



ASHER S. WILCOX

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In holding up for consideration those facts which have shown the distinction of a true, useful and honorable life, a life characterized by perseverance, energy and well defined purpose, such as was lived by the late Asher S. Wilcox, long a well known business man at Tunnelton, Lawrence county, Indiana, will be but to reiterate the dictum pronounced upon the man by the people who knew him so long and well, for the subject of this memoir presented in his career an interesting study of the manner in which adherence to principle and sturdy endeavor may win worthy distinction. Throughout an interesting and active career duty was ever his motive of action, and usefulness to his fellow men not by any means a secondary consideration. He achieved much in an individual way not dependent upon hereditary prestige, but proved himself worthy as a factor in local public affairs and as a citizen and business man of the utmost loyalty and progressiveness. He carried forward to successful completion whatever he undertook and his business methods were ever in strict conformity with the standard ethics of commercial life—in brief, his is the story of a life whose success is measured by its usefulness, a life that made for good in all its relations with the world.

Asher S. Wilcox was born on April 22, 1843, in Washington county, Indiana. and he was the son of Hiram and Julia (Clark) Wilcox, both of whom were born in the state of Vermont, having come to Indiana from that state with their parents, who were also natives of Vermont, Hiram Wilcox was for a number of years a successful farmer in Washington county, Indiana, and a business man of considerable importance in his community. To him and his wife were born the following children: Mary, Alonzo, Asher S., Lorrena, Thalus, Solon and Amber.

Asher S. Wilcox received a common school education, which was liberally supplemented during after years by such reading and habits of close observation, that he was considered a well informed man. In young manhood he followed the pursuit to which he had been reared, that of farming and stock raising, also doing an extensive business in the buying and shipping of stock, carrying on his operations in partnership with his brother, Thalus M., in Bono township, this county. They were successful and in 1887 Mr. Wilcox located in Tunnelton and engaged in the mercantile business, in which his efforts were rewarded with gratifying results. He also owned a mill here. His brother, Thalus, was associated with him to the time of his death, which occurred in 1900, after which the brother's widow took his place in the firm. Eventually, William H. Huddleston bought an interest in the business. Mr. Wilcox remained actively in management of his varied interests up to the time of his death, which occurred on July 15, 1907, and by his sound judgment, persistent efforts and integrity in all of his transactions he gained a comfortable competence, owning besides the interests already mentioned, six hundred acres of valuable farm land near Tunnelton and several houses and lots in Tunnelton. The store building was burned on November 13, 1907, and in 1910 Mrs. Wilcox erected a splendid and substantial brick store building. The mill burned in 1912 and is now being rebuilt by a local company, Mrs. Wilcox having sold her interest in the mill, though she is a stockholder in the new company. The fine residence in which Mrs. Wilcox now resides was built by Mr. Wilcox in 1892, and is a comfortable and attractive home.

On March 19, 1874, Mr. Wilcox married Ellen B. Speake, a native of Jackson county, Indiana, and the daughter of James and Ann (Stutsman) Speake, he a native of

North Carolina and she of Jackson county, Indiana, though of old Pennsylvania stock. James Speake came to Jackson county, Indiana, in childhood with his mother, and here he received a limited education. He learned the trade of a cooper and also made many flat boats. He died in 1834. She died on June 12, 1909, at the advanced age of ninety-one years. She was a member of the Christian church. They were the parents of the following children: Elizabeth, deceased, was the wife of E. Wright and the mother of five children: Ella B., Mrs. Wilcox; Emma, who became the wife of Josiah Huffington, of Oklahoma, is the mother of six children.

Politically. Mr. Wilcox was an earnest supporter of the Democratic party and took an active part in campaigns, though he never aspired to public office for himself, though often solicited. Fraternally, he was a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Improved Order of Red Men. Religiously, Mr. Wilcox was an attendant of the Christian church, of which he was a warm supporter, giving liberally to the support of the society and doing all in his power to advance its welfare. Although his life was a busy one, his every day affairs making heavy demands upon his time, he never shrank from his duties as a citizen and his obligations, to the church, his neighbors and his friends. To him home life was a sacred trust, friendship was inviolable and nothing could swerve him from the path of rectitude and honor. Owing to his splendid success, his genuine worth and his genial disposition, he easily won friends and always retained them, enjoying a marked degree of popularity in the locality where so many of his active years had been spent.

(History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties Indiana , 1914 B. F. Bowen & Co. Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana pgs 528-530)