

**Biographical and Historical Record - Adams and Wells Co. Indiana Lewis Publishing Co. Chicago, IL 1887**

BYRON H. DENT, farmer, section 35, Washington Township, was born in Licking County, Ohio, March 20, 1836. In October of that year he came to this county with his parents, who settled on the farm now owned by our subject. Jeremiah Roe lived a half mile northwest of them, and Zachariah Smith lived four miles southeast of where the Dents settled. Mr. Huffer lived on the west side of the river, where the bridge now spans it. The father entered the farm from the Government, paying \$1.25 per acres. His son has been offered \$150 per acre for it. There was a log cabin on the place built by Jonathan Roe the spring before the family came, and he had a claim on forty acres of it, which Mr. Dent purchased. The father lived in this cabin until 1844, when he was elected county auditor, and removed to town. He was the first auditor of Adams County. After serving four years he went back to the farm and lived on it until it was cleared, then returned to Decatur, where he died in February, 1878. He was born in Otsego County, New York, in 1809. His parents were George A. and Martha A. (Welch) Dent. He went to Licking County, Ohio, when a young man, and there was married. He was an honest and strictly temperate man. He never engaged in speculations, and was a very careful man in his business. In politics he was formerly a Whig, and afterward a Republican. The mother of our subject was born in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, in 1813, where she was reared and educated. She removed with her parents to Licking County, Ohio, and died February, 1872, at the age of fifty-nine years. Both parents were buried at Decatur. The grandfather of our subject, Joseph Dent, was born in Lincolnshire, England. He was reared at his birth-place and probably settled in Otsego County, New York. He died in that State. The grandmother died while her son was quite young and he was reared by a step-mother, of whom he was very fond. His maternal grandmother Welch died in Licking County, Ohio, and very little is know of her. Byron H. was reared on the old farm and in Decatur village. His education was obtained in the common schools. He taught school fourteen winters in the same district, thirteen terms before the war and one afterward. He enlisted in August, 1862, and was made Adjutant of the Eighty-ninth Indiana Infantry, served until the war was nearly closed. He was captured at the battle of Munfordville, Kentucky, which was his first engagement. He was soon after furloughed and returned home on a thirty days' visit. He was then exchanged and returned to duty at Memphis, Tennessee. The regiment was almost wholly captured. He was in Grant's Vicksburg campaign, thence to Shreveport, Louisiana, with General Banks. The right then went east of Memphis, thence to Missouri. Mr. Dent went to the hospital at Memphis, where he was confined about six months. He was discharged there on account of physical disability, and returned home where he has since resided. He was married April 24, 1856, to Miss Mary J. Hoagland, daughter of Isaac and Nancy (Luckey) Hoagland, and she was born in Medina County, Ohio, in September, 1838. She died October 15, 1884, leaving two children - Allen and Ella. Both are married and living in this township. Mrs. Dent's parents were natives of Ohio; the father is deceased, and the mother is living in Root Township. Mr. Dent was again married in Jun, 1886, to Miss Theresa Baltzell. Mr. Dent's parents had four children - Byron, our subject; Mary L., wife of David Crabbs, living at Moscow, Ohio; Henry Clay, who died in 1879 at Decatur, at the age of thirty-five years, and Helen A., who died in childhood. Mr. Dent has held the office of county clerk, and clerk of the circuit court four years. He was the second mayor of Decatur, holding the office two years. Politically he is a Democrat.