

ROBERT G. MILLER

The life history of him whose name heads this biographical sketch has been for many years closely identified with the history of Monroe county, Indiana. Throughout the years his life has been one of untiring activity and it has been crowned with a degree of professional success attained by comparatively few who aspire to eminence in their chosen calling. Years of conscientious work as a lawyer have brought with them not only increase of practice and reputation but also that growth in legal knowledge and that wide and accurate judgment, the possession of which constitutes marked excellence in the profession. By a straightforward, honorable course Mr. Miller has built up a large and lucrative legal business and financially has been proportionately successful. His life affords a splendid example of what an American youth, plentifully endowed with good common sense, energy and determination, can accomplish when accompanied by good moral principles. He achieved a splendid record at the bar at an age when most men are merely starting out on their life work, for, from the beginning, he was intensely methodical and unswervingly persistent in search of the true light and of the essentials of the legal foundation and sources of legal conception and thought, holding devoutly to the highly embellished record of equity and the sure, certain, invincible methods of practice. Therefore, success could not help crowning his efforts and attracting to him public recognition and appreciation.

Robert G. Miller was born on August 5, 1871, in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, and is the son of Henry A. and Martha (Shigley) Miller, the former born in Seneca county, Ohio, in 1847, and the latter in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, in 1843. They were the parents of two children, the subject of this sketch and Mattie F., who died in infancy. Henry A. Miller, who now resides at Montmorenci, Tippecanoe county, Indiana, is a successful farmer and is also equally successful in business affairs, being president of the bank at Montmorenci. In public affairs he has long occupied a high position, having served as treasurer of Tippecanoe county and was trustee of Shelby township, that county. A staunch Republican in politics, he has long been active in political ranks and in every relation of life he has been true to ever trust. Additional interest attaches to his career from the fact that at the early age of fifteen years, in 1862, he enlisted for military service as a private in Company E, Ninety-fifth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war. His regiment was assigned to the Army of the West under General Sherman, but subsequently the command was detached from that army and was sent south to Mobile Bay. They later fought at the siege of Vicksburg and all the other battles of that campaign. Mr. Miller was for three months a prisoner in the notorious Andersonville prison pen and suffered untold hardships and privations during this experience. He was twice married, first to Martha A. Shigley, who died when the subject of this sketch was two years old, and the father later married Margaret Godman, now deceased, to which union were born six children, namely: Anna, who died in infancy; Fannie, who is living with her father; Mary, the wife of H. C. Westfall, of Buttsville, North Dakota; Della M., living with her father; Nellie, twin to Della, died in infancy, and Henry L., who is a graduate of the Indiana State University and is now living at Custer, South Dakota, where he is connected with the forestry service.

The subject of this sketch received a good education in the public schools of Shelby township, Tippecanoe county, and then took a three years' course in Purdue University. Having decided to devote his life to the practice of law, he then entered the law department of the State University, where he received his degree in 1893. During the following four months he was engaged in the practice of his profession at Lafayette, Indiana, after which time, on October 15, 1893, he came to Bloomington and entered into a professional partnership with J. R. East, this association lasting until March 17, 1897, when the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Miller became a partner with Arthur Hadley. This association was a strong and successful one, but was dissolved in 1906, the subject of this sketch buying his partner's interest. Until February, 1911,

Mr. Miller practiced alone, and then became a partner in the firm of Batman, Miller & Blair. This firm succeeded the firm of Duncan & Batman, which was dissolved January 30, 1911, by the death of Judge Duncan. This is one of the oldest and most substantial legal firms in Monroe county, which for years has been identified with most of the important cases at the local bar. The subject of this sketch has successfully defended seven murder trials and many other important criminal cases, and in the general practice the firm has met with a notable degree of success. From 1897 to 1901 Mr. Miller served as deputy prosecuting attorney under James A. Zaring, and 1901 until 1905 he served as prosecuting attorney of the tenth judicial circuit, having been elected the first time by a plurality of one thousand, and his election being secured the second time without opposition, he leading his party ticket in both counties of the circuit, certainly a marked testimonial to his popularity and the public opinion as to his ability. As a lawyer Mr. Miller has ever maintained a high standing, never descending beneath the dignity of his profession or compromising his usefulness by countenancing any but noble and legitimate practice.

On August 23, 1894, Mr. Miller was united in marriage to Olive May Hughes, the daughter of David Hughes, and to this union has been born one child, Henry Hughes, who is a student in the Bloomington high school. Mrs. Miller is a woman of many gracious qualities of head and heart, possessing intellectual ability of high order and is well educated, being a graduate of the Indiana State University, where she received the degree of Master of Arts. For a time she gave private lessons in elocution and is now often requested to read for public entertainments, her work being of high order and always well received.

Politically, Mr. Miller is an ardent Republican, believing that the past record of the party entitles it to the support of every fair-minded man. Fraternally, he has been for many years active and is held high in the societies with which he is connected. He belongs to Monroe Lodge No. 22, Free and Accepted Masons, of which he is a past master; to Lodge No. 446, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, of which he is a past exalted ruler, and to Lodge No. 22, Knights of Pythias, of which he is a past chancellor. In the latter order he has received distinctive preferment in the grand lodge, having served as grand instructor for the state of Indiana during 1906 and 1907, and was also president of the Indiana Pythian building commission, which had in charge the erection of the magnificent Pythian building at Indianapolis. Religiously, the family belong to the Lincoln Street Christian church, of which they are regular attendants. The family residence is located at No. 509 West Kirkwood avenue, and is one of the most attractive and comfortable residences in Bloomington, and here the many friends of the family are delighted to gather, for they are always assured of a hearty welcome and an enjoyable hour. Personally, Mr. Miller is a pleasant gentleman, honest and upright at all times and he is not only held in high esteem for his superior professional ability, but for his public-spirited nature, his wholesome private and social life, and his position is secure as one of Monroe county's most influential men.

(History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties Indiana , 1914 B. F. Bowen & Co. Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana pgs 570-573)