

Francis S. Bunker is a native of Indiana, born in Rush County, December 22, 1838, a son of Thomas and Rebecca (Swain) Bunker, who were born in the State of North Carolina. When he was twelve years old, his parents removed to Wayne County, Indiana, where he grew to manhood, being reared on a farm and receiving his education in the commons schools. He was married in 1858 to Miss Laurana Hunt, and to them was born four children – Alpharetta, Byron L., Thomas and Ira. He was engaged in farming until the breaking out of the War of the Rebellion. October 12, 1861, he enlisted in Company B, Fifty-Seventh Indiana Infantry, serving his country until the close of the war, receiving an honorable discharge December 3, 1865. While in the Army, he suffered wounds from exposure and hardships, from which he has never fully recovered. In the fall of 1866, he came with his family to Jay County, locating in Penn Township, where he still followed farming.

His wife died in 1870 and in 1871, he was united in marriage to Angeline Johnson, daughter of Levi and Harriet (Rigby) Johnson. To this union was added six children – Lurana, Alice, Harriet, May, Evi, Myrtle, Orville and Garfield.

In the fall of 1881, Mr. Bunker lost his second wife and was united in marriage May 27, 1882 to Mrs. Elvira (Wright) Votaw, a daughter of Jesse and Dianna (Gardner) Wright, who was born in Wayne County, Indiana, January 22, 1838, and was married to Ellis Walton, a son of Abraham and Mary (Allison) Walton, January 22, 1859. To them was born, July 1, 1860, a daughter, Miss Amelia, who is still living and married to Arthur L. Paxson, son of Watson and Evaline (Dugdale) Paxson. Ellis Walton was born December 31, 1837, and when twelve years of age removed with his mother to Jay County, Indiana, where he grew to manhood, and received his education in the common schools. He was reared on a farm and following farming until the fall of 1862, when enlisted in the Fifty-Fourth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and received a mortal wound at Vicksburg, and died January 16, 1863.

Mrs. Walton was again married May, 1866 to John M. Votaw, son of Benjamin and Rachel (Walton) Votaw, who was born March 4, 1837, and served his country all through the War for the Union, receiving an honorable discharge at the close of the war. To Mr. and Mrs. Votaw were born two children – Ellis Ervin, March 10, 1867 and Emma Frances, September 16, 1868.

Mr. Votaw being dissatisfied with his little family removed with his parents to Missouri and Mrs. Votaw lived alone with her little family about twelve years, when she was again married to Mr. Bunker. Francis S. Bunker departed this life May 14, 1887.