

THOMAS SUTTON. Although young in years and unassuming in manner, Thomas Sutton has attained to honorable standing and successful practice at the Indiana bar and is identified with several of the most important business enterprises of the county. He is a son of John and Mary Agnes (Walker) Sutton and was born at Indiana, Indiana county, Pennsylvania, May 3, 1854. One hundred years ago Peter and Phebe Sutton, the great-grandparents of Thomas Sutton, left the strong Presbyterian settlement of Baskin Ridge, New Jersey, and came to the vicinity of Newport on Black-Lick, this county. Some time between 1790 and 1806 Peter Sutton became one of the pioneer settlers of Indiana borough, and in the latter named year had a log hotel on the site of Wilson's mercantile house, on Philadelphia street. His son, Thomas Sutton (grandfather), married Rebecca Loughry and was engaged for many years in the mercantile business at Indiana. He was prominent man in the early history of the county. He was twice appointed as sheriff and served as such from 1809 to 1812 and from 1815 to 1818. He died in 1833, aged forty-nine. One of his sons was John Sutton (father), who was born May 20, 1814, at Indiana, where he died June 9, 1877, aged sixty-three years. In 1847 he married Mary Agnes Walker, a native of Cannonsburg, Pa. She is a member of the Presbyterian church, resides at Indiana and is now in the sixty-fourth year of her age. John Sutton was one of the most prominent and successful business men and earnest and faithful Christian worker that ever lived in Indiana county. For over forty years he was successfully engaged in the general mercantile business and in dealing in real estate. He was president, for several years before his death, of the First National Bank and was a partner in the firm of McCartney & Sutton, which operated the strawboard-mill during his lifetime. He and Judge Harry White were prominent among the founders of the State Normal school at Indiana, as well as being the largest contributors towards its establishment and support. He was also president of the board of trustees of that school from its organization until his death. He was a democrat in politics, but during the war he voted the National republican ticket and the State democratic ticket. He was a member and elder of the Indiana Presbyterian church, in which he was an active and zealous worker. For over a quarter of a century he was the esteemed and honored superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday-school, in whose interests he labored faithfully. The part of his life most satisfactory to himself was that which was passed in the service of the church and the Sunday-school. He was a man of unbounded charity, and his memory will be long held in grateful remembrance by the many poor whom he kindly and cheerfully assisted. His neighbors knew him to be a man who lived to serve the cause of religion, advance the educational interest of his town and to be useful to his fellow-man. In his life he demonstrated how a man may grow in business and yet keep his heart pure and his life unspotted from the world.

Thomas Sutton was reared at Indiana, where he received his early education in the public schools of that place. In 1870 he entered Princeton college, took the full three years' course and was graduated from that well-known institution of learning in the class of 1873. After graduation he returned home, read law with Judge John P. Blair and was admitted to the Indiana county bar at the spring term of 1876. In the fall of the centennial year he entered Columbia Law school, of New York city, to pursue a special course of studies, but after remaining one year was called home on account of his father's last sickness. Shortly after his father's death he entered upon the practice of his profession, which he has followed ever since. He makes a specialty of land titles, collections and

settling estates, in which line of practice he has been very successful. He takes a deep interest in the material development and progress of the county. In 1878 he became a member of the Chill car Wheel Manufacturing company, which changed its firm-name in 1885 to the present one of Sutton Bros. & Bell (see sketch of Hugh M. Bell). He and his brother, John W., owns the strawboard-mill under the firm-name of John W. Sutton & Bro. In addition to his manufacturing interests he is owner of one of the most beautiful residences of Indiana, has a large, well-improved farm in White township and possesses some very valuable property which is centrally located in the city of St. Paul, Minnesota. He is a member and secretary of the Indiana Chemical company, organized in 1887. Their works are on the Indiana Branch R.R., where they employ fifteen men and manufacture wood alcohol, acetate of lime and charcoal in large quantities. He is a stock-holder in the First National bank, of which he was president from 1886 to 1887, director from 1881 to 1887, and served as attorney from 1884 to 1888. He is a republican in politics, has served as a member of the town council and was borough auditor.

On October 22, 1878, he united in marriage with Ella P. Hildebrand, the handsome and accomplished daughter of Edward P. Hildebrand, of Indiana. Their union has been blest with two children: Edward H. and John S.

In religious matters Thomas Sutton follows in the footsteps of his father and is a member and active worker of the Presbyterian church and Sunday-school. He served as ruling elder in the church from 1879 to 1890. From 1878 to 1882 he was treasurer of the Indiana Normal school, and since then has served as secretary of its board of trustees. He is a warm supporter of that institution and labors earnestly for its advancement. He is a well-read and successful lawyer. As a speaker he is concise and clear, and is distinguished for precision in statement and close connection in argument.