

JOHN SMITH, a veteran of the Civil war, is the owner of 150 acres of farming land in Canoe township, Indiana county. He was born in Butler county, Pa., May 13, 1839, son of Henry and Elizabeth (Sincon) Smith.

Henry Smith, father of John Smith, was born in Schlichter, Germany. For some years he served in the German army, and he also followed the trade of tailor. In his native country he was married, and in 1836 came to the United States, settling at Harmony, Butler Co., pa. There he spent something over two years engaged in farming, and then came to Canoe township, Indiana county, taking up fifty acres of timber land, and at once beginning its development, for it was covered with timber and wholly unimproved. The effort required in clearing a farm is long and laborious. Trees were cut down, stumps grubbed up, the land plowed, the seed planted, and in due season abundant harvests were gathered, but all this was the work of years, and unremittingly Mr. Smith labored on until he had transformed his wild land into a rich and valuable farm. Here he and his faithful wife, who cheerfully shared the hardships and privations of pioneer existence, spent the remainder of their lives, both dying in the faith of the Evangelical Association. They became the parents of ten children, as follows: Catherine, deceased, married William Smith, of Young township, Jefferson county; Adam, who is engaged in farming near Cloe, Jefferson county, served in Company I, 162d Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and was wounded in the battle of Bull Run; John is mentioned below; Elizabeth, deceased, married George Smith, of Young township, Jefferson county; Mary, deceased, married Jacob Dunmire, of Canoe township; Lavina, deceased, was the wife of George Smith, of Jefferson county; Maggie married Stewart Miller, of Canoe township, George, an agriculturist of canoe township, married Mary Bann; Henry, living on the old homestead in canoe township, married Rachel Dunmire; a daughter died in infancy.

John Smith received but few advantages of an educational nature in his boyhood, and until he was eighteen years of age was engaged in assisting his father in the work on the home place. AT that time he wandered from the parental roof to take up the battle of life on his own account, and for some years was engaged in working on various farms in the vicinity of his home. On July 13, 1863, he enlisted in the Union army, becoming a private in Company L, 102d Regiment, P.V.I., known as the old 13th Regiment. This organization was sent to Camp Reynolds, and on to Rappahannock Station, Nov. 7,. 1863. Mr. Smith subsequently becoming a sharpshooter of the 6th Army Corps. Among his engagements may be mentioned: Win Run, May 5-6, 1864; Spottsylvania, May 12-18; North Anna River, May 24; Tolopotomoy, May 29; Cold Harbor, June 3; Petersburg, June 18; Fort Stevens, July 10; Charlestown, Aug. 15; Winchester, Sept. 19; Fisher's Hill, Sept. 22; Cedar Creek, Oct. 19; Fort Steadman, April 2, 1865; Sailor's Creek, April 6; and Appomattox. On Oct. 19, 1864, at Cedar Creek, Mr. Smith was wounded in the right hand, and still carries the bullet. He was honorably discharged after brave and valiant service.

In 1863 Mr. Smith was married to Catherine Binn, of Germany, who died in 1895, at the age of sixty years. They became the parents of the following children: John M., a miner of Canoe township, who married Mary Cochran;

Albert, a miner of Island, pa., who is married; William, a farmer and threshing machine operator of Canoe township, who married Amy Borts and (second) Laura Hawk; Julia, who married Silas Baun, of Jefferson county; Prissie, who married Milton Pease, a carpenter, and they live with Mr. Smith; and three children who died young.

Mr. Smith began farming on a tract at Covode, Pa., where he purchased thirty acres of land, and two years later moved to canoe township, where he bought 100 acres, all in the woods, at North Juneau. To this he has added from time to time until he is now the owner of 150 acres, about half of which is under cultivation. During the early days, Mr. Smith did a great deal of rafting as well as farming, but he now contents himself with his agricultural pursuits, and his efforts have been rewarded with satisfactory results. He is known as one of his community's good citizens, a man who will assist in every movement that promises to better the general welfare, and as one who, having succeeded himself, is willing to assist others to success. He is remembered as having been one of the strongest men of his command, during his army days, and he is still well preserved for a man of his years. He is a popular comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Punxsutawney, and his pleasant, genial manner has won him a wide circle of friends.