

HON. HANNIBAL K. SLOAN. An eminent American author justly observes that “it is the peculiar felicity of our republican institutions that they throw no impediment in the career of merit but the competition of rival abilities.” Among the many men of note in Indiana county, who illustrate the truth of this sentiment, is State Senator Hannibal K. Sloan, an able lawyer and a man of fine military record and extended political influence. He is a son of James M. and Margaret (Kelly) Sloan, and was born in the borough of Indiana, Indiana county, Pennsylvania, September 4, 1838. The Sloans in the United States trace their ancestry to England, when Charles I. sat upon the throne of Great Britain. After the execution of that unhappy monarch, and some time during the period that Oliver Cromwell held within his grasp the supreme power of Europe’s mighty island-empire, several members of the Sloan family sought for a home in Ireland. In the course of time two of their descendants—brothers—came to the new world, and one settled in the royal province of New Jersey, while the other, the great-great-grandfather of Hannibal K. Sloan, located in the land of Penn. From these two brothers, whose names live not in history nor survive in tradition, have descended the numerous and thrifty Sloan families of the United States. The grandson of the founder of the Pennsylvania branch of the Sloan family was Lieutenant Walter Sloan (grandfather), who was born in Cumberland county, this State, in 1780. He came, in 1794, to Armstrong county, where he enlisted, in 1812, in Capt. James Alexander’s company of infantry as first lieutenant. After the war of 1812 he kept a hotel at Kittanning for some length of time, and then engaged extensively, for that day, in farming and in operating a flouring and saw-mill. After a long life of activity, purpose and usefulness, he died July 1, 1867, at the advanced age of eighty-six years. In 1811 he married Margaret Mateer, who was born in Cumberland county, and passed away October 3, 1820. They had four children, one of whom was James M. Sloan (father). He was born at Kittanning, in 1813, and in 1835 he came to Indiana, where he kept a hotel, operated a flouring-mill and managed a large farm. He died May 25, 1878, when he was in the sixty-fifth year of his age. He was a member of the Presbyterian church, an unswerving democrat, and filled nearly all of the borough offices of Indiana. He was a useful and well-informed man, and possessed many virtues which were worthy of emulation. On August 31, 1837, he married Margaret Kelly, who was born in White township, in 1815, and died in 1884, at the age of seventy-two years. Mrs. Margaret Sloan was a daughter of Major Meek Kelly (born in Franklin county, in 1770), a son of James Kelly, a pioneer settler of this county and a soldier in the Revolutionary war. Major Meek Kelly died in 1843, ages sixty years. He was a very prominent and influential man during his day, held many public offices, and served as a member of the Pennsylvania State Senate from 1834 to 1838. His wife was Jane Moorhead, daughter of Fergus Moorhead, the well-known old pioneer of Indian fame, who settled on the site of Indiana, in 1772.

Hannibal K. Sloan received his education in the public schools of Indiana and Indiana academy. He learned the trade of machinist, which he followed until he was nineteen years of age, when he commenced the study of law with Hon. H. W. Wier, who was chief justice of Idaho under Cleveland’s administration. In 1861 he left his legal studies and enlisted as a private in a company which afterwards became Co. B, of the famous 11<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania reserves. He was made second lieutenant, then promoted to first lieutenant, and commissioned captain on December 13, 1862. He commanded the company from that date until it was discharged at Pittsburgh, Pa., June 12, 1864. Captain

Sloan participated and led his company in all the battles of the Army of the Potomac from Gaines' Mill to the Wilderness battles. Returning home, he resumed his legal studies and was admitted to the Indiana bar in September, 1867. He opened an office and has continued in the successful practice of his profession ever since. In 1870 he was elected, as a democrat, to the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania from the republican county of Indiana. In 1888 his ability to overcome party lines and rally voters of all shades of political opinion to his support, was again demonstrated by his election to the State Senate from the Thirty-seventh Senatorial District, which is composed of the counties of Indiana and Jefferson, and is strongly republican. He has held all of the offices of his borough, to which he has always been elected independent of political consideration. He is a member of Indiana Lodge, No. 313, F. and A.M., Indiana Post, No. 28, G.A.R., Encampment No. 11, U.V.L., and the I.O.H. In 1869, he married Loretta F. Bonner, daughter of Manassas Bonner, of Westmoreland county, this State. They have six children: Bert, Maggie R., Kate, James B., Geneva and Hope I.

Hannibal K. Sloan is a man of fine personal appearance, over six feet in height, straight as an arrow and martial-looking. He is prominent in Grand Army circles and is recognized as one of the strong land lawyers of the State, and a power in the politics of western Pennsylvania. A prominent paper of southwestern Pennsylvania thus records the expressed opinion of him in that section as follows: "Senator Sloan is a gentleman of solid sense, broad intelligence and much experience in parliamentary bodies. Both his public and private life are without stain, and he is recognized as one of the truest friends of the agricultural and laboring classes. He is affable and unassuming, and meets men of high degree or humble station with equal cordiality and respect. No other name than his could be placed on the democratic standard of the State from western Pennsylvania that would draw to it a stronger independent republican and soldier support."