

SMITH, AUSTIN B.

Austin B. SMITH, local agent for the Dollings Investment Company at Dunkirk and one of the active factors in the commercial life of that city and of Jay county, is a native Hoosier and has lived in this state all his life. He was born in Hancock county on August 6, 1878, son and only child of Isaac and Ruth E. (PRICE) SMITH, the former of whom was born in that same county, a member of one of the pioneer families there. For some years in the days of his young manhood Isaac SMITH was engaged as a school teacher in his home county and then took up carpentering, a vocation which he long followed.

Austin B. SMITH received his schooling in Hancock county and upon completing the course in the high school became a grocery clerk, presently buying a grocery store at Anderson, Ind. [Madison Co.] A year later he sold this store and became engaged in the restaurant business at Anderson, continuing thus engaged for two years, at the end of which time he disposed of that business and went to Hartford City, [Blackford Co.] where he again became engaged in the grocery business. About a year later he accepted an offer to take service in the Citizens State Bank at Hartford City and was for eight years connected with that institution. In 1911 Mr. SMITH was transferred from the bank at Hartford City to the Citizens Bank of Dunkirk, as cashier of the latter institution, and remained there until he accepted his present position as the local agent for the Dollings Investment Company at Dunkirk. Mr. SMITH is a Democrat, a Mason and an Odd Fellow and he and his wife are members of the Methodist church.

In 1901 Austin B. SMITH was united in marriage to Edna D. SEAMAN, who was born in Blackford county, this state, daughter of John and Margaret SEAMAN, and to this union two children have been born, Jeannette and Margaret, the former of whom, on September 22, 1920, was married to Wilbur TRADER, of Dunkirk, and has one child, a daughter, Jean Alberta.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.376-377. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.