

CHARLES B. WALDRON

Representing one of the oldest and best known families of Monroe county, and a man of enterprise and sterling worth, Charles B. Waldron is well entitled to notice among the substantial professional men of Bloomington, and it is with much satisfaction that the story of his life is accorded a place in these pages.

Charles B. Waldron was born on September 1, 1885, at Bloomington, Indiana, and is the son of John B. and Mary A. (Shiel) Waldron. The father also was a native of Monroe county, Indiana, and was engaged in the tannery business with his father, John Waldron. and later was a partner in the furniture business with Showers & Dodds, one of the best known business houses in this locality. Subsequently he became a bookkeeper in the First National Bank, a position he held at the time of his death. He was a staunch Republican in politics and one of the sterling and respected citizens of his community. His wife, Mary A. Shiel Waldron, was a native of Jackson county, Indiana, and their union was blessed by the birth of one child, the subject of this sketch. The subject's paternal grandfather, John Waldron, was born at Drogheda, Ireland, in June, 1827, and was the eldest of a family of three children born to John and Mary (Hughes) Waldron. He received a common school education in his native land and in boyhood learned the trade of a tanner with his father. Left an orphan, however, he came to America in 1847, locating first at Newark, New Jersey, where he was employed at his trade until 1848, when he went to St. Louis, Missouri, where he worked in a tannery until 1856. In 1856 he came to Bloomington and soon afterward bought the old Judy tannery, to which he made extensive additions and important improvements, the tannery becoming one of the largest in Bloomington and many men being employed in its operation. In this enterprise Mr. Waldron achieved an eminent success, accumulated a comfortable competency and became financially interested in a number of other local affairs of importance. He was a large stockholder in the First National Bank of Bloomington, of which he became a director at the time of its organization in 1871, and on the death of George W. Buskirk in 1874 he was elected president, serving in this position for several years. He remained a director of the bank until his death. In 1890 he retired from the tanning business, but retained his interest in other local enterprises, being a stockholder in the Central Oolitic Stone Company and other quarry concerns, and having a one third interest in the Waldron-Hall-Buskirk Spoke Factory, one of the important concerns of Bloomington.. In the civic and political life of the community he was long prominent and as a staunch supporter of the Republican party he received official preferment at the hands of his fellow citizens, having served for twenty years as a member of the town council and for three years as a member of the county board of commissioners. In the development and progress of Bloomington he was deeply interested, and he took a very active part in the raising of the fifty-thousand-dollar fund required for retaining Indiana University in this city at a time when there was strong effort being made to locate the university elsewhere. Thus in many ways he became recognized as one of the most progressive and substantial citizens of the community who enjoyed to a marked degree public popularity and esteem. His death occurred on May 11, 1899. On September 4, 1853, he was married to Ann Boncum, the daughter of John Boncum, of St. Louis. He was a member of the Catholic church, to the support of which he contributed, and in his daily life he exemplified the highest degree of morality and truth.

Charles B. Waldron, Jr. received his education in the common schools in Jackson and Monroe counties, being graduated from the high school and then became a student in the law department of the Indiana State University, where he graduated in 1910 with the degree of Bachelor of Law. He then attended the law department of Yale University, where he received his Master's degree in 1911, immediately after which he returned to Bloomington and entered upon the active practice of his profession. Though among the younger members of the Monroe county bar, Mr. Waldron has impressed his personality upon those with whom he has come in contact and has been connected actively with much of the important litigation tried in the local courts.

Politically, Mr. Waldron is a staunch supporter of the Republican party, while fraternally he is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Knights of Columbus. Religiously, he is a member of the Catholic church. In professional, political and social circles Mr. Waldron enjoys a wide acquaintance and is deservedly popular and possesses to a marked degree those qualities of character which win and retain friendship.

(History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties Indiana , 1914 B. F. Bowen & Co. Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana pgs 500-502)