

Biographical & Historical Memoirs of North East Arkansas
Goodspeed's

Smith

J. Logan Smith, junior member of the firm of **Sparks & Co.**, Harrisburg, Ark. Born on the 5th of February, 1837, at Old Bolivar, Poinsett County, Ark., **Mr. Smith** is one of the old settlers of the county and a much respected citizen of the same. He is the son of **William and Sarah (Clark) Smith**, natives of Tennessee and North Carolina, respectively. **William Smith** and wife came to Arkansas in 1831, when the country was very unsettled, and began improving wild land. He held the position of county treasurer in 1844, and was a prominent and enterprising citizen. He and wife were members of the Missionary Baptist Church. Their family consisted of thirteen children, all of whom are now deceased except J. Logan and J. W., who is a minister in the Christian Church, and resides in Craighead County, Ark. **Mrs. Sarah Smith's** father was one of the early settlers of Greene County, Ark., and built the first watermill in that county. **J. Logan Smith's** facilities for an education in youth were not of the best, and what schooling he did receive was in the old court-house at Old Bolivar, a log structure about 20×28 feet in dimension, with fireplace, puncheon benches with pin legs, and the writing desks were puncheons supported by pins driven in the wall. **Mr. Smith** can distinctly remember the original chimney was stick and clay, which were afterward supplanted by brick. The school was of course a subscription school. Early settlers frequently built their houses without nails, and the first sawed lumber was manufactured by hand and with a whipsaw. **Mr. Smith** was reared on a farm, and spent some time as a brick-maker. At the age of twenty-two he enlisted in Company F, Sixth Arkansas Infantry, and was in the battles of Shiloh and Perryville, Ky., where he was wounded and taken prisoner. At the end of thirty days he was exchanged, and took part in the battle of Stone River, where he was again wounded, and after lying in the hospital at Ringgold, Ga., until February, 1863, joined the army again. He was in the battle of Chickamauga, and at that engagement

received two wounds. He was also at Missionary Ridge, Tenn., then at Ringgold Gap, and after this at Resaca, Kenesaw (Ga.), Smithfield (N. C.), and surrendered at Greensboro (N. C.) He then came to Poinsett County, Ark., tilled the soil, and, in February, 1866, was united in marriage to **Miss Lucinda Stanford**, daughter of **William and Matilda (Hall) Stanford**, natives of Tennessee and early settlers of Arkansas.

To **Mr. and Mrs. Smith** were born the following children: Lockie L., wife of **Thomas C. Ainsworth**, a farmer of Poinsett County; Rutha V., keeps house for her father; Roger Williams, Joseph T. and Logan S. (twins), who live at home. **Mrs. Smith** died on the 18th of October, 1881, and was a worthy and much-esteemed member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, an active Sunday-school and church worker, a loving wife and mother, whose memory will remain green in the hearts of her many relatives and friends long after her body has moldered to dust.

In June, 1865, **Mr. Smith**, at the request of the people, was appointed by **Gov. Murphy**, then military governor, to fill the position of assessor and collector for his county, and in the following year was elected to fill the same office, which he did until the reconstruction, in 1868. He then followed farming until 1874, when he was elected sheriff, and re-elected in 1876.

He again returned to the farm, and there remained until 1881, when he embarked in the mercantile business, continuing at the same until 1884, when he again became a tiller of the soil. In 1888 he became a member of the above mentioned firm, but during his entire life he has followed farming. He is the owner of five farms of over 1,000 acres of land, 200 acres under cultivation. He takes much interest in stock raising and has Jersey and Short-horn cattle, and Berkshire hogs.

Mr. Smith became a member of Poinsett Lodge No. 184, A. F. & A. M., and is a member of the Chapter and Council, Harrisburg; is also a member of Lodge No. 74, K. and L. of H. Council No. 29 was organized in 1887. He is a Democrat in his political views.



J. J. Smith is a successful farmer of the county, and was born in Henderson County, Tenn., in 1847, being the third of eleven children born to **J. C. and Susan (Johnson) Smith**, who were also Tennesseans, the former being a gunsmith by trade. In 1850 he settled in Poinsett County, Ark., and made the town of Bolivar his home until the county seat was changed to Harrisburg, when he moved to the latter place, this being in the year 1857. In 1863 he settled on an excellent farm in Craighead County, near Jonesboro, and here worked at his trade until his death, in 1885, at the age of sixty-six years. He was a Democrat, and held the office of deputy sheriff of the county for many years, and in 1860 was elected county treasurer, winning, during his official career, the respect and esteem of all who knew him. His worthy wife died in 1883. **J. J. Smith** was educated in the subscription schools of Bolivar and Harrisburg, and at the age of twenty years started out in life for himself, and is now one of the well-to-do agriculturists of the county. His first purchase of land was a timber tract embracing 100 acres, and this he commenced clearing, and added to until he now owns 560 acres, with over 200 acres under cultivation, his being one of the largest farms in the county. He is extensively engaged in stock dealing, and his farm is devoted principally to raising cotton and corn. He is a Democrat, and as such was elected, in 1880, to the office of treasurer of Poinsett County. He has always been a patron of education, and socially is a member of the K. of H. Having been a resident of this county from earliest youth, he has witnessed the gradual growth and improvement, and has aided largely in bringing about this desirable result. He is a thoroughly self-made and self-reliant man, and his opinions on all subjects are acknowledged to be sound and unbiased. He and wife, whose maiden name was **Mary Davidson**, a native of Harrisburg, and whom he married in 1867, are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at Pleasant Valley, and are the parents of the following family: Hattie, Lucy, Dovie, Emisley, Johnny, Jennie, Dexter, Augustus, Grover C. and Elizabeth, who died in infancy. **Mrs. Smith** is a daughter of **James and Harriet (Lokey)**

Davidson, who were Tennesseans, the father a farmer by occupation, and an early settler of Poinsett County, Ark. He was a sheriff of this county for many years, and was one of the most energetic and enterprising men of the county. He engaged in merchandising in Harrisburg, in 1861, and later became a soldier in the Confederate army, dying in 1862, in Cross County. His wife survived him some years, her death taking place in 1872.

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W. A. Smith has been a resident of Poinsett County, Ark., all his life, and his example of industry, and earnest and sincere endeavors to succeed in life, especially in the occupation of farming, are well worth imitation. He was born in 1860, and of his parents' five children he is the second. In boyhood, he attended the district schools near his home, and finished his education in Harrisburg, under the tutelage of **Prof. J. P. Leake**.

He was taught the rudiments of farm work by his father, who was a successful agriculturist, and after leaving school, he engaged in this business, and was married in Poinsett County, in 1884, to **Miss Mary Etta Wright**, a native of Greenfield Township, and a daughter of **J. L. and Jane (Ishmael) Wright**, who were early pioneers of Poinsett County.

Mr. Smith first bought a forty acre timber tract, but now has some thirty-two acres under cultivation, on which are good buildings, fences and orchards. He is a Democrat in politics, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, while his wife belonged to the Christian Church. She died quite recently, having borne two children: Charles O. and an infant. Being a native of the county, **Mr. Smith** has naturally taken a deep interest in its welfare, and is an active and public-spirited citizen.

His parents, **William C. and Margaret (Ainsworth) Smith**, were born in Poinsett County, and in 1853, the father began opening up a farm in Bolivar Township, and here his widow is residing at the present time. His death occurred on the 16th of November, 1876, having been an enterprising resident and an active member of the Democratic party all his life. **William Smith**, the paternal grandfather, was an

early pioneer of this section in 1832, and was one of the prominent agriculturists of Bolivar Township. He was county treasurer for a number of years.

Poinsett County
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