

INDIANA COUNTY

175th

Anniversary History

by

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VOLUME IV

**Biographical Sketches of Noted
Citizens, Past and Present**

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SUTTON, PETER (nephew of Peter II), b. Indiana c. 1822, d. 3-13-1892. Associate Judge, IC, 1861-66.

Judge S. was a merchant beginning in the 1840's; and was an unsuccessful candidate for Commissioner 1844 (Vol. I:249). He was a signer of a pledge of indemnification from damages in 1852 to induce the Pa. RR to extend its line to Indiana (I:552). In 1853,

with James Sutton, A. T. Stewart & W. B. Marshall, he erected the two-story brick store which later became the Stewart Hardware. About the same time he established a grocery store on N. Sixth St. opposite the Jail and hired A. W. Wilson as clerk, who later wrote, "I shall always remember the kindness received at the hands of Judge Sutton, during my two years under his direction. . ." Wilson always counted him a friend, and Judge Sutton was the only guest at Wilson's wedding 7-7-1853. He was on the nominating committee at the 1855 "Fusion" Rally (I:397).

In 1856 he erected a brick house (now a fraternity house) adjoining the Episcopal Church and was named to a committee to arrange a July 4th celebration. Member, Indiana Boro Council 1853-54, and of West Indiana Council 1874-76.

In 1861 he was chairman of a meeting opposing the repeal of the Pa. RR tonnage tax (I: 569). Later a letter signed "Many Republicans" endorsed him for Associate Judge, and he was nominated and elected (I: 659-61). In 1862 he was on the executive committee of the IC Soldiers Relief Assoc. (I:642). In 1863 he chaired a meeting which resulted in formation of the "Indiana Cemetery Co." in 1864. He was one of those accused of offering inducements to former Sheriff William Evans in 1865 to run for the Senate against Harry White. In 1866 he was pres. of the Indiana Freedmen's Aid Society, formed to aid the newly-liberated slaves.

He was an early supporter of the movement to establish a Normal School in Indiana. On 1-9-1870 he made a motion to set up a committee to solicit subscriptions to the stock of the school, and was named one of that committee. Later he became a trustee, 1872-73, but appears to have gone South to reside about that time, staying only a short time. By 1875 he was the first treasurer of the Normal School and continued in that capacity until November 1877 when he presented a bill for \$1,950 or 3% of the moneys that passed through his hands. The trustees were indignant, and refused to pay, being "under the impression that Mr. Sutton, like the other officers of the Board, was performing the duties. . . gratuitously." Mr. S. claimed it took all his time "to the neglect of his own business."

By 1880 he was a business partner in Loughrey & Sutton.

Our subject m. Jane Mechling (c. 1838/2-13-1908) d/o Philip Mechling who, with four sons and a daughter, survived him when he died 1892: Frank (c. 1859/7-30-1926); Philip H. (8-17-1857/6-27-1950); Ross M.; Harry (c. 1864/6-18-1900); Annie K. m. W. Fred Wettling. Two children died earlier: Annie in April 1853, almost 3 yrs. old, and Arthur in March 1887.

Mr. S.'s father, Thomas Sutton is the subject of another sketch.