

WILLIAM FRANCIS ELKIN, of Indiana, district attorney and referee in bankruptcy for his district, was first elected to the former office in November, 1907, and has held the latter by appointment since early in 1905. he is engaged in the practice of law in partnership with Jonathan N. Langham and E. E. Creps, under the firm name of Langham, Elkin & Creps. Mr. Elkin was born April 21, 1869, at Smicksburg, Indiana Co., Pa., son of Francis and Elizabeth (Pratt) Elkin. The family is of Irish origin, and long resident in the North of Ireland.

Francis Elkin, great-grandfather of William Francis Elkin, lived to be eighty years of age, and his wife was Nancy Park.

William Elkin, son of Francis and Elizabeth (Hill) Elkin, was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1804, and was married in his native country to Martha Beattie, who died in Ireland in 1849. She was a granddaughter of Joseph Hill, who died in Ireland in 1844, at the remarkable age of one hundred and seven years. William Elkin came to this country in 1850 and returned to Ireland after a stay of nine months, in 1852 coming back to the United States with his family. He settled first at Pittsburg, coming to west Mahoning township, Indiana county, in 1854, and settling at Loop, in that township, engaged in farming throughout his active years. He had a long life, dying in 1896, at the age of ninety-two. He was a member of the Episcopal Church. By his first marriage, to Martha Beattie, he had the following children, all born in County Tyrone, Ireland: Francis, William, James, Henry, Eliza (wife of John Bond), Sarah (wife of James Chapman) and Anne (wife of Spencer Barrett). By his second marriage, to Jane Rippey, he was the father of three children, namely: David, John and Martha (wife of Thomas Ralston).

Francis Elkin, eldest son of William and Martha Elkin, was born May 4, 1830, at Omagh, County Tyrone, Ireland, and grew to manhood in his native country. Coming to the United States in 1851, he located first at Pittsburg, Pa., where he learned the rolling mill business, and became superintendent of the iron mills of Lindsey & Zug, the senior partner, Mr. Lindsey, being his uncle. Mr. Lindsey died suddenly during a visit to Ireland, and this left the business in the control of the junior partner, Christopher Zug, who, for reasons best known to himself, found it convenient to dispense with the services of Francis Elkin. This changed the plans of Mr. and Mrs. Elkin, and during a visit to William Elkin, his father, who then lived in west Mahoning township, Francis Elkin concluded to buy a farm and engage in agricultural pursuits, which he did. He engaged in farming for some years, later embarking in the mercantile business at Smicksburg, this county, where he also built a foundry, being in business there until 1873, when he went to Wellsville, Ohio, in company with others founding the American tin Plate Company and erecting the first mill in this country which turned out tin plate. In 1875 he returned to Smicksburg and resumed the mercantile business, which he carried on until his death, Dec. 12, 1882. Mr. Elkin was deservedly looked upon as one of the most substantial and influential men of his community. He was a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and built the church now used by that denomination at Smicksburg. He was ever one of its most active workers and liberal supporters, and served officially as vestryman. He was a republican in politics, and though no seeker after public honors consented to act

as school director of his township. His wife, Elizabeth (Pratt), a native of Queen's County, Ireland, born in 1833, came to the United States in her eighteenth years. Liker her husband she was a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church. She died Jan. 2, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Elkin had the following children: Elizabeth C., wife of William Elkin; James H., who is deceased; Hon. John Pratt, now justice of the Supreme court of Pennsylvania; Martha C., who first married Jacob Meister, and after his death became the wife of W. D. McHenry; William Francis, and Margaret A., wife of Robert McKibben.

William Francis Elkin obtained his preliminary education in the public schools, and began to teach at the early age of fifteen. He continued to follow the profession for about ten years, during which time he also continued his studies, taking the course at the State normal school at Indiana borough, from which he was graduated with the class of 1890. He taught another two years after leaving the normal school, and then took up the study of law with his brother John P. Elkin. He was admitted to the bar in 1896, and has been actively engaged in legal practice ever since. In 1905 he formed the associated with Mr. Langham which they have since maintained. In November, 1907, Mr. Elkin was elected district attorney, in which office he is now serving his second term, having been reelected in November, 1911. On Jan. 16, 1905, he was appointed referee in bankruptcy; and has held that office continuously since. Mr. Elkin has attained a high position at the bar for both ability and reliability, and his success and prominence are the result of well-directed energies and the best use of his natural endowments.

In 1893 Mr. Elkin became a member of Company F, 5th Regiment Pennsylvania National Guard, entering as a private and holding every office up to and including that of captain. In 1898, during the Spanish-American war, he was second lieutenant of his company. His regiment was called out and stationed at Camp George H. Thomas, at Chickamauga, Tenn., and while in camp there he had a severe case of ivy poisoning. Later he was stricken with typhoid fever. When the company was mustered out, Nov. 9, 1898, he was on sick leave. He is a member of the B. P.O. Elks, and a junior warden and vestryman of the Episcopal Church.

W. F. Elkin was married, Dec. 28, 1911, to Ersie C. Maugans. They have one child, Frances Elizabeth, born Dec. 24, 1912.