

AARON SMITH.

Among the pleasantest rural homes of Monroe township is that of Aaron Smith on section 5. In all its appointments his well-improved and highly cultivated farm indicates the progressive spirit, enterprise and good business

ability of the owner, who is justly numbered among the most skillful and thorough agriculturists of his native township.

Mr. Smith was born on the farm where he now resides, May 23, 1836, a son of Jacob and Margaret (Barkheimer) Smith, natives of Bedford county, Pennsylvania, the former born in 1803, the latter in 1805. The paternal grandfather, Henry Smith, was one of the prominent farmers of that county, where he spent his entire life, his father, a native of Germany, having located there at an early day. In the county of his nativity Jacob Smith was reared and married, and about 1830 came to Ohio in company with Samuel and David Barr, who had first choice of the three quarter-sections of land bought by them, leaving to Mr. Smith the farm now owned by our subject. Later it proved to be the one he would have selected, as it had plenty of water and other advantages. To the improvement and cultivation of his place he devoted his energies until called from this life, and in his labors met with most excellent success. Besides his property here he owned two quarter-sections of land in De Kalb county, Indiana, where some of his sons settled after attaining their majority. Religiously he was a member of the Dunkard church, and died in that faith July 6, 1863, while his wife died August 27, 1877. In their family were nine children, those living being Fannie, the widow of Jonathan Smith, of Ashland county; Henry, a farmer of De Kalb county, Indiana; Mary, the wife of Jackson Balliet, a farmer of the same county; Levi, a resident of Madison township, this county; Aaron, our subject; John and Frederick, both farmers of De Kalb county, Indiana; and Susannah, the wife of Hiram McCreary, a gardener of Hudson, Michigan.

Aaron Smith is indebted to the common schools of Richland county for his educational advantages. He remained at home, aiding in the work of the farm until twenty-one years of age, when he apprenticed himself to the carpenter's trade, which he followed until 1874, when he purchased the old homestead and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. In 1884 he built his present substantial brick residence, and has made many other valuable and useful improvements upon the place, converting it into one of the model farms of the community. He purchased the Willis Hunt farm of one hundred acres in Mifflin township, in 1899, and now owns both places.

In 1864 Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Lavinie Ohl, a native of Ashland county, Ohio, and a daughter of Stephen Ohl, who came to this state from Pennsylvania with his parents when a boy, and was one of the prominent farmers of Ashland county. The five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith are Ursula, the wife of A. W. Darling, a farmer of Monroe township, this county; Givannah, a farmer of the same township;

Dora, the wife of Van Peterson, a farmer of Ashland county; Stephen, who is conducting his father's farm in Mifflin township, this county; and Grover C., at home.

Mr. Smith gives his allegiance to the men and measures of the Democratic party, and is connected with Madison Grange, P. of H. Socially he is widely and favorably known and has a host of warm friends in the community where almost his entire life has been passed.