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William Perry Rogers (1896-1902)

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1895

Rogers, William P.

Joseph E. Henley

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Recommended Citation

Henley, Joseph E., "Rogers, William P." (1895). *William Perry Rogers (1896-1902)*. 1.
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INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Maurer School of Law
Bloomington



M. P. Rogers.

ROGERS, WILLIAM P., was born on the 3rd day of March, 1857, in Brown county, Ind. He descends from a rugged and hardy race of people, the influence of whose lives and actions is ineffaceably impressed upon the history of Monroe, Brown, Lawrence and Jackson counties, and intimately interwoven with the social, material and moral growth of that portion of the State. His father, William K. Rogers, a native of Jackson county, Ind., and his mother, Sarah (Boruff) Rogers, a native of Monroe county, Ind., were pioneers of the State, and each is a representative of a family of people whose direct and collateral branches include an ever widening circle of staunch and familiar names in south-central Indiana. The parents of the subject of this sketch were married in Monroe county, in December, 1841, by Rev. James Mathes, and followed the business of farming in that county for five years, when they removed to Brown county, to engage in the same pursuit. They continued to reside on a farm in Brown county until 1875, at which time they again settled in Monroe county, where they continue now to reside. William P. Rogers was reared in Washington township, in Brown county, until sixteen years of age, when he entered the High School at Bloomington, Ind., pursuing his studies for two years. For lack of necessary means he could no further prosecute his studies at that time, but engaged in teaching in his native county in 1875 and 1876. In the fall of the latter year he matriculated in the Indiana University, remaining at that institution for three years. Having chosen law for his profession, he immediately entered the law office of Messrs. Buskirk & Duncan as a student and assistant.

In September, 1879, he entered the active practice of the law in partnership with E. E. Sadler, Esq., and remained in that connection for nearly a year. Then, alone, he continued in the practice until September, 1881, at which time he entered into partnership with Joseph E. Henley. This business association continued for five years and until Mr. Heuley went to Wichita, Kas. In 1886, he became a partner of J. H. Loudon, Esq., under the firm name of Loudon & Rogers. This firm continued until November, 1892, being dissolved at that time by the election of Mr. Rogers to the professorship of Law in the Indiana University, a position he has continually occupied to this time. The branches assigned to Prof. Rogers for the senior class are Equity, Jurisprudence, Real Property and Private Corporations; and for the junior class, Elementary Laws, Personal Property, Criminal Law, Sales and Municipal Corporations. Of these various branches, he is especially interested in Equity, Jurisprudence and Private Corporations, but in all the branches of his department he brings into requisition scholarly attainments, ripe experience and intense enthusiasm, which render him a valuable and effective teacher. In 1892, the degree of LL. B. was conferred on Prof. Rogers by the Indiana University. He was married at Bloomington, on the 30th day of March, 1882, to Miss E. Belle Clark, daughter of William A. Clark, one of Monroe county's most respected and substantial citizens. This union has been blessed with four children, Ethel B., Norine F. and Clark W., living, and Maurice W., who died at the age of three years. Prof. Rogers is a Republican in politics, though never a candidate for a political office. In 1881, he was elected City Treasurer for the city of Bloomington, and was re-elected in 1883. Both he and his wife are prominent members of the Christian Church. As a lawyer, Mr. Rogers has taken front rank at the Bloomington bar. During his active practice, his advice was sought in the most difficult and intricate controversies, and in the forum his eloquent voice and logical reasoning were generally heard in the most important legal contests. He has been connected with some celebrated cases, among which might be mentioned the "Chambers' Express robbery and attempted murder case," the story of which has recently been woven into an interesting novel. This case was tried in the Monroe Circuit Court and created the most intense excitement and factional bitterness ever known in the county. Prof. Rogers was retained for the prosecution, and was accorded leadership in the trial. He conducted the prosecution with great vigor and consummate tact during a long and tedious trial, and at the close of all the evidence he made an argument which, for eloquent denunciation and logical force, stands without a superior in the criminal annals of Monroe county. As a business man he is counted prudent and progressive. He has great faith in Monroe county and her material possibilities. He is one of the pioneers in the development of the stone interests in Monroe county, and is now extensively connected with various enterprises in that line. As a citizen he is typical and representative. He takes an active interest in all efforts to promote social purity and moral excellence. Mentally he is quick, active and impulsive, but his every action, thought and impulse is based upon truth and right.