

MICHAEL E. BROWN, senior member of the firm of M. E. Brown & Bro., of Blairsville, Indiana county, has been a lifelong resident of that place, and is not only a prominent business man but also one of the most popular Democrats in this section of Pennsylvania. He was born in Blairsville April 5, 1853, son of John W. and Hannah (Crate) Brown, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. John W. Brown was at one time a contractor, and he built the addition to heighten the original East Fork dam at Johnstown, which afterward broke with such disastrous results.

Michael E. Brown received a public school education at Blairsville. When a boy of twelve he began to assist his father in the butcher business, in which he has been interested ever since, he and his brother Thomas C. brown forming a partnership in the early seventies which has continued uninterruptedly since. They began as retailers, but gradually the business became wholesale in character and has been conducted as such since 1890. Their plant is now modernly equipped in every detail. They have a two-story building 150x150 feet in dimensions, and their ice plant forms an important branch of the business supplying the city. They buy all their live stock at the best markets, Chicago and Kansas City, and the killing capacity is now four hundred hogs and two carloads of cattle, besides sheep and calves, weekly. Though they are best known as meat packers, the Brown brothers have formed other important associations. They were the original promoters of the Westmoreland Street Railway Company, which they organized in 1902, securing the franchises and right of way through the borough and getting the road into operation, after which they sold out.

Michael E. Brown has always taken a great interest in the success of the Democratic party, and is one of its leading workers in his part of the State. He has been delegate to two national conventions, at Kansas City and Baltimore (1912). In 1897 he was the Democratic candidate for State treasurer. He has done good work as a public official of his home city, at present filling his third term as burgess of Blairsville.

In September, 1874, Mr. Brown married Isadora Jelley, of Blairsville. They have no children. Mr. and Mrs. Brown are members of the Catholic Church.