

William F. Smith, an enterprising and progressive citizen of Wayne Township, engaged in farming on section 36, was born in Morgan County, Ohio, March 31, 1840, a son of Moses and Anna (Tanner) Smith. He was reared in his native county until eleven years of age, when the family removed to Randolph County, Indiana, settling near Bartonian, where they remained two years. In 1853, the family came to Jay County, and located on section 36, Wayne Township, on the farm still occupied by Moses Smith. Our subject was reared on a farm and received his education in the district schools and at Liber College. In July, 1862, he enlisted in the defense of the Union, in Company F, Seventy-Fifth Indiana Infantry. He participated in the battles of Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, and a few days later in December, 1862, he was captured by the enemy. He was first imprisoned in Atlanta, Georgia, some three weeks, and then was taken to Pemberton and a week later was taken to Libby Prison, where he was confined for ten days. He was then taken to Belle Island, where he was held until March 12, and was then imprisoned in Andersonville until the end of the summer. From Andersonville, he was taken to Savannah, Georgia and from there was taken to Charleston, where with 1,500 Union prisoners; he was positioned in range of the guns of the Union bombarding the place. From Charleston, he was taken to Florence Stockade in South Carolina, where he remained until paroled. He was then taken to Charleston where he was put on board a Government boat and taken to Annapolis, Maryland. When he was taken prisoner his weight was 185 pounds, and the horrible privations and sufferings he endured reduced him to ninety-seven pounds. Of the 100 men captured and taken to Atlanta, he was one of four who lived through their imprisonment in those rebel dungeons. After remaining in hospital at Annapolis for a time, Mr. Smith was granted a furlough and returned to Jay County, remaining there several weeks when he rejoined the Union troops a short time before the close of the war. He was honorably discharged at Indianapolis at the close of the war, when he returned to his house in Jay County and resumed his farming operations.

August 16, 1866, he was married to Miss Mary C. Hardy, a daughter of Curtis Hardy, a prominent pioneer of Jay County, now deceased. They have one son - Albert Finley, born May 26, 1867. Mr. Smith located on his present farm in December, 1866, then a tract of heavily timbered land, which he has improved in a good manner. He now has 105 acres cleared and under laid with about 400 rods of tile. The remaining fifteen acres of his farm is yet covered with timber. He has a comfortable hewed log house 20x22 feet in size, a large frame barn 34x50 feet, conveniently arranged for his stock, grain and hay, and his entire surrounds show care and thrift.

He is a worthy member of the Christian Church, and is a deacon in the same. In politics he is a Republican, being a strong adherent of the principles of the party,.