

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

**William Henry Smith**, postmaster, Newport, Perry County, Pa., is a son of **Emanuel and Mary (Miller) Smith**. His father was twice married; his first marriage was to **Miss Mary Miller**, who died in 1868. Their children are: **Lizzie (Mrs. Long)**, has twelve children; **William Henry; Catherine (Mrs. J. Specht)**, resides in Virginia; **John F.**, postmaster at Mannsville, Perry County, an able and eloquent advocate of the free coinage of silver; **Samuel**, M. D., of Carlisle, Pa.; **Ella; Lucy**, widow of **George Wright**; and **Lyda M.**, at home. The second wife of **Mr. Smith** was a widow, **Mrs. Miller**, who survives him, **Emanuel Smith** being deceased.

**William Henry Smith** is one of the prominent and prosperous men of Newport. His advancement and success are due for the most part to his strong native talents and his indomitable pluck and persistency. His opportunities for acquiring an education were limited, and while they were as well improved as his busy boyhood would allow, were insufficient to prepare him for the work of life. But this lack of opportunities was made up by industrious application, quick and accurate observation, and the untiring energy with which he sought useful knowledge outside of schools and books. Few men are more ready and accurate in the use of figures than **Mr. Smith**, yet this skill was acquired after he had embarked in business. Until he reached his nineteenth year, he was employed on the mountains, peeling bark, cutting wood and hauling logs; after which he entered upon an apprenticeship of three years with **Samuel Raffensberger**, blacksmith, at Marklesville, Pa. Having completed his trade, he concluded to try his fortune in the west, and went to Morgan County, Mo., where he worked at the forge. Here he had been employed but a short time when he had the misfortune to sustain a fracture of the wrist. This discouraging accident compelled him to seek for a time some other occupation. His pluck availed him here. He had still two good legs, one good arm and a strong will, and these enabled him to accept an offer made him by a farmer to take charge of and drive a team of oxen, another man guiding the plow in breaking up prairie land. After nearly a year in this place, **Mr. Smith** fully recovered his strength, and returned to the east, where he found employment at his trade at Cunningham, Luzerne County, Pa., for one year. Afterwards, for eight or ten years, he conducted business in a shop of his own at New Bloomfield, Pa. Next, forming a partnership with **Mr. Young**, he embarked at Newport in the business of selling implements, as agents of the Triumph and Osburn companies, **Mr. Smith** taking the road as a traveling salesman. At the same time, he became an agent of the Standard Oil Company. In these ventures he met with gratifying success.

As a life-long Democrat, **Mr. Smith** has been active and has become prominent in the party. In 1884, he was called to the chairmanship of the Democratic County committee, and in 1885 was honored by being made the candidate of his party for the State legislature, but was defeated at the polls by a small majority. In 1896, he received his appointment and commission as postmaster at Newport, Pa.

**Mr. Smith** was married at New Bloomfield, Pa., to **Miss Maggie**, daughter of **Solomon Baxter**, who lost his life in battle. **Mrs. Smith** died without issue. After remaining a widower four years, **Mr. Smith** was married to **Miss Clara E. Clark**, of Perry County, Pa., by whom he has

two children: **Ralph T.**; and **Viola May**. The popularity of **Mr. Smith** is due to his kindness of heart, his abounding good will to everybody, and his jovial and companionable disposition. He is universally esteemed.

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