

WILLIS C. GLENDENING.

While the business career of Willis C. Glendening about whom this sketch is concerned, has been a varied one and a most active one, it has been uniformly successful; and has gained much enviable repute. Mr. Glendening is today one of the substantial men of this section of the state, and he is widely and favorably known. He was born in Adams county, May 27, 1862. He is the son of John and Rachel (Pontius) Glendening. His father was born in England, and when he left the old country he came direct to Indiana. He settled in Hartford township and purchased land, which he farmed until his death, March 15, 1876. Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Glendening married Thomas Uptgraft, who died in 1897. She contracted a third marriage with John Mason, a Wells county farmer, and lives with this husband on his farm.

W. C. Glendening was the second in order of birth of a family of four children. The others are: William, a farmer living in Hartford township; Charles, living at Geneva, and Sherman, living in Hartford township. The early life of the subject of this sketch was spent on his father's farm. He attended the district schools and at intervals assisted in the farm work. When he reached his twenty-first year he engaged in the drug business in Geneva, in which business he continued for the following four years. At the end of this period he disposed of his interest in the drug business and engaged in farming in Jay county. After three years spent in farming his Jay county place he was attracted by the opening of the Indiana oil fields and formed a business arrangement with the Bolds brothers, with whom he was associated for two years. He again changed the nature of his business after this arrangement was concluded and entered the general merchandise business at Geneva, having the Bolds brothers as associates.

This business was managed by Mr. Glendening for about three years and grew to be one of the most profitable enterprises of Geneva. At the expiration of three years he entered the general merchandise business with Fields & Company, and still later became associated with the firm of Minch & Company. But the oil business attracted him again, and he once more embarked in it. This time he interested himself in the new field discovered and opened near Robinson, Illinois, and he retains his interests in this field to this day. At present he is a clerk with the firm of Acker & Teeple, of Geneva. This firm does a general merchandise business and Mr. Glendening became connected with this store September 15, 1905. The following year after he became associated with the last named firm he fitted out the Shamrock Hotel in a modern manner. All the fittings and furnishings were new, and the place was brought to a modern standard. This property he subsequently traded for a farm in Ohio in January, 1907. From these foregoing facts it will be seen that the business career of Mr. Glendening has been an active one. Throughout his career he has been an able and aggressive man. His methods have been progressive and satisfactory to all connected with the enterprises in which he was interested.

He was married to Miss Ella Darr, a daughter of Patton and Elizabeth Darr, in 1885. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Glendening: Lake E. , Bertie R. and Willis D. Mrs. Glendening died in September. 1902. The home life of the family is ideal and the home is the center of much of the social life and wholesome gaiety of the town.

Mr. Glendening is a public-spirited man. He takes an active part in the affairs of his community and is identified with all movements to help the community. He votes the Republican ticket but is not a partisan politician.

He is a member of Geneva Lodge, No. 514, Knights of Pythias, the Maccabees and Sons of Veterans. For two years he served as town clerk. He is an ardent hunter and. spends a month each year in the woods of northern Michigan in search of deer. He is usually successful and the venison he sends home is much enjoyed.

Snow's History of Adams County, Indiana, John Fletcher Snow, B. F. Bowen, Indianapolis, IN, 1907, (image 501)