

THE MOORE FAMILY

Among the families of Lawrence county, Indiana, whose members have worthily discharged their duties to their fellows and their community, no family takes higher rank than the Moores, of whom several representatives are today prominently identified with the business and social life of Mitchell. For many years members of this family have stood for all that is best in business, educational, moral or social life and have wielded an influence that has been potential in the development and welfare of their community, being numbered among the enterprising and progressive citizens of the county. Because of the prominence which the family has enjoyed and the close relations they have sustained to the welfare and prosperity of the locality which has been honored by their citizenships, they are eminently entitled to representation in a work of the character of the one at hand.

Silas Moore was born in Lincoln county, Kentucky, on July 9, 1801, and he was numbered among the early settlers at Mitchell, Indiana, though prior to his coming here he had kept a hotel at Orleans, Indiana. His parents had come to Monroe county, this state, where they spent the rest of their lives. From 1854, when he located in Mitchell, Silas Moore took an active and influential part in the upbuilding and development of the community and was a man of marked force and power in everything to which he gave his attention. In 1824 Silas Moore had made a profession of religion, and, under the pastor, Rev. William Martin, he united with the Presbyterian church, which he served as elder both at Livonia and Orleans. This was undoubtedly one of the most important acts of his life, for in the new community with which he cast his fortune his godly life and readiness in all good work gained for him the confidence and good will of the people and he exerted a marked influence in church and society at large. He satisfactorily filled many positions of trust and at his death Mitchell lost one of her best citizens. In all of his business transactions he was just and reasonable and he never violated in the slightest degree the confidence which the people placed in him. No interest of the church or other worthy cause ever appealed to him without receiving a generous response, and his pastor always found him ready to cooperate in every good work. He was seventy-five years old at the time of his death. Silas Moore first married Mary McClelland Moore, of Kentucky, whose death occurred in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1847, and he subsequently married Mary Lowe, of Bloomington, Indiana, who also died. To the first union were born three children, namely: Sarah Ann, who became the wife of David Clark, of Louisville, Kentucky; William H. H. was a merchant in Mitchell, Indiana; and Milton N.

Milton N. Moore was born in Millersburg, Indiana, on November 15, 1835 and died on May 26, 1904. His educational facilities were confined to the common schools and upon attaining mature age he went into business at Mitchell in partnership with his father, with whom he was associated for several years. Eventually the firm name became Milton N. Moore & Son, the latter being William T. Moore. In 1882 he started the bank at Mitchell, with which the Moore family has been identified ever since and which enjoys the distinction of being the oldest bank in Lawrence county. Of this bank he was the owner and president up to the time of his death and in that capacity he became a most important factor in the business life and development of this section of the county. He also owned a good deal of town property in Mitchell, as well as valuable farm lands in this county. He was actively engaged in the organization and starting of the Southern Indiana Normal School at Mitchell and to his sound advice and encouragement the success of that institution in its beginning was largely attributable. Intensely optimistic and far-sighted, he entered heart and soul into every enterprise to which he addressed himself, and his own enthusiasm was so infectious that others were led to add their efforts and influence.

Politically, Milton N. Moore was a Republican and was earnest in the support of his honest convictions in politics as in everything else, but he was in no sense ambitious for public office. His religious membership was with the Presbyterian church, in which he was active.

Fraternally, he was a member of the Masonic order, having attained to the degree of the council of Royal and Select Masters.

On August 22, 1855, Milton N. Moore married Mary L. Noble, of Lexington, Kentucky, a daughter of Thomas H. Noble. The latter owned a plantation and rope walk, but in later life went to St. Louis, Missouri, where he and his wife died. They were the parents of the following children: Thomas C., now deceased, was at the head of an art school at Cincinnati, Ohio; Fannie, who died, unmarried; William T., deceased, who resided at St. Louis, Missouri; Mary L., wife of Milton N. Moore, was born on May 21, 1837, and died on July 15, 1909. To Milton and Mary Moore were born the following children: William T., a merchant and real estate dealer at Mitchell, married Lillie Dodson, of Mitchell, and they had three children, Egbert D. (in the millinery business at Indianapolis, and who married Fleta Burton), Menlo E. (in the theatrical business in Chicago, who married Arna Pagett) and Lowell T., at home; Rosamond, of Mitchell; Fannie, who died in March, 1912, was the wife of W. .R. Richardson, a druggist at Mitchell, and they had a son, Leland, a student in the State University; Sallie L., of Mitchell; Edward P., who succeeded his father as president of the Bank of Mitchell, was married, on December 28, 1892, to Elizabeth Hyatt, of Washington, Indiana; Noble L. Moore, cashier of the Bank of Mitchell, was married on July 12, 1905, to Pearl H. Harlan, of Mitchell; Mark N., assistant cashier of the Bank of Mitchell.

Milton N. Moore was a self-made man and in business affairs he was strict, yet kindly and just in all his dealings. He was broad-minded and generous and in his private life he performed many acts of kindness and charity known only to himself and the beneficiary. From the time he identified himself with the Presbyterian church at Mitchell, on February 19, 1865 he was one of its most active members, and he served as secretary and treasurer of the Sunday school for fourteen years.

In the veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic Mr. Moore always took unusual interest, his membership in that honored organization being particularly consonant from the fact that, in July, 1862, he enlisted in the Sixteenth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served his country faithfully until after the siege of Vicksburg, when he resigned his commission as first lieutenant and returned home. Useless to say that Mr. Moore worked hard and honorably earned the reputation. which he enjoyed as one of the leading public-spirited citizens of this locality, and it is also needless to add that he was held in the highest esteem by all with whom he came in contact, for he threw the force of his strong individuality and sterling integrity into making the county what it is, and his efforts did not fail of appreciation on the part of the local public. His name will ever be inseparably linked with that of the community so long honored by his citizenship, whose interests could have had no more zealous and indefatigable supporter, and his influence was ever exerted to the end that the world might be made better by his presence. His sons are carrying forward nobly the work so auspiciously inaugurated by him and are upholding the dignity and honor of the name they bear. Of Edward P. Moore, it is worthy of note, that having been connected with the Bank of Mitchell from the time of its organization, he is thus the oldest banker in point of continuous service in Lawrence county.

(History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties Indiana , 1914 B. F. Bowen & Co. Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana pgs 576-579)