

in business as a commission merchant in partnership with his brother-in-law, Ben. O. Davis.

He was twice married. First to Elizabeth Williamson, who died soon after marriage, leaving no children. He was again married to Susan Phillips, who possessed unusual attractions both of beauty and cultivation. There was never a happier marriage, and they were blessed with a family of six children.

Like his brothers, he was an earnest Unionist when the Civil war came, but an injury to his leg, which he received in his youth and which gave him trouble all his life, prevented his taking any part in the conflict. He took a warm interest in the welfare of the soldiers, contributing of his means to their comfort and assistance. Being in the service myself, I remember with gratitude the solicitude he showed for my own welfare. He had a cheerful, sunny disposition which attached every one to him. No man was ever more beloved by his friends and kinsfolk. His perfectly unselfish nature made his greatest happiness to consist in doing kind acts for others. He was gentle and dignified in his manner, always had a pleasant look and cheerful word. He was particularly fond of his brothers and sisters and their families, and was a favorite with them all. He was often at the law office of his brother James, and James, in turn, often visited him at his place of business. It was a common thing to hear him say: "I'll step around to see Smith." They often went on fishing excursions together, and when preparing for these excursions they would talk about it like boys. Their conversation always showed a brotherly affection, each seeming desirous to please the other. In their advanced years they always showed, when with each other, their youthful feelings. They would often talk on religious subjects, and though they did not exactly agree, neither would utter a word in any wise calculated to displease the other. Smith Speed was a sincere Christian, a member of the Presbyterian church. He loved to talk about the sermons he heard, and had the faculty of getting the good out of them, his comments being generally favorable.

He enjoyed the absolute confidence of all who knew him.