

**Biographical and Historical Record - Adams and Wells Co. Indiana Lewis Publishing Co. Chicago, IL 1887**

MARK MILLS McCONNELL, deputy sheriff of Adams County, is a native of Adams County, Indiana, born in Monroe Township April 23, 1846, eldest son of Hon. John and Lucinda (McDermeit) McConnell, who were old settlers of Adams County, the father coming here in 1840, and the mother in 1838. Mark M., our subject, from his fourth year was reared at Decatur, and was educated at the schools of Decatur at the Vermillion Institute at Haysville, Ohio. On becoming of age he studied dentistry at South Bend, Indiana, and afterward practiced at Decatur for two years. Dentistry not agreeing with his health, he abandoned it in 1870, after which he was employed as brakesman on the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad until 1871. He then followed farming in Adams and Allen counties until 1877, when he was engaged in the manufacture of wagons and carriages until 1882. In that year he was made deputy sheriff by Sheriff Michael McGriff, and also held the same position under his successor, Perry A. Lewton, who was elected sheriff in 1886. In politics Mr. McConnell affiliates with the Democratic party. He has been twice married. He was first married to Miss Samantha J. Grim, at Decatur, September 6, 1868, who died at Fort Wayne in 1871, leaving one child, Maggie, who is a student at the Decatur High School. Mr. McConnell was married a second time at Decatur, December 29, 1872, to Miss Rachel Elzey, whose parents, Elisha and Comfort A. (Whitehurst) Elzey, were pioneers of Adams County. Mr. McConnell is a charter member of Kekionga Lodge, No. 65, K. of P., of Decatur, of which he has passed all the chairs, and is a member of the Grand Lodge of the State of Indiana. John McConnell, the father of our subject, was born in Butler County, Ohio, January 20, 1819, of Irish parentage. He was the eldest of a family of three children, and his father dying when he was six years old, the care of his mother and a sister devolved on him, the youngest sister dying in infancy. He was early in life inured to hard work, beginning at the age of ten years to drive oxen on a brick yard, for which he received the small sum of 6 1/4 cents a day. When seventeen years old he worked at the blacksmith's trade for Henry Dillon for \$3 per month. After coming to Adams County he obtained a farm of 100 acres, a part of which he entered, and purchased the remainder. He was married July 10, 1845, to Lucinda McDermeit, a native of Pennsylvania, who is still living, making her home in Root Township, near Monmouth. They were the parents of six children. In his political views the father was a staunch Democrat. He was a prominent and influential man in Adams County, and held many public offices. He served three years as county commissioner, and for nine years was county auditor, and was clerk of the circuit court for four years. In 1872 he was elected to the Indiana State Legislature, and served with satisfaction to his constituents during the special session of 1872 and the regular session of 1873.