

## SMITH, LEWIS M.

Lewis M. SMITH, a substantial retired farmer of Richland township who for the past ten years has made his home at Dunkirk, is a native son of Jay county and has lived here all his life. Mr. SMITH was born in Richland township and is a member of one of the real pioneer families of the county, as is his wife, the latter of whom is a daughter of Isaiah SUTTON, the man who laid out the town of Dunkirk. Mr. SMITH was born on July 15, 1854, and is a son of Matthew and Elizabeth (HAGLER) SMITH, the latter of whom was born in Ohio. Matthew SMITH was a Virginian by birth and when about ten years of age accompanied his parents to Ohio, the family locating in Greene county. His father came over into Indiana on a prospecting tour about the time the lands in Jay county were opened for settlement and "entered" an "eighty" in Richland township. Matthew SMITH grew up in Greene county (Ohio) and when he married his father gave him the "eighty" in Richland township, this county, and here he established his home. He was a good farmer and as he cleared his land added to his holding until he became the owner of an excellent tract of 640 acres and was accounted one of the substantial men of the community, as well as one of the leaders in the public life of the county, he having served as a representative from this district to the Indiana General Assembly, this district then comprising the counties of Jay and Blackford, and he also served for some time as a member of the board of county commissioners .of Jay county. He and his wife were the parents of four children, of whom two are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mrs. Laura GREEN, of Redkey.

Reared on the home farm in Richland township, Lewis M. SMITH received his early schooling in the old Booth school, of which interesting mention is made elsewhere in this work, and supplemented this by a course in the old academy at Ridgeville. He remained at home, helpful in the; labors of the farm, until his marriage at the age of twenty-four. His father then gave him a tract of 100 acres and on this place he established his home. He later added an adjacent tract of sixty-five acres, this giving him an excellent farm of 165 acres, which he improved and developed in admirable fashion and on which he continued to make his home until his retirement in 1912, and removal to Dunkirk, where he has since resided, he and his wife being very comfortably situated in the home on East Commerce street which they bought upon leaving the farm. For some years after leaving the farm Mr. SMITH continued to give general supervisory direction to the operation of the same, but in 1917, sold the place and has since been living practically retired. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Dunkirk and are Republicans.

It was on October 16, 1878, that Lewis M. SMITH was united in marriage to Emily SUTTON, who was born at Dunkirk (then called Quincy), daughter of Isaiah and Rebecca (STEWART) SHROYER - SUTTON, the former of whom was the founder of the town, as is set out at length elsewhere, and who is thus referred to in affectionate memory as "the father of Dunkirk." Isaiah SUTTON was the father of twelve children, of

whom three are still living, Mrs. SMITH having a brother, Philip R. SUTTON, and a sister, Martha E. To Mr. and Mrs. SMITH five children have been born. Of these four are living, namely: Mabel, who married Earl REMALY, who is connected with the steel mills at Gary; Ethel, who married Rollie COOK, a grocer, of Dunkirk; Nellie, who married A. B. GREEN, a commercial traveler, now living at Marion, Ind., and has one child, a son, Robert S., and Merrill, who married Carrie WOLF and is now living at Flint, Mich. Merrill SMITH served as a soldier during the time of America's participation in the World war, in the Motor Mechanics Corps, serving from March 29, 1918, to July 14, 1920, and during this time was in overseas service for eleven months.

**SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.142-143. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.**