

The fact that he was elected by a majority of eighty-seven votes proves his popularity with the people of all parties. Socially he is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees, and is also identified with the Knights of Pythias, being Past Chancellor of Rathbone Lodge No. 102.



WILLIAM H. SMITH, Register of Deeds of Otsego County, arrived in what is now Bagley Township July 9, 1873, and within a few days located the southeast quarter of section 4, township 30 north, range 3 west, where he cleared and improved a valuable farm, building on the place the first house with plastered walls north of Otsego Lake. The farm is now within the corporate limits of the village of Gaylord, and some twenty-four acres have been platted into village lots.

In connection with agricultural pursuits, Mr. Smith, associated with another gentleman, built a double log house and opened a hotel, which he conducted for a time. He kept the first store in Gaylord, and became the first Postmaster of the village, also acted as agent for the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw Railroad Company in the sale of their lands here. For some four years he conducted general mercantile pursuits, after which he kept a hotel, and later followed farming and lumbering for some ten years. He then built a shingle-mill at Otsego Lake, where he remained for two years. In the fall of 1894 he was elected to the office of Register of Deeds, which he has since filled with marked efficiency.

In Stockbridge, Ingham County, Mich., he was born November 3, 1840, and is a son of William and Rebecca D. (Foster) Smith, natives of Rutland, Vt., and Genesee County, N. Y., respectively. His parents were married in Elba, N. Y., thence came to Michigan about 1834, and settled first at Ann Arbor, but later moved to Ingham County, where the father entered a tract of Government

land, and remained until death. By trade he was a carpenter and builder. In his political views he was first a Democrat, but later advocated Free Soil principles. For some time he filled the office of Justice of the Peace, and died while holding court.

The family of William Smith consisted of five children, namely: Lewis, who died in New York in infancy; Biansa M., who married A. M. Beebe, and died February 14, 1895; William H.; Lemuel F., who died at Wayne Junction; and Freedom A., who married S. L. Mead, of Detroit. The following obituary notice from the Grand Rapids *Democrat* regarding the death of Mrs. Beebe will be of interest to many:

"Mrs. Biansa M. Beebe, who left her many friends on earth in the early morning of February 14, was consigned to a vault in the Valley City Cemetery, Sunday February 17. The services were held at the family home, No. 16 Charles Street, and were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Hubbs, rector of Grace Episcopal Church, of which she was a member. A profusion of flowers, which she dearly loved, the heartfelt offering of sorrowing friends, filled the room where she lay peacefully resting.

"Mrs. Beebe was a great-granddaughter of Judge Lemuel Foster, of Elba, N. Y., who, with his father and fifteen older brothers, served in the War of the Revolution, their united services amounting to sixty years. In her childhood her parents removed from Bethany, N. Y., to Michigan, where she was left an orphan in her early youth. In 1854 she was married to Maj. A. M. Beebe, now of this city. Her husband, and only brothers, William and Lemuel Smith, served in the Union army during nearly the whole time of the late war. For several years past she, with her husband, and son, Will L. Beebe, and family, have resided at No. 16 Charles Street, where her unselfish kindness and ready sympathy secured to her the warm friendship of all who knew her. Her cheerful resignation and thoughtful preparation for the sad parting during an almost hopeless illness were a remarkable evidence of her faith and trust in a merciful God."

At the time of his father's death, our subject was about twelve years of age, and he continued afterward to reside in the village of Stockbridge,

where he attended school and clerked in a store. May 16, 1861, he enlisted as a member of Company K, Fourth Michigan Infantry, in which he served three years. As a veteran he was consolidated with the First Michigan Infantry, and in the last regiment he was promoted to First Lieutenant, commanding his company, and served altogether for four years. During the Peninsular campaign he was one of the color-guards. The command to which he belonged was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, in which he served, taking part in all the engagements from the first battle of Bull Run to the surrender at Appomattox. It was his privilege to see the white flag brought into line announcing Lee's surrender. He was an active, brave soldier, always ready for duty, and is one of the three survivors among the color-guards who served in the seven-days battle in front of Richmond. At Appomattox his shoes were worn out and he had nothing but cloths to protect his feet. During the closing days of the war he was detailed Quartermaster of the First Regiment.

At the close of the Rebellion Mr. Smith returned to Stockbridge, and for one year was interested in merchandising, after which he went to Owosso and worked in a store. From that city he went to Saginaw, where he was also employed in a store. Later he was in Detroit for a short time, then established a business at Mason, which he conducted for two years. Afterward he carried on a commission business at Saginaw, but on account of the panic of 1873 retired from the enterprise, removing from there to Otsego County.

The lady who became the wife of Mr. Smith was Miss Mary E. Mead, a native of Oakland County, Mich. They have had six children, named as follows: Bertha E., Lewis C., Mary and Mabel (twins), William L. and Florence R. Politically Mr. Smith is a Republican. He was the first Treasurer of Livingston Township, has also been Supervisor and Justice of the Peace. In local matters he has always taken an active interest, and frequently has represented his party as a delegate to political conventions. He is an enthusiastic Grand Army man, and belongs to the post at Gaylord. Since 1862 he has held membership in the Masonic fraternity, and is also actively connected with the

Independent Order of Good Templars. As a citizen he is progressive and enterprising, and in his official duties is exact, faithful and industrious, his services in the capacity of Register of Deeds reflecting credit upon his own ability and proving most satisfactory to all concerned.



ERNEST W. HASTINGS. The family represented by this prominent business man of Traverse City is of English origin. The first of the name in America were two brothers, who came to this country from England and settled in the state of New York at a very early day. A robust constitution and longevity have been two prominent characteristics of the race. Its representatives have rapidly increased and, settling in various parts of the country, have made the name a familiar one in the annals of many states. The members of the family have without exception been progressive and patriotic citizens, of whom any nation might well be proud. The great-grandfather of our subject was one of the number who, during the dark days of the Revolution, offered his services to the Colonial army, endured all the hardships of that sanguinary struggle, and finally shared in the triumph of the great victory over oppression and tyranny.

The grandfather of our subject was a resident of Ohio, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits. Our subject's father, Silas Hastings, was a native of Ohio, and by occupation a contractor and builder. He removed to Michigan, and was engaged in business at Lansing when the Civil War broke out. He at once enlisted, and became a member of the First Michigan Regiment of Engineers and Mechanics in 1861. Subsequently he was transferred to the gunboat service and went down the Mississippi River. All the hardships incident to war were experienced by him, and while serving his country with valor and fidelity he died, at the age of about forty years. His wife was in her