

JOSEPH T JOHNSON, an old settler of Adams County, was born in Tuscarawas County; Ohio, August 7, 1834, a son of James and Eliza Johnson, the former a native of Pennsylvania and now deceased, and the latter a native of Montgomery County, Maryland. The parents came to Adams County in 1837, settling on section 19, Washington township, where the father entered 160 acres of land, having paid the Government \$1 per acre. He first built his log cabin, then commenced to clear his land. His first crop was five acres of corn, and the next year he raised some wheat. Later he removed to section 14, Washington Township, which is the farm now occupied by his son J. T. Johnson. He endured many trials and hardships, and for many years was obliged to go to Fort Wayne to do his marketing. He also had to go to that point for his bread stuffs. With mature years came prosperity, and he became widely known and universally respected. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and one of the founders of that church in this county. Before a church building was erected his home was frequently used for services. He always took great pains to accommodate the itinerant minister. His demise occurred in October, 1853. The parents had five children, of whom two are living - Joseph T. and Leonard W. Our subject was reared to manhood in this county, and assisted his father in clearing the farm. He was married May 18, 1858, to Miss Minerva Reynolds, born August 15, 1840, in this county, daughter of John and Rachel Reynolds, the former now deceased. Her parents were among the first settlers of this county, locating on section 26, Root Township, in September, 1827. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have had ten children - Willis M., Rachel E., Florence A., Eliza J., Edwin J., Sarah E., Charles W., Rosa A., Edna E. and Cora M. Mr. Johnson owns a good farm of 100 acres in a good state of cultivation. In politics he is a Democrat.

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Joseph T. Johnston

The life story of Joseph T. Johnston will accurately substantiate any claims he might make of being in reality a pioneer settler of northeastern Indiana. For more than seventy years he has lived in Adams county, and he has witnessed all the changes that have transformed this section of the state from a wilderness with a few inhabitants to one of the most productive and pleasant portions of the commonwealth. He was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, August 7, 1834. He is a son of James and Eliza (Merryman) Johnston. His father was born in Pennsylvania and came to Ohio some years before the birth of Joseph. He was a farmer and miller during his residence in Ohio and removed to Indiana when Joseph was but three years of age. The family located in Washington township near the present site of the Washington church. The land was rough and inhabited by roving bands of Indians and wild game. Among the stories told by Mr. Johnston are the interesting ones of his earlier days when he shot deer, turkeys, squirrels and other species of wild game where farms and villages are located today. In those early days the country was thinly settled and the houses were distant from one another. There were no schools and log cabins were the homes of the majority of the

settlers. They were a hardy race and worked industriously at clearing their farms and making them productive, and the children grew up in an atmosphere of independence and learned the wholesome lessons of thrift and frugality. Joseph Johnston worked in the woods for several years and lived in a round log cabin for many years. He received his early and meager education in a log school with puncheon floors and with benches that boasted no backs, and he did not know what a school house looked like until he was eleven years of age. However, he was ambitious and made the most of such poor advantages as were offered him. In his early manhood he hewed railroad ties and has the distinction of making more ties than any other man in the county. His uncle, Joseph Johnston, helped build the first log jail in the county. Joseph, our subject, worked at different times clearing land for others, and it is said that he has cleared more than three hundred acres during his life. His father died in 1854 and since that time Joseph has been the support of his mother, who survived her husband forty-two years, dying in 1896, in her ninety-eighth year.

Joseph was married in 1858 to Miss Minerva Reynolds. She is a daughter of John and Rachel (Ball) Reynolds, who were natives of Maryland and came west. They lived for a time in Ohio and then removed to Indiana, settling in Root township about 1830. Their farm when they purchased it was in the woods and was soon improved and made productive. Mr. Reynolds added to his real estate holding from time to time and at one period of his life owned hundreds of acres of land in Adams county, included in which was the present site of the city of Decatur. He died in 1846 and his wife died in 1890. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Johnston have become the parents of ten children, seven of whom are still living. Those living are: Willis M., Emma R., Florence A., Edward J., Sarah E., Charles M. and Rose Ann. Eliza J., Edna E. and Cora M. are dead.

Throughout his life Mr. Johnston has voted the Democratic ticket. He has always taken an active part in county and township affairs and has served as a supervisor and a member of the county council. With his wife and the members of his family he is an earnest and consistent member of the Christian Union church.