

Charles Hughes, one of the pioneers of Jay County, and a member of the firm of C. Hughes & Son, dealers in boots and shoes, Pennville, is a native of Ohio, born in Warren County, January 19, 1822, a son of John and Susannah (Buchannon) Hughes, the father was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania of English ancestry and the mother, a native of Culpeper County, Virginia, and of Welsh ancestry. They were married in Bucks County, where they resided until after the birth of the fourth child, in 1819 or 1820, when they immigrated to Ohio, and settled in Warren County. They reared a family of six children, three sons and three daughters, five of whom yet survive. The father was a carpenter by occupation.

Charles Hughes was the fifth child in his father's family, and was but two years old when his mother died. He was then taken to the home of John Garretson, where he lived until 1838, when he went to learn the shoemaker's trade, serving an apprenticeship of one year in his native county. He came to Jay County, Indiana, in July, 1839, and was engaged in clearing land until 1843, when he went to Richmond, Indiana, where he followed his trade during the summer of 1843, and in the fall of the same year returned to his native county.

He was married December 10, 1844 to Miss Catherine Thayer, a native of Rhode Island, and a daughter of Allen Thayer, who was also born in Rhode Island. Mrs. Hughes died August 16, 1849, leaving at her death two children - Alonzo P. and Phoebe E., now the widow of Morgan L. Gray. Mr. Hughes was again married February 25, 1851, to Miss Elnora Thayer, a sister of his deceased wife. He remained in Warren County, Ohio until 1854, when in May of that year he returned to Pennville and engaged in the shoemaker's business, which he followed until the breaking out of the late war. July 10, 1862, he enlisted in Company F, Seventy-Fifth Indiana Infantry, and during his term of service he participated in seventeen hard fought battles. He was with Sherman on his march to the sea, and was at the Grand Review at Washington at the close of the war. He was honorably discharged at Indianapolis in June, 1865, when he returned to his home in Jay County, and has since been engaged in his present business in Pennville.

In politics, Mr. Hughes affiliates with the Republican Party. For one year, he held the office of constable. He has been a member of the Odd Fellows Order since February, 1850, joining in Ohio and has filled all the chairs in the lodge, and is also a member of the Grand Lodge of the State. He now belongs to Relief Lodge, No. 145, I.O.O.F. of Pennville. He is a member of the Hickside branch of the Society of Friends, and a worthy and respected citizen of Penn Township.

His son, Alonzo P. Hughes, who is associated with him in business, was born in Warren County, Ohio, August 30, 1845 and was nine years old when his parents came to Jay County, where his youth was spent in working on the farm in summer and attending the schools of his neighborhood during the winter terms. He enlisted as a soldier in the War of the Rebellion in April, 1864, and was assigned to Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-Eighth Indiana Infantry. He served in Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama and at the expiration of his term of enlistment, he was honorably discharged. After the war, he returned to Pennville and has since been associated in business with his father.

He is a member of Relief Lodge, No. 145, I.O.O.F., in which he has filled all the chairs and has represented his lodge in the Grand Lodge of the State. In politics, like his father, he is a Republican.