

JOHN J. WATSON, of the firm of Watson & MacWhinney, dealers in general merchandise, and shippers of railroad ties, staves, etc., was born in Hamilton, Canada, February 3, 1844, son of Richard R. and Mary A. (McCarty) Watson, the former a native of England and the latter of Ireland. They came with their parents to Canada when young, where they were married. The father was an architect and carpenter, and while at work on the cornice of a church building in London, Canada, he sustained injuries from the effects of which he died one year later. The family remained there until John J. was twelve years old, when the mother came with her family to St. Mary's, Auglaize County, Ohio, where they remained four years, thence to Wapakoneta, in the same county. Our subject enlisted September 26, 1861, in Company C, Fifty-seventh Ohio Infantry, and served until October 28, 1864. After his discharge he was employed in the Quartermaster's department at Lexington, Kentucky, remaining until about the 1st of February, 1865. He raised a company in Auglaize County, then returned to Columbus and assigned his men to the One Hundred and Eighty-fifth Ohio Infantry, and re-enlisted as sergeant, serving until October 28, 1865. He was discharged by general order, it being the close of the war. Mr. Watson returned to his home in Ohio and learned the cooper's trade, which he followed until 1874, then came to Ceylon, Wabash Township, built a shop and engaged in coopering. In 1879 he engaged in the mercantile business. His first stock of goods amounted to \$205, opening up in his cooper shop. His business increased so rapidly that he was soon compelled to rent a larger business room, and afterward bought the building. One year later he purchased a still larger building, the first one purchased being insufficient to contain goods to supply his customers. He remained in the last building until 1882, when he sold out his stock and buildings, and went to Celina, Mercer County, Ohio, and engaged in the mercantile trade there. He lived there one year, then went to Spencerville, same State, remaining but a short time, then returned to Adams County in June, 1885; and established his present business in Geneva. He is a member of John P. Porter Post, No.85, G. A. R. He was married March 22, 1871, to Ella G. Jackson, born September 7, 1852, at Mount Vernon, Ohio. Her father has been a prominent attorney of Auglaize County, Ohio, for thirty years; he still resides there. Mr. and Mrs. Watson have four children - Eltie R., Susie A., Charles P. and Gracie B.

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