

RUFUS H. EAST

The following is a sketch of a plain, honest man of affairs, who by correct methods and a strict regard for the interests of his patrons has made his influence felt in Bloomington and won for himself distinctive prestige in the professional circles of that city. He would be the last man to sit for romance or become the subject of fancy sketches, nevertheless his life presents much that is interesting and valuable and may be studied with profit by the young, whose careers are yet to be achieved. He is one of those whose integrity and strength of character must force them into an admirable notoriety which their modesty never seeks. who command the respect of their contemporaries and their posterity and leave the impress of their individuality deeply stamped upon the community.

Rufus H. East was born in Indian Creek township, Monroe county, Indiana, on November 30, 1867, and is the son of John R. and Matilda J. (Binkley) East. The father was born in Monroe county, Indiana. in 1845, and his wife was born in the state of Ohio in 1846. They became the parents of five children, namely: George, deceased; Rufus H., the immediate subject of this sketch: Martha A., who became the wife of Mr. Van Wie, of Indianapolis: Eva I of Bloomington, and William C., deputy auditor of Monroe county. John R. East was for many years a prominent, successful and well known attorney at Bloomington, and in the latter's office the subject of this. sketch practically grew up. He attended the public schools of Bloomington, graduating from the high school, and upon the completion of his general studies, he commenced the study of law under the direction of his father, being admitted to the bar in 1890. He entered immediately upon the active practice of his profession, but one year later was appointed deputy county clerk, in which position he served two years and at the end of that time he was appointed postmaster of Bloomington, serving four years to the entire satisfaction of his official superiors and the patrons of the office. Since his retirement from the postmastership he has given his entire time to the practice of law, occupying his father's old offices and has been eminently successful, he being now numbered among the leaders of the Monroe county bar. Being well grounded in legal principles and having a large and comprehensive view of life gained by experience and habits of keen observation, Mr. East has forged his way to the front and has been connected with many of the most important cases tried in the local courts. As a speaker he is clear and concise and is effective in presenting the issues of a case. In many respects he has inherited the characteristics which commended his father to the confidence and good will of the people, and through his public-spirited attitude towards the public life of the community he has wielded a wide influence. He gives his support to every movement which promises to advance the moral or social welfare of the people and because of his upright character, eminent ability and success in life he enjoys the respect of all who know him.

In 1886, Mr. East was married to Jennie R. Seward, the daughter of Robert O. and Mary (Voss) Seward. The father was for half a century a well known blacksmith of Bloomington and now at the age of seventy-three years, having retired from active labor, makes his home with the subject of this sketch. To Mr. and Mrs. East have been born three children: Allen J., who married Josephine Koontz, and who is now his father's stenographer; Edwin S. and Mary, who are at home.

Politically, the subject has always voted with the Democratic party, having decided convictions on the great questions which divide men and parties and in campaigns he has been a frequent speaker in the interests of the Democratic platform. He is a man of large mental ability and by close study he has become well qualified to discuss the leading questions of the day. Personally, he is genial and, unassuming and makes friends easily. His circle of acquaintances throughout the county is large. A man of good habits and kindly impulses, he is deservedly popular in the community.

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