

FRANKLIN SANSOM. A vigorous and enterprising weekly journal of Indiana is the *Indiana Democrat*, whose motto is, "The Union and equality of States." It is the only democratic paper published in Indiana county, and its energetic editor, Franklin Sansom, has labored faithfully in making it a first-class newspaper of poer and influence. He was born at McConnellsburg, Fulton county, Pennsylvania, August 8, 1852, and is a son of James B and Sarah (Leander) Sansom, both natives of Bedford county, this State. His paternal great-grandfather, William Sansom, was born in England, and came to Pennsylvania prior to the commencement of the present century. Two of his sons were Rev. James G. and John Philip Sansom, the grandfather of Franklin Sansom. Rev. James G. Sansom, a native of Philadelphia, was one of the founders of Methodism in Indiana county, organized the M. E. class at Indiana, in 1831, was a popular and highly respected minister throughout the county, and served for many years as presiding elder of the Indiana circuit, which embraced a large area of territory. John Sansom (grandfather) was reared in eastern Pennsylvania and died in Bedford county in 1859. He married Elizabeth Pizel, daughter of Philip Pizel, who came from Germany, and after residing some time in Bedford county removed to York, Pa., where he died. Mrs. Elizabeth (Pizel) Sansom was born in Bedford county, April 17, 1800, and although now in the ninety-first year of her age is in good health, with all her faculties unimpaired. She is the mother of ten children, of whom five are living: Andrew, Philip, Joseph, Amanda and Martha, the wife of W. S. Daugherty. James B Sansom (father) was born in 1825 and died September 1, 1885, when in the sixtieth year of his age. In 1852 he founded the *Fulton County Democrat*, and four years later was appointed postmaster at McConnellsburg, by President Buchanan. He was elected treasurer of Fulton county; afterwards served as sergeant-at-arms of the Pennsylvania legislature, and was, during his entire life, an influential and unswerving democrat. He was a prominent Free Mason and Odd Fellow. In 1862 he came to Indiana, where, on the 4th of May of that year, he issued the first number of the present *Indiana Democrat*. The first press and tupe used in the office came from the *Mountain Echo* office, of Johnstown, Pa. On May 1, 1871, he associated with him his son, Franklin, and the firm of J. B. Sansom & Son continued until Mr. Sansom's death, since which time the paper has been owned by his widow and son, who is the subject of this sketch. Mr Sansom at his death left a widow, five sons and one daughter. His widow is a daughter of William Leander, who was a prosperous German farmer of Bedford county.

Franklin Sansom was chiefly reared at Indiana, and received his education in the public schools of that place and Indiana academy. Leaving school, he became a partner with his father in the newspaper business, and since the death of the latter, in 1885, he has been editor and publisher of the *Indiana Democrat*.

On July 2, 1876, he married Catharine Metz, who was a daughter of Peter A. Metz, of Indiana, and died July 14, 1879, leaving two children: James B. and Mary Edna.

The *Indiana Democrat* has been very successful under Mr. Sansom;s charge; has nearly thirteen hundred subscribers and circulates over a wide area of territory. It is a folio in form, with eight columns to the page, and filled with brief but forcible editorials, current news, both local and general, and carefully selected miscellany. It is published every Thursday on Church street near the railroad depot, and its subscription price is one dollar and fifty cents per year. The *Indiana Democrat* is continua increasing in influence

and power, both in and outside of the Democratic party, whose principles it always earnestly advocates, and ever resolutely defends.