

Commemorative Biographical Encyclopedia of The Juniata Valley, comprising the Counties of Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata and Perry, Pennsylvania. 1897, J. M. Runk and Company, Publishers, Chambersburg, PA

David H. Smith, Elliottsburg, Perry County, Pa., son of **William** and **Hannah (Cornman) Smith**, was born in Carroll Township, Perry County, March 25, 1846. His father was of Scotch-Irish descent. The records of the family show that **John Smith** was born in Ireland in 1668 and that in 1720 he and his wife **Susannah** emigrated to the United States and settled in Uwchland township, Chester county. Pa. **John Smith** brought with him his sister **Mary**, who some time afterwards married **Alexander Fulton**. **Alexander** and **Mary (Smith) Fulton** became residents of Little Britain, Lancaster County, Pa., where **Robert Fulton**, the inventor of the steamboat, was born. **Robert Fulton** married **Mary Smith**, who was probably his cousin. **John** and **Susannah Smith** had fifteen children; in his will, dated February 12, 1761, he mentions sons: **James; John; Abraham; Robert;** and **Isaac**. **Robert** was known as **Col. Robert Smith**. The third of these sons, **Abraham Smith**, removed first to Berks and afterwards to Perry County.

He served in the Continental army; but from which county he enlisted is not known. **Abraham Smith** had the following sons: **Frederick**, who died in the beginning of the present century, and is buried at Loysville, Pa.; **John**, who is buried at Plymouth, Ind.; **Abraham, Jr.**, buried at Sandy Hollow, Pa.; and **Solomon**, the grandfather of **David H. Smith**. **Abraham Smith** is buried at Loysville, Pa., beside his son. When he died, there was no hearse in the country, so his body was conveyed to the grave on the bed of a large four horse wagon, the friends riding on the same wagon.

Solomon Smith was born October 21, 1791, and died August 7, 1884; he is buried near Dellville. Pa. He was a noted hunter; he sometimes killed as many as three deer in one day on ground where today you could hardly find a squirrel. He took great delight in telling his grandchildren about the last Indian massacre, on Sherman's creek, as he was near the place at the time it occurred; he often pointed out the graves of the victims. **Solomon Smith** had sons: **Abraham**, who served in the war of 1861 to 1865 with his six sons; **Frederick**, who died at Plymouth, Ind.; **John**, who lost his life in the army; **David**, now of Hogestown, Cumberland County, Pa., who served faithfully with the Seventh Pennsylvania Reserve; and **William**, the father of **David H. Smith**. **Solomon Smith** lived the life of a zealous Christian; and it was said of him that he had not an enemy in the world. **William Smith** was married to **Hannah Cornman**, of Carroll Township. Perry County, by **Jacob Shull** January 24, 1813. They had eight sons and five daughters. The eldest of the sons is **David H.** In April, 1871, **William Smith** moved to Cerro Gordo, Piatt County, Ill., where he died, April 18, 1887, aged sixty-seven years, nine months and eight days. **Hannah Smith** also died there, September 7, 1890, aged sixty-five years. They lie buried in the cemetery at Cerro Gordo, Ill., beside their son **James**, who died April 28, 1879, aged twenty-nine years.

David H. Smith attended the public schools of Spring Township, whither his father had moved in 1855, and also helped his father on the farm until he was seventeen years of age. He then enlisted, June 23, 1863, in Company F, First Battalion of Pennsylvania Volunteers, for six months, under Capt. Joseph Ege, of Newville, Pa. During this term of service, he acted as a guard to President Lincoln, and stood behind him when he spoke at Gettysburg. Pa., on the 19th

day of November, 1860. He was discharged January 9, 1861. On February 19, 1861, he again enlisted, in Company D, Twentieth Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, for three years, or during the war. This company was commanded by Capt. Frank Diles, a Prussian. On June 5, 1864, Mr. Smith was shot through the head from ear to ear, at the battle of Piedmont, Va., while serving under General Hunter. He lay unconscious on the field for three days and nights. On the third day he was found by his comrades and taken to Staunton, thirteen miles distant, where he was captured by the enemy and taken to Andersonville prison. There he lay on the sand for five months and nineteen days, no one to hand him a drink or give him shelter of any kind. Finally, on November 20, 1864, Mr. Smith was exchanged at Savannah. His wound is still open and very severe; he has lain screaming with pain as much as thirteen days and nights at a time, without food or sleep. The ball is still in his head, although he was under treatment at Annapolis, Md., and in Philadelphia, where he was at the Chestnut Hill hospital. He was treated by surgeons like Agnew and Palmer, but could not obtain relief from the intolerable suffering with which his years are to be burdened. He was discharged from the service June 13, 1865. He then returned to his home and assisted his father until the spring of 1866, when he went to Decatur, Ill., and remained there eight months. Then once more he returned to his father, and remained with him until his marriage.

Mr. Smith is a member of Sergeant John Jones Post, No. 448, G. A. R., at New Bloomfield, Pa., and when his health permits, travels and lectures for the Grand Army. He is a Republican; he voted for Lincoln when eighteen years of age, the ballot being a black soup bean. **David H. Smith**, was married November 12, 1868, to **Margaret M. Loose**, of Spring Township. They have had seven children; two of them, **Harry Milton** and **Mary Frances**, died of diphtheria, December 23, 1876; they were buried in one coffin at the Ludolph Church, near the place where they died, and where the parents still live. **William A.** and **Florence** live near Cerro Gordo, Ill.; **David H., Jr.**, is a painter, and lives in Marysville, Pa.; **Jesse Alvin** and **Roy Edwin** are still at home. Mr. Smith is a Christian, a faithful member of the church, and has often served as class leader and superintendent of the Sabbath School.