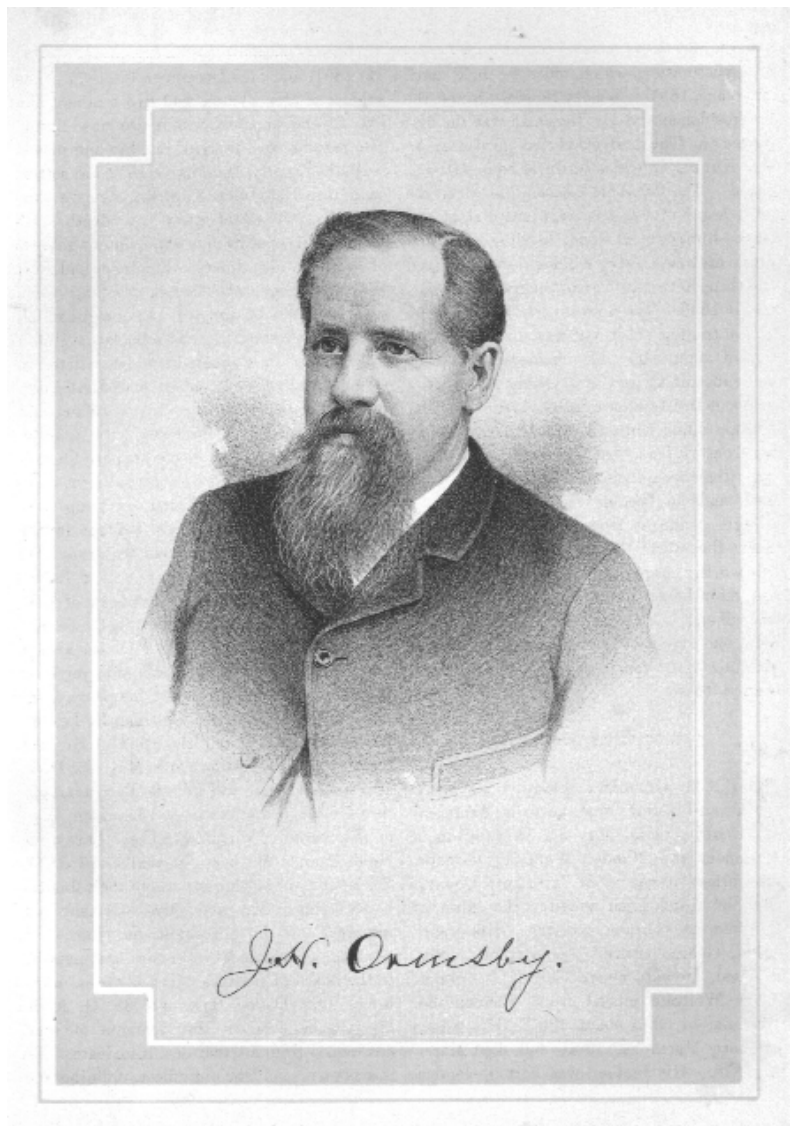


JOHN H. ORMSBY, clerk of the Wells Circuit Court, was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, May 24, 1841, a son of Alexander and Nancy (Wolfcale) Ormsby, the former a native of Trumbull County, Ohio, of Scotch-Irish ancestry, the latter of Virginia, of German ancestry. His grandfather, George Ormsby, came from County Donegal, Ireland, about 1797. His grandfather Wolfcale moved from Loudenville, Virginia, to Ohio about 1807. His father was born March 24, 1800, and died March 20, 1876. His mother was born December 12, 1801, and died December 12, 1877. The subject of this sketch had five brothers and five sisters, eight of whom are now living. His parents were married in Ohio and moved to



Wells County, Indiana, in 1852 and settled on a farm in Union Township, where they resided until called away by death. He received his education in the common schools of Wells County, Roanoke Seminary and Fort Wayne College. He began teaching when eighteen years of age, and has taught in all twenty-two terms in the schools of Union Township. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and First Regiment Indiana Volunteers as a private, and was discharged as a Sergeant July 3, 1865. In June, 1873, he was elected superintendent of the schools of Wells County and served two years, declining a re-election. During 1880 and part of 1881 he was a teacher in the Reform School at Plainfield, Indiana. He was also in the mercantile business at Zanesville from 1869 to 1873. In the fall of 1882 he was elected clerk of the Wells Circuit Court and re-elected in 1886. He has always been a pronounced Democrat and ever alive to the interest and success of his party. He was first married to Miss Samantha Leeper, who died in September, 1872. He was married to his present wife May 12, 1875. Her maiden name was Jennie Ray, a daughter of George and Virginia (Morrison) Ray, of Richmond, Virginia. They have one child, Homer M., born November 17, 1877. He is a bright boy around whom their fondest hopes cling. Mr. and Mrs. Ormsby are members of the Presbyterian church in Bluffton, of which Mr. Ormsby is a member of time board of trustees. He is also a member of Lew Dailey Post, No. 35, G. A. R. He is a believer in the doctrine of total abstinence from all that can intoxicate. He is a popular and efficient officer, obliging and pains-taking in the discharge of his duties. His wife is intelligent, generous and charitable and is a valuable laborer in Sunday-school and church work.

Biographical and historical record of Adams and Wells counties, Indiana. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1887. pp. 782-785.