



A History Of Sullivan County, Indiana V2: Closing Of The First Century's History Of The County

Thomas J. Wolfe

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HISTORY OF SULLIVAN COUNTY

John T. and Will. H. Hays. —The law firm of John T. & Will. H. Hays, of Sullivan, is composed of John T. Hays, who has been a leading attorney and citizen of this locality for some thirty years, and Will. H. Hays his son, who has been associated with his father since 1900. The firm are attorneys for the various railroads, coal companies, and other important corporations which are so much concerned in the development of Sullivan county, among them being the Evansville & Terre Haute Railroad Company; the Indianapolis Southern Railroad Company; the Terre Haute, Indianapolis & Eastern Traction Company; the Dering Coal Company; Consolidated Indiana Coal Company; Jackson Hill Coal & Coke Company; Carlisle Coal & Clay Company; Bellevue Coal Company; Sullivan County Coal Company ; the West Jackson Hill Coal Mining & Transport Company; the London Liability and Guaranty Company; the Illinois Coal Operators' Mutual Employers' Liability Insurance Company; the Central Union Telephone Company; the Sullivan Lighting Company, and the People's State Bank of Sullivan.

John Tennyson Hays, senior member of the firm, is a native of Beaver county, Pennsylvania, born on the nth day of November, 1845. His parents and grandparents were all native-born Americans. He lived on a farm with his father until he was sixteen years of age, attending the short winter terms of the common schools in his native county during that time. In 1864 he was graduated from the Iron City Commercial College at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, then attended the high school at Lisbon, Ohio, and in 1866 entered Mount Union College. He was graduated from that institution in June, 1869, receiving the highest honors of his class in natural science and mathematics. For a year after his graduation he was principal of schools at Calcutta, Ohio, and in August, 1870, moved to Farmersburg, Sullivan county. He taught in the Ascension Seminary there, and later in Sullivan, until 1874, with the exception of one year, during which he was principal of the schools at Oaktown, Knox county.

In 1874 Mr. Hays became a law student in the office of Sewell Counsel, but at his admission to the bar on Marcli i, 187s. purchased the inter-

est of Nathaniel G. Buff, in the firm of Buff' & Buff, of Sullivan, continuing in partnership with Judge Buff until 1878. In the fall of that year the partnership was dissolved, as he had been elected prosecuting attorney of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit for a term of two years. In 1879 he associated himself in practice with his brother, H. J. Hays, and that partnership was unbroken until 1892. From that year until 1900, when he received his son, Will. H. Hays into partnership, he conducted an independent practice. Although his law business is of immense proportions, his early life on the farm still draws him to the soil, and he now takes great delight in managing his farm, as well as a tract of several thousand acres owned by the West Jackson Hill Coal Mining & Transport Company, of which he is president. He is also a director in the People's State Bank.

Mr. liays has always been a Republican, but never was a candidate for any office except that of prosecuting attorney. He has always been a member of the Presbyterian church, of which he is an elder and in which he has taught for years in connection with the Sunday school. Socially, he is a member of the Columbia Club, Indianapolis, and has a close connection with the Masonic fraternity and the Knights of Pythias. He is a member of Sullivan Commandery, No. 54, Knights Templar; Jerusalem Chapter, No. 81, Royal Arch Masons; Sullivan Lodge, No. 263, Free and Accepted Masons; Sullivan Council, No. 73, R. & S. M.; and Sullivan Chapter, No. 188, Order of the Eastern Star. He served eight years as high priest of this chapter and three years as master of his lodge. He is identified with the Knights of Pythias as a member of Sullivan Lodge, No. 85.

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