

JOHN G. HARRIS

The gentleman whose name forms the caption to this sketch belongs to that class of men who win in life's battles by sheer force of personality and determination, coupled with soundness of judgment and keen discrimination, and in whatever he has undertaken he has shown himself to be a man of ability and honor, always ready to lend his aid in defending principles affecting the public good, having ably and conscientiously served his county in the capacity of legislator and his city as mayor, while in other phases of civic life he has so ordered his life as to earn the unqualified endorsement and support of his fellow citizens.

John G. Harris was born in Louisville, Kentucky, on the 12th of October, 1869, and is a son of Dr. John E. and Katherine A. (Robbins) Harris, both of whom were natives of the old Blue Grass state. These parents came to Monroe county, Indiana, in 1876, locating in Bloomington, where for a number of years the Doctor was prominent in his profession. He and his wife are now both deceased. They became the parents of three children, Mrs. Ella Niceley, John G. and Edward.

John G. Harris attended the public schools of Bloomington and then became a student in the State University, where he was graduated in 1896 from the law department. He then engaged in the practice of law, which demanded his attention for a time, then, because of failing health, he went West, where he remained about ten years. During a part of this time he resided at Hobart, Oklahoma, and during his residence there he was three times elected to the office of police judge. Some time after his return to Bloomington, Mr. Harris was elected to the Indiana Legislature, serving during the session of 1909-10 and representing his constituency in such a manner as to win their commendation. In 1909 Mr. Harris was also elected mayor of the city of Bloomington and is the present incumbent of that office, having been re-elected in 1913 for a term of four years. Possessing good business ability, sound judgment and rare discretion, he has conducted the office for the benefit of the people of his city, looking carefully after the public welfare in every respect and thereby winning the approval of his fellow citizens. Possessing a genial personality and entirely unassuming in manner, Mr. Harris enjoys a wide acquaintance, including a large circle of warm and loyal personal friends.

In 1890 Mr. Harris was married to Florence Barnes, the daughter of Stephen Barnes, one of the early settlers of Monroe county, and to the union have been born three children, namely: Ella, the wife of Dr. Melvin Ross. Edward, of Indianapolis, and Claude, who remains at home.

Politically, Mr. Harris has ever given his support to the policies and candidates of the Democratic party, while his religious membership is with the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, being affiliated with the blue lodge, the chapter of Royal Arch Masons, the council of Royal and Select Masters, the commandery of Knights Templar, while he is also a member of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Loyal Order of Moose, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Knights of the Maccabees. Mr. Harris is, first of all, distinctively a man of the people, whose interests he has at heart and for whom he would not hesitate to make any reasonable sacrifice. He recognizes no aristocracy except that of true and noble manhood, based upon genuine worth and merit, for, although American and with faith in the ultimate glorious destiny of our free institutions, he believes the best way to realize that destiny is for each member of the body politic to live up to his highest ideas of right, which, to the best of his ability, he has endeavored to do.

(History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties Indiana, 1914 B. F. Bowen & Co. Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana pgs 533-534)