

JAY RUGG, farmer, section 26, Root Township, was born in Decatur, this county, April 4, 1848. He lived in his native town until 1858, then removed to Fort Wayne, where his father, Samuel Rugg, was elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The family then removed to Indianapolis, where they lived four years. During the late war he enlisted in Company C, Seventeenth Indiana Infantry, and served three years, or until the close of the war. He was in the battle of Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and all the battles and skirmishes of is regiment. They went to Atlanta, but returned to Nashville, under General Thomas, and was in the battle of Franklin. He was discharged in February, 1864; but when General Morgan made his raid he enlisted in the One Hundred and Thirty-second Indiana for 100 days. After his discharge he lived a short time in Fort Wayne, when the family removed to Nashville, Tennessee, on account of is father's pulmonary difficulties. They lived there three years, when the father went to Huntsville, Alabama. Our subject was then running an engine on the Memphis & Charleston Railroad. He followed that occupation nine years. He was married June 26, 1876, to Mrs. Catherine Smith, who was born in Clarke County, Ohio, October 26, 1836, and when she was five years old the family removed to this county, settling in Washington Township, where she was mostly reared. Her parents were natives of Virginia. Her father was born in Rockingham County in 1811, where he was reared ad educated. He was married in Clarke County, Ohio. He died on August 26, 1874. The mother was four and a half years older than the father, and died on the home farm April 16, 1872, and is buried in the Crawford cemetery. Mrs. Rugg was the oldest of eight children. She has two brothers living in Wabash Township, and one brother in Washington Township. A sister lives in Florida. Mr. and Mrs. Rugg have one child - Gertrude, who was born June 9, 1878.

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**Snow's History of Adams County, Indiana, John Fletcher Snow, B. F. Bowen, Indianapolis, IN, 1907, p. 307 (images 627)**

JAY RUGG.

No story of the development of the city of Decatur, Indiana, would be complete or adequate without a sketch of the life and connection with the city's growth of Jay Rugg. Identified with the lives and energies of the hardy pioneers who blazed the way through the wildernesses of the new western country and founded new commercial and social centers, the name of Jay Rugg must ever remain a part of the history of the settlement and development of northeastern Indiana. He was the son of Samuel L. Rugg, who was one of the first settlers in this particular section of the state, and the city of Decatur was originally platted by Samuel Rugg, in connection with his brother-in-law, on August 27, 1809. To Samuel Rugg still another distinction attaches. He was the first paid superintendent of public instruction of the state of Indiana. Throughout his useful and active career in the new state he held several public offices and discharged the duties of each with admirable fidelity and with a high order of intelligence. He was elected on a number of occasions to county offices and held the office of county clerk for eighteen years. His close attention to his arduous duties and his business interests caused his health to fail. He finally decided to try a milder climate and in search of renewed vigor traveled to the southland. He spent some time in the cities of the states south of Mason's and Dixon's line, but did not receive the benefit he had anticipated. In the end he died at Huntsville, Alabama, well advanced in years.

Jay Rugg, the son of Samuel, with whom this article is concerned, was born in Decatur, Indiana, April 4, 1849. He was educated in Decatur and Fort Wayne and at the outbreak of the Civil war answered the President's call for volunteers and hurried to the front. For three years he followed the varying fortunes of his country's flag through the trials and hardships of actual battle and camp life, and at the end of his service received an honorable discharge. Following the expiration of his term of enlistment and the close of the war Mr. Rugg returned to Decatur and took up once more the pursuits of a life of peace. During the

years immediately following his return from the front he engaged in several lines of business, among them that of brickmaking. In the latter years of his life he engaged in farming, and he was thus engaged when his death occurred at his farm in Root township, November 1, 1896.

Mr. Rugg was married in Decatur June 20, 1876, to Mrs. Catherine (Rawley) Smith, a daughter of Tilmon and Elizabeth Rowley. She was born in Clark county, Ohio, October 26, 1836. Before her marriage to Mr. Rugg Mrs. Smith was the widow of Franklin B. Smith, who died on his farm in Root township when forty years of age. She had four children by her first marriage, who lived to attain maturity. These are: William R., Eliza J., the wife of V. L. Shaffer, of Allen county; Martin L. and Hannah M., the wife of James T. Dailey. Four other children by this first marriage are dead. They were: Alice, the wife of Davis Dailey, who died in her twenty-eighth year; Sidney S., who died in Adams county at the age of twenty-one; Elizabeth, who died at the age of five years, and Ora, who died when seven years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Rugg are the parents of two children, one of whom died in infancy. The other, Gertrude, is the wife of Robert M. Cashen, of St. Louis, Missouri.

Both Mr. Rugg and his wife, who survives him, early identified themselves with the Methodist Episcopal church of Decatur. Their influence was ever on the side of progression and right and they were respected and admired by the entire community as a model and exemplary couple. Mrs. Rugg still enjoys a ripe old age and lives quietly and contentedly on Ninth street in Decatur. She is loved by all whose good fortune it has been to know and come in contact with her excellent and Christian influence.