



# HERMAN SMITH

## LIGHTWEIGHT

1910-1922

“Uncle” Herman was a main stay in the featherweight and lightweight divisions from 1910 to 1922. He finished with a recorded record of 42-21-9. John L. Sullivan refereed his battle with Lockport Jimmy Duffy at Harmonia Hall in Buffalo. In November of 1911 Smith fought featherweight Champion Abe Attell at the International Hall in Buffalo and dropped a ten round newspaper decision. He was a long time trainer and member of Ring 44.

Smith was born in 1887 and the first fight recorded for him was in 1911 against Buffalo Hall of Fame member Lockport Jimmy Duffy. Herman would proclaim he had over 300 fights in his career. During that 1911 year Herman was crowned the featherweight champion of Buffalo after wins over Buffalo's toughest featherweight boxers. He earned a nickname for his powerful right hand after stiffing a guy in one round. Smith said, “I used my Lil’s (Smith’s bride) potato masher,” and from then on the papers would call his right hand that moniker whenever he dropped an opponent.

Herman’s reputation brought featherweight champion Abe Atell to Buffalo for a 10-round go with the Buffalo champ. The fight took place at International Hall at 243 Genesee St. before a sellout crowd that wanted to see the world champion’s first appearance in Buffalo. Smith’s manager, Allie Smith, had Herman in top condition and at the correct weight of 125½ pounds for the contest. Herman was very confident going into the battle. “I’m ready to fight the fight of my life, don’t think this Dutchman hasn’t got a chance even if Attel is the Champion.” The fight didn’t go Herman’s way as Atell took home the “newspaper” decision after ten rounds where Smith was the aggressor but the skill and class of the champion wouldn’t leave an opening for his potato masher.

Herman Smith moved up to lightweight in the following years and fought some good battles with the area’s best fighters. He defeated Bud Christiano, Harry Baker, Teddy Myers and Elmer Doane, all top fighters. Herman fought future world champion Jimmy Goodrich three times only to be on the losing end of each fight. Herman’s last recorded fight was in 1922 when he beat the undefeated Bobby Tracy at the Broadway Auditorium.

After his ring career ended Smith trained fighters and would be seen at all events related to boxing over the next 40 years. He was a main stay at all veteran boxers events and his story telling was always the highlight of the affair.

Tonight Ring 44 of the National Veteran Boxers Association is proud to induct Herman Smith into the 2012 Buffalo Boxing Hall of Fame.

### RECORD

Won 42   KO's 11   Lost 21   Drawn 9   Total 72