

## J. W. BLAIR

Among the younger members of the bar of Monroe county, Indiana, who has, through his ability and industry, attained to a prominent place among his fellow attorneys, is the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this paragraph. He was born in Bloomington, Indiana, on October 15, 1884, and is the son of W. T. and Julia A. (Waldron) Blair. W. T. Blair was born in Bloomington on May 1, 1866, the son of John and Hannah (Fullerton) Blair, the father a native of Tennessee and the mother of Ireland. John Blair, who was a farmer by vocation, came to Monroe county in an early day and settled in Bloomington, where he was actively engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in 1900. W. T. received his education in the public schools and in the university, where he graduated in 1880. He then became employed as a clerk in the W. J. Allen hardware store, but three years later engaged in the shoe business on his own account, in which he was successful, carrying on the business for five years. At the end of that period he was nominated by the Republicans for the office of county auditor, and, being elected served as such with efficiency and satisfaction four years. Upon leaving his public position Mr. Blair engaged in the stone business, becoming interested in the Central Oolitic Stone Company, with which he was connected from 1893 until 1906. He then organized the Bloomington Cut Stone Company, but sold his interest in that company and is now engaged in handling real estate in stone lands and other propositions, and also contracts to build houses, furnishing the stone. In all the various avenues of activity in which he has engaged he has met with splendid success and is numbered among Monroe county's substantial and enterprising citizens.

Politically a Republican, Mr. Blair has served actively in the ranks of his party and has been honored by public position, in which his ability has been demonstrated in an unmistakable manner. He served as a member of the county council and on the Bloomington city school board, as well as council man at large for the city of Bloomington. He is a member of the Phi Kappa Psi college fraternity, and, religiously, is a member of the United Presbyterian church.

In 1882 Mr. Blair was united in marriage with Julia A. Waldron, the daughter of John and Anna Waldron. The father, who was a tanner by trade, came to Monroe county in 1856 and bought David Judy's tannery, the operation of which he continued until his death. To W. T. Blair and wife have been born three children: William, at home, who married Mallie Jordan; James W., the immediate subject of this sketch, and Mary L., at home. W. T. Blair, who is a man of splendid personal character and high attainment, has so lived in this community as to win the warm regard of all who know him. He has been an important factor in the development of the stone industry here and in many ways has evinced a live interest in the welfare of the community.

J. W. Blair received a good, practical common school education, supplementing this by attendance at the State University, where he was graduated in 1909 with a degree in law, having received his degree in literature in 1908. Upon completing his studies he embarked in the stone business, but a short time later he entered the office of Duncan & Batman, where for one and one-half years he steadily pursued the study of law, at the end of which time he became a junior member of the legal firm of Batman, Miller & Blair, the co-partnership having been established on February 18, 1911. Mr. Blair has evinced ability of a high order as a lawyer and has been associated as counsel in a number of the most important cases tried at the local bar since he began his professional work. He has a due regard for the ethics of his profession and because of his fine personal qualities, ability and his industrious habits, he has earned the warm regard of all who have been associated with him.

Politically, Mr. Blair is a staunch Republican and takes an intelligent interest in current public issues. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Columbus, while, socially, he belongs to the college fraternities of Phi Kappa Psi and Phi Delta Phi. Possessing a strong social nature, Mr. Blair is genial and companionable and has won a host of warm personal friends throughout this community.

*(History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties Indiana, 1914 B. F. Bowen & Co. Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana pgs 558-560)*