

arise in that respect, he planted a patch of potatoes near the Dells Eddy. Starting again with his rafts on the downward trip, he met with the same delay below the Dells that he had above; and in consequence of the continued low stage of the water in the river, he did not reach Sauk Prairie, a distance of less than sixty miles from the Dells by the river, until late in the month of August. His provisions becoming about exhausted, he concluded to draw on his potato patch for supplies, and taking his crew, he accordingly started across the country, on the west side of the river, for the Dells. Finding a fine crop of potatoes, he loaded his men, and returned again to his rafts. Continuing on down the river with his rafts, he reached St. Louis late in the month of October.

After disposing of their timber in the spring of 1840, Messrs. Smith and Wilson, leaving Mr. Allen in possession of the shanty and claim previously mentioned, at the foot of the Dells, made a claim in Sauk County, about two miles below the present village of Newport. But remaining on the Sauk County claim only a couple of years, they returned again to the present county of Juneau, in the fall of 1842; logged on the Lemonweir River the following winter, and in the spring of 1843 drove the logs down the river, and boomed them at the site of the present village of New Lisbon. Here they made a permanent location, and commenced the erection of a sawmill, and other necessary improvements for the lumber business. The mill was completed and put in operation the same season.

In the spring of 1846, J. H. Findlay and Wm. Armstrong came up from Portage City, and contracted to run Messrs. Smith and Wilson's mill by the thousand; but they afterwards bought the property, agreeing to make certain annual payments for the logs, mill and other improvements; but failing to meet the payments as they became due, the mill and other property again reverted to the original proprietors. Mr. Wilson subsequently became sole owner of the property by purchase, and is one of the original proprietors of the village of New Lisbon, where he still resides.

Mr. Smith removed to Portage City in the Fall of 1846, or the spring of '47, where he became a prominent merchant, and