

PALMER J. SMITH, the present auditor of Jay County, is a worthy representative of one of the pioneer families of Knox Township. His father, Abraham C. Smith, settled in Knox Township, Jay County, in 1838. He had come here in 1836 and entered a section of land on the northwest quarter of section 24, where he had erected a log cabin, into which his family removed on coming to the county in 1838. The father lived on this land until his death, which occurred in November, 1863. He was a native of Pennsylvania, where he grew to manhood, and married Elizabeth Dill, who was also a native of the Keystone State. The town of Dillsburg, in York County, Pennsylvania, was built on her father's farm, hence the name. In May 1834, he removed with his family from Pennsylvania to Clarke County, Ohio, coming to Indiana from the Buckeye State, and was prominently identified with the early history of Jay County. He served as probate judge of Jay County for seven years. Judge Smith, after his election to the bench, took an active interest in the early political and civil history of the county. He was highly respected and esteemed wherever he was known. He and his wife were consistent and influential members of the Presbyterian church. They were the parents of twelve children of whom six sons and three daughters grew to maturity. The following still survive - Thomas D., living in Randolph County; Mrs. Sophia Croft, of Montgomery County, Ohio; David G., and Mrs. Maria E. Bowman, residents of Knox Township, Jay County; Palmer J., the subject of this sketch, and William G., a physician of Winchester, Randolph County.

Palmer J. Smith was born in Clarke County, Ohio, the date of his birth being September 11, 1834. He was reared on his father's farm, receiving his primary education at the public schools, which was supplemented by a course of study at the Wittenberg College, in Clarke County, Ohio. At the age of eighteen years he began teaching school, which he followed during the winter terms for a number of years. He has long been connected with the school interests of his township, and for nine years was school trustee. He was also assessor for two years in Knox Township. For ten years he was engaged in mercantile pursuits at Redkey. In 1862 he offered his services as a volunteer in the defense of his country, but owing to physical disability was not accepted, but later in the war served four months, mostly on provost duty.

His wife was formerly Miss Jennie S. Winters, and is a daughter of Erastus Winters of Knox Township. They are the parents of three children - Wilburn Lee, who is now serving as deputy auditor; George H. and Hattie E. Mr. Smith is serving his second term as county auditor, having been elected to that office in 1882, and re-elected in November, 1886. He is a competent and popular county official, and is a worthy and respected citizen.

**Biographical and Historical Record of Jay County, Indiana, Lewis Publishing Co, Chicago, 1887, p. 336-337.**