

JOHN J. RICHARDS, now living retired in Indiana, was born Dec. 4, 1845, at Brady's Bend, Armstrong Co., Pa., son of John and Mary (Jenkins) Richards, natives of Wales, the father born in Cardiganshire.

John Richards, the father, was a miner in his native land, working in lead and other ore mines. Having decided to try his fortune in the United States, he came over with his sister, Jemima, leaving his family until he could prepare a home for them. He was three months and fourteen days on the ocean, had the misfortune to be shipwrecked, and was alone when he landed at New York, his sister having died at sea. Proceeding at once to Carbondale, Pa., he did not find work as he expected, so he walked thence to Pittsburg, where he arrived with but twelve cents in his pocket. From there he went on to Brady's Bend, in Armstrong county, where he commenced to work in the mines, but the company which employed him went under soon afterward, and in company with another miner, Richard Ulley, he made a raft and went down the Allegheny river to Pittsburg. He dug coal at Sawmill run for a cent a bushel, but soon went west to St. Louis, Mo., in which section he dug coal for one winter. Coming back to Brady's Bend, he found the mines had started again and he was employed there for several years. Meantime he had sent for his wife and family, then consisting of four children, and in 1843 they moved to Johnstown, Pa., where he worked in the coal mines. The family made their home at that place until 1858. Mrs. Richards died there in 1856, and Mr. Richards subsequently (1858) moved to Broad Top, Huntingdon Co., Pa., where he spent the remainder of his days, dying Jan. 12, 1873, at the age of seventy-two years. Mr. and Mrs. Richards were members of the Baptist Church. They had the following children: Jemima, Mrs. Jeremiah Griffiths, who died in Punxsutawney, Pa.; Margaret, Mrs. David Shorthill, who died in Livingston Mont.; Thomas, of Punxsutawney; Angeline, Mrs. William Johns, who died in Punxsutawney; John J.; Abigail, Mrs. Joseph Higgins, who died in Clearfield, Pa., and Mary Jane, Mrs. William Hill, of Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

John J. Richards passed the greater part of his early life at Johnstown and Broad Top, Pa., attending school in both places. At the outbreak of the Civil war he ran away twice and tried to enter the army, but his father brought him back. The third time he made the attempt he was successful and he enlisted at Hollidaysburg, Blair Co., Pa., Feb. 24, 1864, for three years or during the war, becoming a private in Company K (Capt. John H Boring), 22d Pennsylvania Cavalry (Col. George Higgins), with which he served twenty months, being discharged at Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 26, 1865. He was under Sheridan in the Shenandoah valley, and took part in the battles of Newmarket, Port Republic, Lynchburg, Fisher's Hill, Port Republic (again), Aspa Gap, Opequan Creek, Winchester and Cedar Creek. He was wounded while on scout duty.

Coming home from the army, Mr. Richards went to work in the mines, being thus employed in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Maryland. On May 21, 1871, he married Anna Matilda Drennen, of Huntingdon, Pa., daughter of Robert Drennen, who was born and reared in Huntingdon county; he worked on the construction of the Juniata canal. Locating at Powelton, Center Co., Pa., Mr. Richards lived there two years, moving thence to Huntingdon county, and from there to Clearfield county and later to Jefferson county. On his retirement, in 1903, he

moved from the latter county to the borough of Indiana, where he has since had his home. He bought his present residence, at No. 115 North Fifth street, and is very comfortably established there.

Mr. and Mrs. Richards have had one son, John R. Mr. Richards is a member of the I.O.O.F, belonging to Lodge No. 261, of Coalmont, Huntingdon Co., Pa. He and his wife are members of the M. E. Church.