

Feb. 21, 1782; died St. Clairsville, O., Sept. 2, 1857. Res. St. Clairsville, O. Children:

- a. Saul Kellogg, b. St. Clairsville, O., July 4, 1813; died St. Clairsville, O., 1889. He was a soldier in the Mexican War; unm. *nothwood*
- b. Elizabeth Durkee, b. St. Clairsville, O., Feb. 8, 1815; d. in N. J., Mar. 14, 1898; mar. 1st, 1833, Augustus D. Carroll, 2nd Mar. 7, 1836, James Baker, res. at Wheeling, W. Va., Phila., Pa., and New York; ch.: James Roberts, b. Apr. 17, 1838, d. 1865, Amelia Roberts, b. Feb. 8, 1840, Sarah Pennock, b. 1842, Tirzah Clarissa, b. Apr. 6, 1846.
- c. Tirzah Alvord, b. St. Clairsville, O., Apr., 1817; d. Mt. Vernon, O., Sept. 26, 1855; mar. Dr. William H. Ramsey.

Benjamin Ruggles' father died leaving him without means when he was eight years old. He had a Connecticut common school education, but this was sufficient to inspire him with an ambition to make a name for himself. He taught school a part of the year and used the money thus acquired in attending school himself the rest of the year. From the academy he went into the law office of Judge Peters of Hebron, Conn. Inquiring of Judge Peters what the prospects were in the legal profession, he received the reply: "The bar is very much crowded, but Connecticut exports a great many lawyers; there is a demand for them in the West." Accordingly, when he had completed his studies with Judge Peters, he went West and located at Marietta, O., in 1807, where he opened an office for the practice of law.

In the year 1810 he was elected President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, the circuit extending from St. Clairsville to Cleveland. He then removed to St. Clairsville since he was required to reside in the district, which did not include Marietta. In 1815 Judge Ruggles was elected to the U. S. Senate by the Whigs and was twice re-elected, serving in that capacity for eighteen years. He then retired from public life, though he was a candidate for minor offices but was unsuccessful owing to the general defeat of his party.

Senator Ruggles was not an orator, though in his early manhood he wrote poetry and delivered orations. His speech was plain, and while his efforts lacked ornamentation it was noted that when he addressed the Senate he was listened to with attention. His opinions were received as the conclusion of a sound mind, guided by an honest purpose. In a truthful and plain way he did his work and in times of party strife and collisions of opinion he was always firm and decided. He was the soul of integrity and lived above reproach.