

JOHN FLETCHER SNOW, superintendent of the public schools of Adams County, and an active and public-spirited citizen of Decatur, was born in Portland, Jay County, Indiana, the date of his birth being June 17, 1854. In the spring of 1860 he was brought to Adams County by his parents, they settling on a farm in Wabash Township, on which the village of Ceylon was subsequently platted. Here he was reared receiving his elementary education in the district schools, later attending the Ridgeville College in Randolph County, Indiana. On attaining his majority he began teaching school, and followed the teacher's profession in Adams County, Indiana, for eight years. August 25, 1881, he was united in marriage to Miss Sadie Alice Hoskinson, who was born near Newark, in Licking County, Ohio a daughter of Andrew J. and Mary (Foster) Hoskinson, the father of Irish, and the mother of English ancestry. Mr. and Mrs. Snow are the parents of one son, named Edwin Earl. In June, 1883, Mr. Snow was elected by the township trustees of Adams County, superintendent of the public schools, being re-elected to the same office in 1885 for a term of two years, and is serving with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. Politically he affiliates with the Democratic party.

His father, Barton B. Snow, was a native of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and of English parentage. When a young man he went to Ohio, and in 1837 removed to Jay County, Indiana, where he began to educate himself, working to obtain the means to defray his expenses. In 1843 he began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Milligan, of Portland, Indiana, and in 1854 graduated from the Louisville Medical College at Louisville, Kentucky, after taking a thorough course of lectures. In 1852 he was married to Rebecca Hannah McDonald, who was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, and was of Scotch-Irish ancestry. She came to Adams County with her parents, they settling in Decatur, her father afterward being elected to the office of county sheriff. She died on the homestead in Wabash Township in 1873, she having been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church the greater part of her life. Of the nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Barton Snow, only five are living - Solan McD., principal of the schools at Ceylon; Ella, teaching in the school at Geneva; Addie and Loretta, teaching in other districts of Adams County, and John Fletcher, whose name heads this sketch. After his graduation Dr. Snow practiced medicine at New Corydon, Indiana, for several years, when he returned to Portland, and succeeded his preceptor, practicing there until 1860. In that year he came to Wabash Township, Adams County, Indiana, and platted the village of Ceylon, where he practiced ten years, when he abandoned his profession. He then engaged in farming and dealing in lumber on an extensive scale which he followed till his death, December 8, 1875. In 1866 he was the Democrat nominee for Congressman in the Eleventh Congressional District, but was defeated, the district being strongly Republican. He was a man widely known throughout this section of the county, and few local men possessed the confidence and respect of the public to greater extent than he.

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JOHN F. SNOW.

That the author of Snow's History of Adams County has been a continuous resident of Adams county, Indiana, for more than forty-six years and the editor hereof, B. F. Bowen, of Indianapolis, Indiana, believes that a brief sketch of the author of Snow's History of Adams County would be a

fitting- recognition of his labors, hereto appends such a sketch as he is able to secure from personal inquiries and from the sketches of Mr. Snow as have appeared from time to time in the various papers and periodicals:

On the 17th day of June, 1854, in the pioneer village of Portland, in Jay county, Indiana, a "Hoosier" boy was born. When but five years old he removed with his parents, Dr. Barton B. Snow and Rebecca H. Snow, to their new home in southern Adams county near the banks of the Wabash river. That boy was John Fletcher Snow, the subject of this sketch. Here he grew to manhood, attending the short terms of school until his eighteenth year, at which time he entered college. The death of his parents within the next three years greatly interfered with his plans and expectations. Instead of completing his course, he taught and attended normal schools for further preparation of the work as teacher. It was not until 1883 that he received his B. S. degree, and in June of this same year he was chosen county superintendent of the Adams county public schools, succeeding himself in numerous reelections. He filled this position with great success and much to the credit of his county in teachers' institutes and state teachers associations.

From the American School Board Journal of April, 1892, the following is taken:

"The subject of this sketch, John F. Snow, was born in Portland, Indiana, June 17, 1854. His mother, Rebecca H. McDonald, was of Scotch-Irish parentage. Barton B. Snow, M. D., his father, was a descendant of Puritan residents of Boston, Massachusetts. He received his first ideas of education from his mother, who was a teacher. His early years were devoted to agricultural pursuits and attendance at the district schools until the age of eighteen, at which time he entered Ridgeville College. His health and the death of his parents greatly retarded his educational progress. After ten years devoted to the work of student and teacher in various grades, from the district schools to the normal and high school, he attained the degree of Bachelor of Science. In 1883 he was elected county superintendent of schools and as a member of the Indiana County Superintendents' Association served on various educational committees, and in 1890 was chosen president of the association. Being possessed of ample energy and indomitable will power, his undertakings are usually crowned with a merited degree of success.

From the campaign edition of the Indiana State Sentinel, edited by Gilbert Shanklin, in 1898. the following is taken:

"In the joint senatorial district composed of Adams and Allen counties, in 1898. John F. Snow was a candidate. He received the entire vote of his county and the bulk of the country vote of Allen. No one questioned his capacity to make an efficient representative. However, the Fort Wayne Democracy placed the senatorial credit to another. Until the present time he has never aspired to an elective office, though a good campaigner and active Democratic worker. He served in 1896 as chairman of the Adams county Democratic central committee and contributed his efforts toward placing the Democratic majority in his county nearly four hundred higher than it had ever been before."

From the Geneva Herald of February 11, 1898, the following is taken:

"At the age of six years J. F. Snow came with his parents to the garden lands of Adams county on the southern banks of the Wabash river. There the love of natural primitive scenery, the huge oak forests, the gigantic walnut timber and hundreds of bushels of hickory nuts that lined the bottom lands, the myriads of squirrels and thousands of the finest fish that ever tempted a Hoosier lad in his youth were those the Wabash country offered up just for the asking. As this lad grew up the woodman's ax was placed in his hands, the lumber mills were located, the first railroad in the county was built and put in operation. Ten miles of bridges and culverts were furnished upon contract by the mills upon

which he worked while yet in his teens. Large tracts of land were cleared and prepared for the plow, manhood grew apace, the dinner horn took the place of the steam whistle of the mill, the clearing and the new farm was a reality. The district school of three months' term ; the verdant youth as a scholar now sets in motion the machinery that leads on to knowledge.

In 1875, at the death of his father, Dr. Barton B. Snow, he was thrown entirely upon his own resources to make a living and get an education at one and the same time. "Being of Puritanic stock, he has a supreme hatred for cowards, hypocrites and imposters of every type, and with nearly a spirit of devotion regards the friend of his friends. Though reared by Methodist parents, a Beecher or a Talmage are his ideal divines, as a Jackson and a Washington are his ideal statesmen and patriots. In politics he has long since exercised and advocated the cause of Democracy, has taken part in congressional and state conventions and always labored for the advancement of the principles of the Democratic party. His addresses in institutes and educational associations have won for him a host of acquaintances and friends, who shall be delighted to know of his ultimate success in his new field of labor. As opportunity would permit within the past years he has devoted his attention to a study of the law and in the fall of 1807 he formed a partnership with Hon. C. J. Lutz, of Decatur, Indiana, and became a member of the law firm of Lutz & Snow. He now requests the privilege of representing the counties of Allen and Adams as joint state senator in the coming session of the Indiana general assembly. Being an able campaigner, strength would be added to the ticket by his nomination to the position he seeks."

From various sources we learn that Mr. Snow is a careful, painstaking attorney, whose court papers are of a kind that will stand repeated attacks without serious results; that he is an industrious student and continuous worker, never to be found idle; that as a friend he can be trusted and depended upon to the limit; that he is an Odd Fellow, a Royal Arch Mason, a Democrat and a conservative citizen of the Andrew Jackson type; that he is an able political campaigner and an interesting platform orator.

On the 25th day of August, 1881, J. F. Snow and Miss Sadie Alice Hoskinson were married. To them were born two sons, Edwin Earl and Horace Hamilton, both of whom are living at this time in Decatur. Edwin Earl was married on the 15th day of April, 1906, to Miss Myrtle Miller in Anderson, Indiana. The parents of Mrs. Sadie A. Snow on the paternal side were from near Parkersburg, Virginia, and were of Scotch-Irish descent. Her paternal grandmother's parents were slave-owners before the war of 1812, of which her grandfather was a soldier. Her maternal grandparents came from Vermont and settled near Newark, in Licking county, Ohio, in the early thirties, her parents removing to Indiana in 1865.

J. F. Snow's paternal grandparents were of English descent, as will be seen from this bit of history, taken from an early history of Plymouth : "We find that Nicholas, Anthony and William Snow came over from England . The former two brought families; the latter was an apprentice and settled in Doxbury. Anthony was first at Plymouth, then in 1642 at Marshfield. Nicholas, who came in the 'Ann' in 1623, had a share in the division of the land at Plymouth, settled in Eastham." At the close of the Revolutionary war several families of Snows settled in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, near the town of Chester. A James Snow there married an Irish girl by the name of Eleanor Tate. These were the parents of Barton B. Snow, the father of the subject of this sketch. They came westward to Defiance, Ohio, in 1833 and in 1837 removed to Jackson township, Jay county, Indiana, since which time there have been frequent "Snowsqualls" in northeastern Indiana.

The sons of J. F. and Sadie A. Snow are practical printers and newspaper men. They were once known as the youngest publishers in the United States - their career beginning when they were children, eight and twelve years of age, in the publication of the Star-News.

Snow's History of Adams County, Indiana, John Fletcher Snow, B. F. Bowen, Indianapolis, IN, 1907, p. 472 (image 963).