

JUDSON W. TEEPLE.

Judson W. Teeple, one of the prominent members of the Adams county bar, is a son of John E. and Catherine (Smith) Teeple. His father was born in Morrow county, Ohio, January 22, 1831, and his mother was a native of Saint Mary's township, Adams county. His parents were married in Adams county at an early date and became the parents of seven children, of whom Judson W. Teeple was the second in order of birth. He was born on the family estate in Saint Mary's township, October 29, 1856. He spent his boyhood on his father's homestead and received a preliminary education in the common schools of the neighborhood. He assisted in the farm work while he was attending the common schools. At the age of seventeen he had progressed so far in his studies that he was given a school, and his career as a school teacher dates from that event. He spent the following fifteen years teaching school in various counties of the northeastern section of the state and in the bordering Ohio counties, and during the years he was teaching he also attended school and read law. When he was twenty years of age his father "gave him his time" and he went west and taught school in Kansas and Missouri. While in these western states he took advantage of the opportunity to increase his own education and studied in the normal school at Hutchinson, Kansas. In all he spent three years in the states west of the Mississippi river.

He found that he was fitted for the law and decided to take up the practice of that profession. However, he realized that before he could do this he must study. Accordingly he addressed himself to the work of mastering the law and during his teaching days he studied. He made rapid progress, and when he returned to Indiana he entered the office of Peterson & Huffman, with which firm he read for two years. He took and passed the bar examinations and was admitted to practice in the summer of 1883. The same year he formed a partnership for the practice of law with Shaffer Peterson. This partnership arrangement lasted for one year and was dissolved when Mr. Peterson was appointed postmaster of Decatur. With this event the sign, "Peterson & Teeple," disappeared from the office in Decatur. Since his admission to the bar Mr. Teeple has continued to practice law with more than the usual amount of success and he has developed into an able and a scholarly advocate. However, he has not been a member of another law partnership.

Mr. Teeple has taken as active interest in the politics of his county since he began the practice of law. In 1884 he was elected president of the Lincoln League of Adams county, and served in that capacity for four years. He was a member of the Republican executive county committee of Adams county for a number of years, and in 1898 was chosen the chairman of this important political body. He served as chairman for four years and was one of the men who brought about Republican successes in Adams county during his incumbency of the office of chairman. He was elected a justice of the peace of Saint Mary's township for a term of four years, but he resigned this office after filling it for two years. He has served as a member of the Decatur city council for four years and has proved himself an able and a valuable "city father."

At one time he was a candidate for election to the state legislature on the Republican ticket, but he was defeated by his Democratic opponent by a very small majority. In 1900 he received the nomination for circuit judge of Adams county.

His marriage to Miss Maggie A. Zeigler, a native of Center county, Pennsylvania, occurred in Wayne county, Indiana, May 28, 1885. His wife is a daughter of Peter and Leah (Ruhl) Zeigler. Her mother died while on a visit to her daughter, Mrs. Teeple, and after his wife's death Mr. Zeigler removed to Decatur and made his home with his daughter. He spent the last ten years of his life with her. Mr. and Mrs. Teeple are the parents of three children, of whom a son, Ray Z. Teeple, is living. They are highly respected and their home is one of the centers of culture and refinement in Decatur.

**Standard History of Adams and Wells Counties, Indiana, Vol. II, John W. Tyndall & Orlo Ervin Lesh; Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co, 1918, p. 805-806.**

Judson W. Teeple is one of the oldest active members of the Adams County bar, having been continuously in practice at Decatur for thirtysix years. He is a man of solid achievements in his profession and has always shown a willingness to get out and work for anything that concerned the public welfare.

Mr. Teeple was admitted to the Indiana bar in 1883. He had studied law at Decatur with the well-known old time firm of Peterson & Huffman. For the first year after his admission Mr. Teeple had as a partner Shaffer Peterson, but since that time has practiced alone and has been given many important cases to handle in the courts and as a counsel.

In 1909 he was elected mayor of Decatur, filling that office four years. In 1894 he was chosen a member of the city council and was in that body four years. Politically he is a republican and his active affiliation with a party that has always been in the minority in Adams County accounts for the fact that his public career is not a more conspicuous feature of his life. From 1898 to 1902 he was county chairman of his party, and in 1900 was nominated for county judge, though he made little effort in the subsequent campaign in this democratic stronghold. His first appearance in politics came in 1884 when he was nominated for state representative from Adams and Jay counties. Though practically unknown in the latter county he had a majority of the votes there, and his defeat was due to the preponderance of democrats in Adams County. Mr. Teeple is affiliated with the Improved Order of Red Men and the Tribe of Ben Hur.

He was born in St. Mary's Township of Adams County October 29, 1856, and represents some of the very oldest and best known names in the early annals of this county. He grew up in his native community, was educated in the local schools and also the city high school, and for several years taught in Adams County and also in the State of Ohio before taking up the study of law.

His father, John E. Teeple, was born in Morrow County, Ohio, in 1831, and was brought to St. Mary's Township in Adams County in 1842. The grandparents spent the rest of their days on the farm which they improved from a wilderness condition. John Teeple married Catherine Smith, who was born in St. Mary's Township January 1, 1835. Her parents were Zachariah and Susanna (McClelland) Smith, both natives of Ohio. The Smith family came to Indiana and located in what is now Adams County before the limits of this county had been definitely assigned and before a county organization had been effected. The year of the Smiths advent to Adams County was 1834. Zachariah Smith was a man of great influence and prominence in the early days. He developed at one time nearly a thousand acres in separate farms. He was the first man elected sheriff of Adams County, in 1835, upon its organization and he filled that office until he was drowned, in 1844. He was accidentally drowned while trying to ford the St. Mary's River, which was then greatly swollen, being on his way home at the time. His death threw the care of nine young children on the shoulders of his good wife, who performed a notable part in making for them a home and giving them an education. She lived many years after her husband's death and passed away in 1892. Zachariah Smith was an ardent whig and one of the first men in time and in influence in Adams County. Two of his sons, Isaac and Joseph Smith, were gallant soldiers of the Civil war, Joseph serving three years and Isaac four years. Joseph was captured at Mumfordsville, Kentucky. Both these soldier boys came home, married, and Joseph is still living, while Isaac died only a few years ago.

Mr. Teeple married in Wayne County, Indiana, Maggie A. Zigler. She was born in Center County, Pennsylvania, in September, 1858, and was eight years of age when her parents removed to Wayne County, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Teeple became the parents of three children: Erie M., born in 1886,

died at the age of seven months; and the youngest child, Roy S., born in 1892, also died at seven months. Their only living son is Ray Zigler Teeple, born in 1889. He was educated in the Decatur High School, and is now a telegraph operator at Decatur with the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway. He married Miss Hilda Smith of Decatur and they have one son, Richard Smith, born in July, 1913.