

JOHN HENRY BREMERKAMP, proprietor of the St. Joe Saloon at Decatur, was born at Decatur, Adams County, Indiana, September 29, 1853, a son of Harmon Henry and Mary Elizabeth (Heideman) Bremerkamp. His father was a native of Hanover, Germany, where he remained until he reached manhood. He then immigrated to America and located at Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked at the tailor's trade until 1852. That same year he came to Decatur, Indiana, where he was soon afterward married. Both he and his wife were members of the St. Mary's Catholic Church, of Decatur. Both are now deceased, the father dying in 1854, and the mother in 1875. They were the parents of four children - Mrs. Catherine Lampe, of Newport, Kentucky; Joseph, late of the United States Army; Louisa (deceased), and John Henry, the subject of this sketch. The latter was reared and educated in the public schools of Decatur. At the age of fifteen he began to learn the shoemaker's trade at Decatur, at which he worked two years. He then went to Newport, Kentucky, where he worked in the stone and marble shop of Joseph Lampe, his brother-in-law, during the summer, and at shoemaking in the winter months, being thus employed until 1873. In that year he returned to Decatur, where he found employment in the marble shops of H. Cannover and Barney Wemhoff until 1876. From 1876 until 1880 he tended bar in a saloon Decatur, when he engaged in the saloon business on his own account until 1883. February 1, 1883, he was married at Decatur to Miss Josephine Eiting, a native of Minster, Auglaize County, Ohio, born November 15, 1863, a daughter of John and Gertrude (Rehe) Eiting, former residents of Decatur now living in Minster, Ohio. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bremerkamp, named Mary Gertrude, born December 9, 1883, and John Lawrence Herbert born September 12, 1885. In 1883 Mr. Bremerkamp became associated with his father-in-law, John Eiting, in the dry good clothing and grocery business, which they carried on under the firm name of Eiting & Co. until 1884, when Mr. Bremerkamp retired from the firm and opened his present saloon. Mr. and Mrs. Bremerkamp are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church at Decatur.

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