

WILLIAM S. COLLINS is a leading citizen of Indiana, prominent in business and social circles as well as in the church and secret societies of which he is a member. He was born in Westmoreland county, Pa., June 6, 1846, and is a son of Joseph and Rebecca (Young) Collins. Joseph Collins is a native of Westmoreland county, Pa., and came to Indiana county in 1852, locating at West Lebanon. He is a machinist and worked at his trade until 1868, when he removed to Green township, where he bought a saw-mill, which he run for twenty-one years, moving it first to canoe township, and some six years after to Jefferson county, where he run it until 1889. He then found the work too arduous, and sold the saw-mill and bought a farm, on which he now resides in his old age. He is now in his sixty-ninth year. He has always been a stirring, energetic man, cautious and frugal and has acquired a competency. He is an esteemed member of the Presbyterian church. He married Rebecca Young, a daughter of Joseph Young, of Westmoreland county, and now in her sixty-sixth year. Her father, Joseph Young, was all his life a farmer in Westmoreland county.

William S. Collins was reared in Indiana county and received a common-school education. When his father moved from West Lebanon, in 1868, to Green township, he went with him. He remained in his father's employ until 1873; then, wearying of the monotony of the work, learned the art of photography, which he followed for five years. In 1878 he accepted a position as book-keeper and clerk for the lumber firm of J. M. Guthrie & Co. So faithfully did he discharge his duties that for several years he had complete supervision of their business in West Indiana. In the spring of 1889 he united with his father in the general mercantile business, under the firm name of J Collins & Son, since which time they have built up a large trade. They deal in dry-goods, groceries, and all the different articles which go to make up the stock of a first-class store. During the Great Rebellion, William Collins served three months in Col. Gallagher's regiment, aided in Morgan's capture.

He was married, in 1865, to Harriet J., daughter of Alex. Henderson, of Indiana county, by whom he has five children; Joseph V., Minnie E., George A., Bertram L. and Sarah J.

William S. Collins is a prohibitionist, and a member of the Presbyterian church. He is a member of William Penn Council, No. 305, Royal Arcanum, and Ware Union, No. 326, E.A.U., Branch No. 341, O.I.H., and Conclave No. 180, Improved order of Heptasophs. He is a public-spirited citizen and always ready to give his assistance to any scheme which may benefit Indiana.