Catherine Gulick, and to them were born five children - Annis, born May 22, 1867; Marietta, born August 28, 1868; Samuel W., July 17, 1870; Amos Z., January 4, 1872; William H., October 23, 1874. Mrs. Smith died in November, 1874, and April 17, 1876, Mr. Smith married Adeline Britton. They have had four children - Albert, Born May 25, 1867; Willie F., July 3, 1869; Ora and Cora (twins), August 12, 1871. Cora died October 12, 1871 and Ora August 2, 1872.

Birth dates, etc. of children are entered as they were in the book.

.....

Snow's History of Adams County, Indiana, John Fletcher Snow, B. F. Bowen, Indianapolis, IN, 1907, p. 342 (image 701).

JOSEPH W. SMITH.

Joseph W. Smith was born in Washington township, Adams county, Indiana, December 7, 1843. He is the son of Zacharias and Susanna (McClellan) Smith. His father was born in Virginia and his mother in Pennsylvania. His parents were married in Fayette county, Ohio, where they settled at an early date, and then came to Indiana in 1833, settling on a farm in Washington township, Adams county. They lived on this farm in Washington township for about twelve years and then moved to a farm in Saint Mary's township. Shortly after coming to Saint Mary's township Zacharias Smith met an accidental death in his thirty-seventh year by drowning. His wife continued to reside on the homestead until 1861, when she made her home with her children. She died in Saint Mary's township at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Jane Acker, in her seventy-eighth year.

Mr. and Mrs. Zacharias Smith were the parents of nine children, of whom Joseph W. Smith was the youngest. He lived on the homestead after his father's death and assisted in its cultivation until his eighteenth year. In the meantime he had secured as good an education as the district schools afforded. When he was eighteen years, of age he decided to make a place for himself and accordingly he left his home. He worked at various forms of employment until August, 1862. At this time the

Civil war was drawing on all parts of the north for volunteers and the various calls for soldiers had been made by President Lincoln. Young Smith was attacked by the war fever and he decided to get into the fray. Accordingly he enlisted in Company I, Eighty-ninth Indiana Volunteers, and was soon at the front with his regiment as a part of the Army of the Cumberland. Almost from the start of his campaigning he was under fire. At the engagement fought at Mumfordsville, Kentucky, he was taken prisoner by the Confederate forces. He was held but a short time and then paroled. Soon after receiving his parole he was exchanged and he rejoined his regiment and served to the close of the war. He served his country with gallantry and distinction and after the close of the war received an honorable discharge. When his regiment was disbanded he returned to Adams county and resumed his work of farming.

The marriage of Mr. Smith and Miss Catherine Gulick was celebrated in Saint Mary's township in February, 1866. His wife was a daughter of Amos and Elizabeth (Acker) Gulick, who were among the earliest settlers of Adams county. Mr. and Mrs. Smith became the parents of five children, four of whom lived to maturity. One child died in infancy. Those living are: Annie, the wife of Albert Chronister; Maryette, the wife of J. A. Hendricks; Samuel W. and Amos Z. Mrs. Smith died in Saint Mary's township in her twenty-ninth year, in September, 1873, and her husband took a second wife. His second marriage was contracted with Mrs. Adeline (Acker) Britton, the widow of David Britton, who died in Saint Mary's in 1872. The Smith-Britton wedding was celebrated April 15, 1876. By her first marriage Mrs. Smith was the mother of two children: Albert and William Floyd. She was born in Saint Mary's township, February 25, 1848, and is a daughter of Samuel and Catherine (Kiser) Acker, who were among the pioneers of Adams county. They were the parents of seven children, of whom Mrs. Smith is the youngest. She was reared and educated in Saint Mary's township and has lived there all of her life. Mr. and Mrs. Smith had by their marriage six children: Marion, Nora D., Mintie, who died when fourteen years of age; Faye, Rose and Carl.

Mr. Smith is the owner of one hundred and eighty-four acres of productive farm land. His estate is all under cultivation and is highly improved. His buildings are in excellent condition and are large and comfortable. As a whole, his farm ranks among the best in the county, and is one of the most attractive. He is interested in public affairs and takes an active part in those affecting his township and county. He has served as township trustee for seven years. His wife is an active and honored member of the Presbyterian church and takes much interest in the charities and work of this denomination.