



#### JOHN N. RUNYAN.

A son of Peter L. Runyan, Sr., and Mary Runyan, formerly Mary Ewin, was born in Warsaw, Kosciusko Co., Ind., April 26, 1846. His boyhood was spent in his native town, attending school and assisting his father as opportunity offered; his disposition, always cheerful, made "Johnny" a favorite wherever he was known.

At the commencement of the war, although but a boy of fifteen and a half years of age, he was enthused with a desire to be a soldier, so much so that his parents were compelled to exercise their restraining authority, to which he apparently submitted, while he inwardly resolved to go without permission, and made preparation to execute his purpose; but his father's watchful eye was upon him, and when at the depot, almost off, in obedience to parental authority he returned home; his father's consent was finally obtained, however; but here he was met by a more formidable barrier—he was *too short!* But "where there is a will there is a way," and, with the aid of very high-heeled, thick-soled boots, well stuffed, he secured the minimum height, and was mustered. He left Warsaw in December, 1861, with quite a number of recruits for Company E, Twelfth Indiana Infantry; arriving at Hagerstown, Md., he was, contrary to expectation, assigned to Company H, in which he found no acquaintances, and, by division of the regiment, he was twenty-five miles from the company he had expected to be in. This arrangement somewhat staggered the young soldier. His company marched to Andietam, where they made their quarters; his youth and genial disposition soon made him a favorite with the company, and discharging every duty made him a special favorite with his Captain and First Lieutenant. "Johnny" has the strongest feelings of gratitude for the First Lieutenant, now the Hon. George W. Steel. He was mustered out with his regiment in Washington City, D. C., May 19, 1862, and came directly home. Gen. George B. McClellan was Commander-in-Chief when he served, and his "masterly inactivity" enabled the "boys in blue" to pass the time pleasantly, and "Johnny's" soldier life was free from the common hardships. The service, however, filled him with patriotic emotions, and, his boy-life being on the verge of manhood, he seemed to bound into maturity; so rapid was the development that his parents had to look at him several times ere they recognized their boy when he returned home.

The ardor of young life was thrilling him, and, as the war was not over, he took an active part in recruiting Company A of the Seventy-fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was, notwithstanding his youth, mustered in as Second Sergeant. This regiment became

a part of the Fourteenth Army Corps, under Gen. George H. Thomas. In a short time, Johnny was promoted to First Sergeant, and, with the regiment, took part in the movements preceding the battles of Perryville, Stone River and Tullahoma campaign, and those prior to Chickamauga. He was promoted Second Lieutenant March 25, 1863; at the battle of Chattanooga, the Captain and First Lieutenant being wounded early in the action, the command of his company devolved upon Lieut. Runyan. The boy officer became the hero; he was equal to the emergency, his company distinguished themselves on that bloody battle-field, and under the youngest commissioned officer ever known on duty. The company went into the fight with forty-four men; twenty-five fell, pierced by rebel balls! Lieut. Runyan was struck by a spent ball, but remained at his post.

He was promoted First Lieutenant, December 17, 1863. His regiment was soon after in the battle of Mission Ridge, forming a part of the first grand line that marched "from valley to summit," and planted the stars and stripes on the ramparts of the routed rebel foe!

During the winter of 1863-64, he was sent home as a recruiting officer, as, by reason of his enthusiasm, popularity and handsome physique, well calculated to enlist patriotic soldiers to fill up his demoralized ranks, which he did successfully, and, returning to his regiment in April, 1864, was in the Atlanta campaign—so remarkable for its many battles and hardships. Lieut. Runyan seemed to thrive on hard service and half-rations, for it is said of him that he endured all without a murmur, and developed unlooked-for powers of endurance, until the entire brigade came to esteem him. The secret of this, no doubt, was his unbounded admiration for a good officer or soldier; as a drill-master, he was one of the best.

June 15, 1864, the Union army bivouacked near the base of Kenesaw Mountain, on whose ragged sides a rebel army was posted. Our army sent out a strong line of skirmishers, to ascertain the position of the enemy. Lieut. Runyan, with his company, was ordered to double the line held by Company B, of the Fourteenth Ohio, take charge of the same, and dislodge the rebels from the position they held in an old log house and behind a fence; after forming the line, he, in a voice heard by the rebels, informed the company what he had been sent there for, and that they *must* take that log cabin and fence! The command, "fix bayonets, forward, double quick, march!" was given, and the rebels were dislodged! We cannot detail the dangers overcome by heroism on the battlefield, in a biography, however, and must be content with such brief allusions. Lieut. Runyan

had driven the rebels within their first line of breastworks at the foot of the mountain, and was contemplating the rebel works when a minie-ball struck him in the upper part of his right knee, passing through the bone, and was buried in an oak-tree some distance in the rear. This ended his career as a soldier; he was taken to the field hospital, near "Big Shanty," and his leg amputated about 10 o'clock the same night.

When the time for moving arrived, Lieut. Runyan had to resort to strategy to get to where he could be cared for, notwithstanding his condition, and in due time he arrived at the Officers' Hospital, at Nashville, Tenn., where he telegraphed to his father his situation, who came to him and tenderly cared for him; and in thirty days after his misfortune they returned home. When able to do so, he proceeded to Cincinnati, Ohio, and was honorably discharged.

He subsequently entered the college at Fort Wayne, and applied himself to study for six months, when his wound became so troublesome that it was necessary for him to abandon his undertaking and return home. He subsequently entered Wesleyan College, Delaware, Ohio, and remained one year, during which time his father and friends resolved on a different programme, and secured his appointment as Postmaster at Warsaw, and he came home and took charge of the office. He has been retained by re-appointment, and now holds that position with the approbation of all.

In 1876, he had his limb re-amputated, on account of improper treatment when first operated on; since which his health has been good. He is studious, and for some years has devoted his spare time to preparing for the legal profession.

In matters of public interest, he has always taken an active part. He was one of the company who erected the "Warsaw Opera House" and the "Warsaw Woolen Mills."

He was a member of the Good Templars, and the Temple of Honor, during the life of those organizations; and for a number of years has been a worthy member of Kosciusko Lodge, No. 62, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Hackleman Encampment, No. 37, I. O. O. F. He has filled the highest offices in each, and is now a member of the Grand Lodge and Grand Encampment of the State of Indiana.

December 29, 1873, he was married to Miss Carrie McCorkle, of Mechanicsburg, Ohio. She died on the 1st day of April, following, mourned not only by her husband and immediate friends, but by all who knew her.

As an officer and gentleman, Lieut. Runyan is upright, prompt, exact, and accommodating, and above reproach.