

SMITH, DILLWYN P.

Dillwyn P. SMITH, one of Jay county's sturdy octogenarian farmers and landowners, now living practically retired at his pleasant farm home on rural mail route No. 4 out of Bryant, section 16 of Penn township, was born in that township and has lived there all his life. Mr. SMITH was born on February 14, 1840, and is a son of Edmund and Eliza (BUTTON) SMITH, the latter of whom was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, from which county so many of the early settlers of Penn township came. Edmund SMITH was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania. His father died when he was a child and the family later became residents of Columbiana county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood and was married. He grew up as a carpenter and cabinet maker and was married in Columbiana county, not long afterward (in 1838) coming over into Indiana with a one-horse wagon and settling in Penn township, this county, where he had leased a quarter of a section of land for a period of five years and proceeded to clear fifteen acres, dig a well and put up a cabin and barn for the rental of the place for five years. In the early '40s he bought the "eighty" on which his son Dillwyn is now living in section 14 and established his home there, erecting in 1850 the house which still is used as a residence on the place. Edmund SMITH was a skilled carpenter and cabinet maker and the shop which he set up on his place was largely patronized by his pioneer neighbors, much of the furniture used in the neighborhood being made by him, as well as the coffins of that time and place, and as the log houses came to be replaced by frame houses his services were much in demand as a builder. The price of coffins in those days ranged from \$5 for the coffin of a grown person to \$1.25 for that of a child, this price including conveyance to the cemetery in a farm wagon in the case of an adult or on horseback in the case of a child. Edmund SMITH later added an adjoining tract of ten acres to his place and thus was the owner of ninety acres, on which he was living at the time of his death in 1853, he then being but thirty-eight years of age. His widow survived until February 27, 1891. They had eight children, Maria, Maurice, Dillwyn, Charles E., Joseph D., Mary Johanna, Caroline and Edmund, Jr., of whom but three are now living, the subject of this sketch and his brothers, Charles E. SMITH, of West Branch, Iowa, and Joseph D. SMITH, of Twin Falls, Idaho.

Dillwyn P. SMITH was reared on the home place in Penn township and was educated in the West Grove school and in the Paxson school, completing his public schooling when twenty years of age. He was but thirteen years of age when his father died and his youth was given up to the development of the home farm, which he bought after his marriage and established his home there, having thus been proprietor of this place since 1862. Of late years Mr. SMITH has been living retired from the active labors of the farm, the management of which is in the hands of his son, Louis A. SMITH, further mention of whom is made elsewhere. Mr. SMITH for many years has been an ardent Prohibitionist and for more than fifty years has been a member of the United Brethren church.

It was on December 8, 1861, that Dillwyn P. SMITH was united in marriage to Sarah DUGDALE, a daughter of William and Anna (HILLIS) DUGDALE, and to this union were born five children, Eva, Mary Eliza, Charles W., Louis A. and Anna L., all of whom are living. The mother of these children died on September 20, 1904. Eva SMITH married Sylvester HUNT, who died leaving four children, Emily A., Mabel, Leslie D. and Harland. Emily A. HUNT married Henry M. GRAVES and has six children, Edward, Paul, Justine, Ralph, Wilbur and Lois GRAVES. Leslie D. HUNT married Gladys CRAMPTON and has two children, Donald F. and Minnie Evelyn. Mrs. Eva SMITH HUNT married (secondly) William D. SLAY. Mary Eliza SMITH married P. MONTGOMERY and has two children, Ada and Mark MONTGOMERY. Charles W. SMITH married Carrie LEWIS and has one child, Helen Dean. Louis A. SMITH, as is set out elsewhere, married Harriet MENDENHALL and has four children, Vera, who married Harvey ENGLE and has one child, Robert Louis ENGLE, Elva (deceased), Dwight and Lloyd. Anna L. SMITH married Forest A. BROWN, who died leaving one child, a daughter, Mildred BROWN.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.317-318. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.