

JOHN T. KELLY.

John T. Kelly, farmer, lawyer and manufacturer, is a resident of Jefferson township, Adams county, Indiana, where he was born December 21, 1860, and is the second son of Isaac B. and Laura (Hersey) Kelly, natives of Ohio, the father of Carroll, and the mother of Hardin county. Isaac was a farmer in Ohio, but thought to better his fortune by emigrating to Indiana, which he did many years ago, settling in the dense forests of Jefferson township, Adams county, a part of which he afterward improved. He died November 30, 1893, his wife, Laura, having preceded him in the year 1861. In their church relations they identified themselves with the Methodist Episcopal society and lived exemplary lives. Isaac gave faithful and loyal service to his country as a soldier for a period of two years during the war of the Rebellion. His political faith and affiliations were with the Democratic party.

They had two children-Willis, who died in infancy, and John T. For his second wife Isaac married Isabelle Ramsey, a native of Wells county, Indiana, and as a result of this union six children were born to them: Marvin, Alonzo, Finley, Alfred, Ida and Isaac B.

John T. was raised on his father's farm, where he secured such educational advantage as were to be derived by the busy farmer boy from the common schools of the district. Not satisfied with the education thus acquired, he afterward attended the Eastern Normal School at Portland, Indiana, and there equipped himself for the duties of teacher, which profession he followed with marked success for a period of twenty years.

In the meantime he took up the study of law and is at the present time a member of the Adams county bar. He is the owner of a fine little farm of twenty acres, nicely improved, with thoroughly modern buildings surrounding it, and a most pleasant and comfortable home. He is also engaged in the manufacture of cement building blocks.

In 1888 he was married to Rebecca Thatcher, a native of Miami county, Ohio, a daughter of Hillman and Julia (Rooks) Thatcher, who were originally residents of the state of New Jersey, but later of Ohio. To them was born one child, a daughter, Lola Opal, now at home.

John is a member of the Knights of Pythias and Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodges at Berne, Indiana, and, with his wife, is a consistent Christian and member of the Evangelical church. Mr. Kelly in his political belief advocates the basic principles and doctrines of the Democratic party and has always been a source of strength to its cause by his wise counsel and sturdy character. With his party and his friends he is much esteemed, as evidenced by his election in 1894 and again in 1896 to represent his county in the state legislature, where his services were eminently satisfactory to his constituency.

Snow's History of Adams County, Indiana, John Fletcher Snow, B. F. Bowen, Indianapolis, IN, 1907, p. 248 (image 509)