

**Snow's History of Adams County, Indiana, John Fletcher Snow, B. F. Bowen, Indianapolis, IN, 1907, p. 303-305 (images 619-623)**

WILLIAM H. NIBLICK.

For more than a half century the name of Niblick has been closely identified with the commercial growth and development of Adams county. It was members of this family who individually contributed much to the financial development of the county, and who were largely instrumental in bringing it before the rest of the state because of its commercial prominence and industrial significance. Among the strong men of this family who aided in no mean way to promote the interests of Decatur and Adams county none stands out more prominently, although now in memory, than William H. Niblick. In all matters of public need or public work he was ever to be found in the van, and he is remembered today as an aggressive, intelligent, clean-lived and honest financier and citizen.

William H. Niblick was born in Decatur March 19, 1855. He was the son of Jesse and Catherine (Close) Niblick. His parents were among the earlier settlers in the county and his father was a man of many affairs and a progressive business man. Jesse Niblick amassed a handsome fortune through his own unaided efforts and left an indelible impress upon the community in which he lived. He spent his entire life in commercial pursuits and founded the business conducted by Niblick & Company in Decatur. He began business in Decatur in a modest way, but he was a man of large abilities and he developed his properties until they assumed considerable proportions. Perhaps the most important event of his business career was the establishment of the Adams County Bank. Together with J. D. Nuttman, he recognized the need of a bank in Decatur to take care of the increasing business the development of Adams county as a farming community brought about. Accordingly he established a private bank with his partner in the mercantile business and this bank afterwards became the State Bank, still in successful operation in Decatur. Jesse Niblick was the first president of this bank and remained closely identified with its management and control, dictating many of its policies until his death.

The boyhood and youth of William H. Niblick were spent in Decatur. He was educated in the schools of his home city and after completing his studies entered the county auditor's office as a deputy. This was during the tenure of office of Seymour Worden as auditor. He served in the office of the county auditor until the organization of the bank by his father and Mr. Nutman. Then he gave up his public office and became the cashier of the new bank. He held the position of cashier under a number of different presidents of the bank until it was reorganized under the state laws of Indiana. This reorganization of the Adams County Bank was effected in 1894 and consonant with the reorganization he was elected president of the institution. He continued as president of the bank until his death, November 7, 1906. Under his direction the bank grew and expanded and its business was greatly increased. He was a conservative business man

and he applied his principles of conservatism to his conduct of the bank's affairs. During his tenure of office a number of financial storms shook the country and many banks and concerns went to the wall. But the storms and buffetings did not disturb the course of the Adams County Bank. It withstood all shocks and emerged stronger and more confident after each fresh assault. Much of the credit for establishing the sound financial institution the bank represents today is directly due to Mr. Niblick.

But the claims that may be made for revering the name of William H. Niblick do not rest alone on his reputation and career as a careful and discerning financier. He was, above all, a good citizen. Keenly alive to the interests of his city and county, he was ever to be found in the front rank of those who were endeavoring to advance the moral, social and intellectual, as well as the commercial, interests of his community. He was a patron of education and enlightenment, and took much interest in these things. He co-operated loyally and generously in all movements that looked toward the betterment of his city, and was active in administering its affairs. He was a member of the Decatur city council, and in other ways demonstrated that he had the welfare of his city at heart at all times.

The marriage of Mr. Niblick and Miss Christina Miller was solemnized in Decatur, November 7, 1883. Mrs. Niblick is a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Meibers) Miller and was born in Decatur, October 6, 1860. Her parents were natives of Germany and came to Indiana and settled in Adams county at an early date. They lived in Decatur until their deaths some years ago. They were the parents of five children, three sons and two daughters. Of this family Mrs. Niblick was the fourth in order of birth. In addition to his widow Mr. Niblick is survived by a son, Jesse George Niblick, the only child born to Mr. and Mrs. Niblick.