

WILLIAM N. SHOWERS

Among the worthy citizens of Bloomington, Indiana, whose residence here has contributed in no small degree to the prestige of the vicinity, is William N. Showers, for, while laboring for his individual advancement, he has never forgotten his obligations to the public and his support of such measures and movements as have been made for the general good has always been depended upon. Although his life has been a busy one, his private affairs making heavy demands upon his time, he has never allowed it to interfere with his obligations as a citizen and neighbor. Through the long years of his residence in this locality he has ever been true to the trusts reposed in him; whether of a public or private nature, and his reputation in a business way has been unassailable. Possessing in a marked degree those sterling traits which have commanded uniform confidence and regard, he is today honored by all who know him and is numbered among the representative men of his section of the state.

William N. Showers was born in Ohio, on May 28, 1846, and is a son of Charles C. and Elizabeth (Hull) Showers. His father, who was a native of Pennsylvania followed the furniture business during his earlier years of active business life, but in later years became a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church. He came to Monroe county, Indiana, in April, 1854, and here spent the remainder of his life. Politically, he was a staunch Republican, but never an office seeker. To him and his wife were born the following children: Sara is the widow of John Sears; Mary is the wife of James M. Hendricks, and lives in Louisville, Kentucky; J. D. is represented in a personal sketch elsewhere in this work; William N. is the immediate subject of this sketch; Martha L. became the wife of Francis M. Ingler of Indianapolis; Anna became the wife of Henry H. Houston, of Bloomington; Charles H. is deceased.

William N. Showers received a good practical education and on reaching mature years became identified with his brother, J. D. Showers, in the furniture manufacturing business at Bloomington, an industry which, through their enterprising methods and successful management, has enjoyed a steady and constant growth through the years until now it is the largest manufacturing establishment of the kind in the United States. Over one thousand people are employed in the plant of this company, which embraces over fifteen acres of floor space. Many high priced and expert workmen are employed and the company makes a specialty of bed-room furniture, in which they are not excelled by any factory in the country. The Showers factory has for many years enjoyed an enviable reputation among the great manufacturing concerns of the state and has played a very prominent and important part in the financial prosperity of Bloomington.

Aside from his interests already mentioned, Mr. Showers is also interested in a number of other enterprises of importance, being a stockholder and a director of the First National Bank of Bloomington, as well as of the Citizens Loan and Trust Company and the Building and Loan Association, and is also identified with the Sterling Fire Insurance Company and the American Mortgage, Loan and Guarantee Company, both of Indianapolis. He is a man of mature judgment, ripe experience and wise discrimination, and his advice in matters of business is held in high regard by his associates.

Politically, Mr. Showers is an earnest supporter of the Republican party and for seven years served as a member of the city council of Bloomington, where he rendered effective service in the interest of the city of his residence. Religiously, he is a member of

the Methodist Episcopal church, in which for thirty years he has been active, being at the present time chairman of the board of stewards and giving his support to every enterprise of the church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Masonic order, in which he has attained to the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite, and is a member of the Mystic Shrine, as well as the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias, in the work of which orders he takes an appreciative interest.

In 1868 Mr. Showers was united in marriage with Hannah L. Hendricks, of Putnam county, this state, a daughter of John H. Hendricks, now deceased, who during his active life was a successful farmer and miller. To Mr. and Mrs. Showers have been born three children, namely: Jennie, the wife of Joseph Smith, who is associated with Mr. Showers in the furniture business Nellie is the wife of Sanford Teeter who is secretary and treasurer of the company; W. Edward, who is vice-president and general manager of the Showers Brothers plant. Personally, Mr. Showers is a man of genial and unassuming demeanor in his relations with his fellow men, among whom he enjoys a well deserved popularity. He has, without reserve always stood for the best things in the life of the community honored by his residence and here his name has become a synonym for character and worth.

(History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties Indiana , 1914 B. F. Bowen & Co. Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana pgs 480-482)