

HUGH M. BELL is prominent among the sons of Indiana county, who have won their own unaided way to prosperity and who have made for themselves names that will always figure conspicuously in the history of the industries of Indiana borough. He is a son of George and Mary (Beatty) Bell, and was born in Black-Lick township, Indiana county, Pennsylvania, December 13, 1852. the Bells are of Scotch-Irish descent and George Bell was born in Black-Lick township, in 1820, where he was reared to manhood and resided until his death, in 1855, at the early age of thirty-five years. He was an industrious farmer and a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His early death prevented him from acquiring much of a competency. He married Mary Betty, who now resides at Latrobe, Westmoreland county, this State.

Hugh M. Bell was bereaved of his father at so early an age that he could neither remember him nor realize his loss. Even before he had completed his first decade of years, he was usefully employed, to a considerable extent, on the farm on which he was reared. His education was acquired in the winter district common schools, which at that day had not arrived at the degree of excellence they have now reached. At seventeen years of age, imbued with the laudable ambition to win his own way in the world, he sought employment and accepted the first honest labor which came to his hand and was in the shape of driving a mule in a bituminous coal mine. He soon obtained a chance to leave his mule cart and dug coal, which paid him better wages than his former job of driving. In February, 1870, he came to Indiana, where he secured a position as clerk in the implement, grain and lumber house of John C. Moorhead. One year later he became a clerk in the dry good house of A. S. Cunningham, where he remained for eighteen months. He then went into the foundry establishment of ____ McFarland, with whom he continued for ten years and where he laid the foundations of his present honorable and successful business career as a manufacturer and general dealer in engines, mill machinery and agricultural implement. In 1882 he left the foundry and was employed for two years as a clerk in the prothonotary's office; but not liking the work, although rendering good satisfaction and having a decided inclination for the machinery business, he left the office to form a partnership, in October, 1884, with the Sutton Bros., under the firm name of Sutton Bros. & Bell. They purchased the plant of the Chilled Car Wheel & Plow company, of which they assumed possession on January 21, 1885. They have increased the foundry and machine shops, have added large blacksmith and paint shops and extensive storage rooms. Their plant now covers over half a square in area and employs a regular force of twenty-five hands. The foundry turns out land rollers, road scoops, stump pullers and all kinds of castings, and in the machine shop, engine, saw and flouring-mill machinery is manufactured and repaired. The firm deals largely in Syracuse chilled plows, engine boilers, iron and wood-working machinery, belting and steam and gas fittings. The present members of the firm are Thomas Sutton, John W. Sutton and Mr. Bell, and for thorough work and extensive patronage their establishment will compare favorably with any of its class in the western part of the State.

In 1876 he was married to Jennie Kerr, daughter of Valentine and Catherine Kerr, of Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Bell have six children: George M., Harry M., Emma V., Mary, Gilmore C. and Hugh M., Jr.

Hugh M. Bell is past master of Palladium Lodge, No. 346, I.O.O.F., past master of Clymer Lodge, No. 28, K. of H., past archon in the I.O.H., past W. H. of Indiana Lodge, No. 313, F. & A. M. and a member of Indiana Grange, No. 313, P. of H. He is a

member of Zerubabel Chapter, No. 162, H. R. A. M., and Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, Knight Templars. In politics Mr. bell has been an adherent of the Republican party, served as chairman of the Indiana county republican committee in 1883, and in 1889 was member of the republican State central committee. Like most men whose lives are largely devoted to business he has spared but little time to public affairs, and although never seeking office he has never refused to serve his fellow-citizens in a public position. Since 1885 he has served as burgess of West Indiana and as a member of the school board of that borough. Hugh M. bell has been the architect of his own fortunes and had had no one to help him so much as he has helped himself. He is a self-made man, who by his business ability and energy has passed in a few years from the depths of the coal mine to an honorable and important position in the manufacturing industries of the county.