

## WILLIAM A. BROWN

The history of a county or state, as well as that of a nation, is chiefly a chronicle of the lives and deeds of those who have conferred honor and dignity upon society. The world judges the character of a community by those of its representative citizens and yields its tribute of admiration and respect to those whose works and actions constitute the record of a community's prosperity and pride. Among the prominent citizens of Lawrence county who are well known because of their success in business affairs and the part they have taken in the civic affairs of the locality is he whose name appears at the head of this article and who is now the efficient and popular cashier of the Bedford National Bank.

William A. Brown was born in Orange county, Indiana, on the 24th of September, 1860. He is the son of Jonathan L and Sarah A. (Davis) Brown, the father a native of North Carolina and the mother of Orange county, this state. They are both now deceased, the father dying in 1884 and the mother in 1901. They were the parents of eleven children, of which number nine are still living, namely: Louis P., who lives on a farm near Orangeville, Orange county, Indiana; Jennie, of French Lick, Indiana; Mrs. Mary A. Burton, also of French Lick; Thomas L., assistant city detective, Denver, Colorado; Mrs. Helen Newland, of Bogard, Carroll county, Missouri; Mrs. Emma Murphy, of Cotton, California; H. S., who is buyer for the W. H. Block Company, of Indianapolis, and William A., the immediate subject of this sketch.

William A. Brown was reared on the home farm in Orange county until he was nineteen years old, and is indebted to the common schools of that locality for his education. His first employment away from the farm was as a clerk in a country store, where he remained for seven years. In 1887 he came to Bedford and engaged in the grocery business, in which, by strict attention to business and the wants of his customers, he built up a large and profitable trade. In 1898 he was nominated on the Democratic ticket for the office of county treasurer, and was elected, serving two years in that office and performing his duties to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. He was the first Democrat to hold the office of county treasurer in twenty-five years. On the expiration of his official term, Mr. Brown, on January 1, 1901, entered the Bedford National Bank in the capacity of assistant cashier, and eight months later he was elected cashier, which position he has retained to the present time. The Bedford National Bank is one of the strong and influential financial institutions of Lawrence county, and much of the prosperity which it enjoys is due to the sound business judgment and personal efforts of Mr. Brown, who has devoted himself assiduously to its interests.

Aside from his banking interests Mr. Brown has been in various ways identified with things which have had to do with the prosperity of the community. He was elected a member of the city school board in 1911 and is now treasurer of that body. In 1904 he assisted in the organization of the Bedford Telephone Company, of which he served as a member of the board of directors and treasurer until the plant was sold to the central Union Company in 1911. In other ways he has shown a commendable desire to contribute in every possible way to the general welfare of the community, an attitude that has been duly appreciated by his fellow citizens.

On September 29, 1887, Mr. Brown was united in marriage to Addie Trueblood, the daughter of W. F. Trueblood, of Salem, Washington county, Indiana, and they have one child, Alleyne.

Politically, Mr. Brown is an earnest advocate of Democratic principles, while religiously, he is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is a steward. He is a wide reader and close observer, taking broad and intelligent views of men and affairs, while personally, he enjoys a high degree of popularity in the community, possessing as he does the qualities that win and retain warm friendships.

*(History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties Indiana , 1914 B. F. Bowen & Co. Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana pgs 534-535)*