

HON. THOMAS WHITE. Among the prominent public men and jurists of this State, no one has ever been more deservedly honored for intellectual power and a pure record of public and private life, than Thomas White, who was an eminent lawyer, an upright judge and a just man. He was a son of Richard and Mary White, and was born in 1799 in Sussex county, in the south of England, and within sight of the hill of Senlac, where the last king of English blood fell dead at the foot of the royal standard—the consecrated gift of Rome and Hildebrand, and where the Norman conqueror William reared Battle Abbey with its massive walls to fulfill a vow and in honor of his great victory (called in history the battle of Hastings). Sussex county, whose coast is the resort of rank, fashion and opulence and whose hills and downs present a variety of pleasing and picturesque situations, is historic ground. On its soil Caesar first planted the imperial banners of Rome when he invaded Britain; subsequently the Saxon invasion of England was made through its territory and there is no more classic ground in all England than Senlac hill, the last spur of the Sussex downs, once covered by the great *Andrede weald*, or wonderful native forests. After Norman William had won the kingdom there were several immigrations from Normandy, and in the mixed population of Saxon and Norman, elements which came to be occupants of the Senlac district there is no clue to the ancestry of Judge White, other than is afforded by the name (White), which is undoubtedly Saxon, and some of his ancestors may have fought under King Harold when he fell in 1066, in defense of his kingdom.

Thomas White was brought, by his mother, Mrs. Mary White, in 1804, to Philadelphia, where he obtained his education in the public schools of that city and became well versed in the French and Spanish languages. He read law with William Rawle, was admitted to the bar and in 1821 opened an office at Indiana. On December 13, 1836, he appointed, by Gov. Joseph Ritner, as president judge of the Tenth Judicial District, composed of the counties of Armstrong, Cambria, Indiana and Westmoreland. After he left the bench, in 1847, he resumed the practice of law and was engaged in many important cases in different county courts and the supreme court of Pennsylvania.

Judge White took great interest in agriculture, raised some very fine sheep and blooded cattle and was president of the Indiana Agricultural Association from its origin until his death, in 1866.