

THOMAS E. HILDEBRAND. Prominent among the leading representatives of the drug business in this section is Thomas E. Hildebrand, the proprietor of the oldest drug house in Indiana county and one of the young and progressive business men of Indiana borough. His is a son of William B & Sarah (McClaran) Hildebrand, and was born at Indiana, Indiana county, Pennsylvania, February 18, 1860. his ancestors were early settlers in this State. The Hildebrand family is one of the old families of Adams county. His paternal grandfather William Hildebrand, was a son of John Hildebrand, of German origin, and married Elizabeth Swigart. One of their sons was William B Hildebrand (father), who was born in Adams county in 1825 and removed in 1853 to Indiana borough, where he embarked in the drug business, which he followed until his death, which occurred in 1886, when in the sixty-first year of his age. He was an experienced and enterprising business man who had established a wide reputation for honorable dealing and was highly esteemed by the many who knew him. On account of his business ability and experience, in 1876 he was elected secretary of the Indiana State Normal school of Pennsylvania. His services were so satisfactory in this position that he was annually re-elected till his death, in 1886. He was a member of Indiana Presbyterian church, in which he had served ten years as a trustee. In politics he was a republican, but aside from a general interest in political matters he devoted his time chiefly to the management of his business undertakings. In 1859 he married Sarah McClaran, by whom he had six children, three sons and three daughters: Thomas E., Gertrude, Frank, Walter, Willie M. and Mary (deceased). Mrs. Sarah Hildebrand was born at Blairsville, this county, in 1826, and is a member of the Presbyterian church. She is a daughter of Hon. William McClaran, who was of Scotch-Irish descent.

He was born in Indiana county, where he always lived. He was an old line whig, a strict Presbyterian and a man who commanded respect by the integrity of his actions and the uprightness of his life. He represented his native county twice in the State legislature and served two terms as register and recorder of Indiana county, being elected to the latter position in 1842 and re-elected in 1845.

Thomas E. Hildebrand was reared at Indiana, where he received his education in the public schools and the State Normal school of that place. His first employment was in the drug business with his father, whom he assisted till the death of the latter, when he purchased and assumed entire charge of the drug store and has continued successfully to conduct it ever since. In 1889 he tore down the old building and erected on its site his present large and beautiful three-story brick drug house, 21x75 feet in dimensions. His establishment is on Philadelphia street, and is one of the best furnished drug houses in the western part of the State. His stock is large and varied in order to meet the numerous demands of his constantly increasing patronage. He is a skillful and accomplished druggist and agreeable gentleman of excellent business qualifications.

In 1884 Thomas E. Hildebrand was made teller of the Indiana County Deposit bank, which position he still holds. He is a member of the Cosmopolitan club, which is composed of the young business men of Indiana. Mr. Hildebrand is a republican in political opinion, has served three terms as auditor of his borough, and takes considerable interest in political affairs. He is also well informed upon the important event of this wonderful age, and has acquire quite a fund of general information.