

**LAFOLLETTE, D. W.**, of New Albany, ex-Judge of Floyd County Court of Common Pleas, is one of eleven children of Robert LaFollette, who emigrated to the then territory of Indiana November 5, 1804. The preceding day he had married Miss Martha Sampson, and together they had crossed the Ohio River and pitched their tent about three-fourths of a mile east of Knob Creek, which location he had previously selected. Here, in the unbroken wilderness, surrounded by the dusky forms of the friendly Indians, they resolved to make their future home and commence the battle of life. They remained in camp until Mr. LaFollette had made a clearing, cut logs, and built a cabin. This was the first house built in Floyd County, and the young wife was the first white woman who settled there. Their nearest white neighbors were ten miles below them, in Harrison County, and the next twelve miles above, in Clarksville, opposite the falls. The Shawnee Indians were their immediate neighbors, and with them they lived on the most peaceable terms. When marauding tribes from other sections made their appearance in the vicinity, Mrs. LaFollette was warned by her Indian friends, and sent across the river to her people, while her husband joined the expeditions to drive them back. They underwent all the hardships of pioneer life; a rude cabin, with a floor of split logs, sheltered them, and a table, bed, and other furniture, of split boards, were the household equipments of the young settlers. Game and fish were abundant, but they had besides only corn, either parched or ground, and broken into coarse meal. Mr. LaFollette continued to reside where he first settled, and when the division line between Clarke and Harrison Counties was drawn he was thrown into Clarke County, and paid his share towards building the first court-house, at Charlestown, the county seat. A few years afterward he moved into Harrison County, and helped to build, by special tax, the court-house at Corydon; and, later, when Floyd County was organized, he found himself in that county, and paid his proportion of the levy to build the first court-house at New Albany. He remained on the farm to which he had removed from the vicinity of Knob Creek, until his death, which occurred in January, 1867, when he was eighty-nine years old. He had resided in the limits of what is now Floyd County for sixty-two years, and his wife sixty-one years. She died a year before her husband, at seventy-nine years of age. Robert LaFollette was, in all his relations, an eminently good man and a conscientious Christian. His house was, for many years, used for meetings by the regular Baptist minister, and pioneer preachers of all denominations were cordially welcomed. While he was conscientiously religious, he was also religiously conscious of his duty to kill hostile Indians, and never missed an opportunity of joining in the chase. From the preceding short sketch of his father it will be seen that the early opportunities of D. W. LaFollette must have been very limited; but the early instructions of a pioneer mother took root like seed fallen on good ground. He was born the thirteenth day of September, 1825, and early in life learned that honest toil is the surest road to prosperity. By his own labor he acquired the means to defray his expenses at the state university, and graduated from the law department. He afterwards studied law with Hon. W. A. Porter, at Corydon, Indiana, was admitted to the bar in 1849, in the twenty-fourth year of his age, and immediately commenced the practice of his profession at Corydon. In 1852 he was elected prosecuting attorney for the Court of Common Pleas by a large majority. In 1855 he removed to New Albany and formed a partnership with Hon. James Collins. In 1858 he was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Floyd County. In 1872 he was appointed Judge of the Criminal Circuit Court of Floyd and Clarke Counties, but declined, and became prosecuting attorney of the district. In 1873 he was appointed one of the law professors in

the state university, and filled the chair one year, with credit to himself and the institution. Since then he has devoted his time to the practice of his profession, and is now city attorney of New Albany, Indiana. He has been twice married. His second wife is still living, and they have a family of three children, two sons and one daughter – Mattie M., Marian G., and Harry C. Judge LaFollette is a member of the Christian Church, and takes an active part in all benevolent enterprises. He is an active member of the Independent Order of Odd-fellows and Knights of Pythias, having filled the highest official positions in both orders in the jurisdiction of Indiana. He is entirely a self-made man, and is a respected and influential citizen.