

PONTIAC B. H. POSTER

#2
John WATKINS
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Y., working most of the time in Paris Hill, until March 27th, 1834, when he was married to Mary J. Allen, of Martinsburgh, N. Y., and a few weeks later returned with her to bear the privations of pioneer life.

Building a shop on his farm he found work at his trade, working almost day and night, either on the farm or in the shop for many years. About this time he began the study of law, reading Blacks one as he blew the forge, when watching his burning log heaps, or at any spare moment, until he became thoroughly imbued with the principles of law and in love with the profession, and had not circumstances prevented his giving all his attention to its study and practice, he would probably have taken rank with the best lawyers of his day in the State. His general intelligence on nearly all subjects made him a man of more than ordinary ability and information and a most interesting companion. His interest in the events of the day never slackened up to the day of his death, and he kept abreast with the times as few men of his age and physical condition would have done.

In November, 1837, he sold his farm at the earnest solicitation of his father who had come with his family in a colony from the State of New York to Illinois, and moved to what was afterwards Galesburgh in the latter State. A large tract of land was deeded to him where that city now stands, but not liking the cold, bleak and boundless prairie, and finding the sale of his land in Michigan was not a good one, he threw up his claim to the land in Illinois and after an absence of thirteen months, returned to the farm which was ever after his home. This journey to Illinois and back was accomplished by going overland with a team of horses and covered wagon, taking family and effects with them.

From this time until 1852 no great events mark his history, but he was improving his farm and the country around about him. He was largely identified with the responsible

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