

JOHN S. HASTINGS. One of the most useful and important industries of any town or city is the lumber business. A representative lumber manufacturer and dealer of Indiana county is John S. Hastings, a soldier of the late war and the proprietor of the Hastings Planing-mill. He was born near Dayton, Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, January 16, 1848, and is a son of Enoch and Eliza (Sutor) Hastings. He is a descendant of the old Hastings family of England. His grandfather, John Hastings resided near Bellefonte, Centre county, this State, where he died. His son, Enoch Hastings, was born in 1781, removed to Armstrong county, near Dayton, where he worked at his trade of blacksmith and was engaged for many years in farming operating a flouring-mill. He soon became a leading citizen in the community in which he resided. He was a member and deacon of the Baptist church and served as a justice of the peace and in local offices for many years. He died on his farm near Dayton in 1855, in his seventy-fourth year. He married Eliza Sutor, daughter of John Sutor, who was a native of Scotland and after coming to the State located in Washington county, but subsequently removed near Marion, this county, where he followed farming till 1875, when he passed away in the ninety-sixth year of his age. Mrs. Eliza Hastings was born in Washington county and was brought at seven years of age to this county, where she was reared in the faith of the Presbyterian church, with which she united in early life, but subsequently joined the Baptist church. She died in 1883, aged about 72 years, and her remains were interred at Marion, while her husband's body was entombed in the Glade Run church-yard in Armstrong county.

John S. Hastings was reared on a farm until he was 16 years of age, and received his education in the common schools and Dayton academy. On February 23, 1864—just shortly after his sixteenth birthday—he enlisted in the United States Signal Corps and served till he was honorably discharged at San Antonio, Texas, April 20, 1866. During the last named year he went to Pittsburgh, Pa., where he worked at the trade of carpenter with William Dick, and in the fall of 1867 came to Indiana. There he finished his trade with his uncle, John Sutor, for whom and with whom he worked until 1872. He then purchased his uncle's half-interest in a planing-mill and became a member of the firm of Lowry, Hastings & Co. In 1877 he purchased Lowry's interest and the firm was Hastings & Leach until June, 1879, when Mr. Leach sold his share to Col. D. S. Porter and business was carried on in the name of John S. Hastings.

The Hastings planing-mill is a two-story frame, 50x113 in dimensions, and is run by a forty-five horse-power engine and supplied with all late and improved machinery. The central portion of the mill was erected in 1866; next the southern addition was built and later the eastern addition was erected. Mr. Hastings keeps constantly on hand a large stock of rough and dressed pine, oak, hemlock and all other kinds of lumber and manufactures doors, sash, blinds, frames, scroll work, stair rails, lath and shingles in large quantities to supply the wants of his many patrons. He is also a contractor and has built a great many buildings. The Indiana county jail, First Presbyterian church of Kittanning and Jackson street Baptist church of Scranton, Pa., being among the number.

He was married, February 28, 1884, to Virginia Coleman, a resident of Indiana, but a native of Wheeling, W.Va. Their union has been blessed with one child, a son, named Ralph Wendell Hastings.

John S. Hastings is a republican in politics and supports his party whenever it is necessary, but is no politician. For twenty years he has been identified with the material interests and prosperity of Indiana. Every movement for the advancement of the borough has met with his approval, enlisted his attention and secured his support. His business has built up with the town in its steady and substantial growth and development of the last two decades. His business has expanded slowly from year to year until it has attained very respectable proportions and extends over considerable area of territory. Mr. Hastings is a notable example of a wide-awake and self-made man.