

# History dedicated to 'The Pioneers'

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tain a complaint about the slipshod memories of the natives or the hardships of the firm's research team. Again, the preface is generic and its happy claim of progress, prosperity, etc., could have been said of any Indiana county.

It would be naive to assume that the Bowen history editor did not benefit liberally from information in the 1884 version. In fact, there are striking similarities between the sections describing Monroe County's participation in the Civil War.

Of particular help to present-day historians are the biographical sketches paid for by the subjects, themselves, or their relatives.

AMONG THE sketches are eight that also appeared in the 1884 history. The duplicate biographies were about William J. Allen, Henry Clay Duncan, Nat U. Hill, Sr., Joseph G. McPheeters, Robert W. Miers, William and J.D. Showers and Dr. J.P. Tournier.

Allen was brought to Monroe County when he was only three months old by his Kentucky-born parents. After receiving his education in Bloomington, he headed west to seek his fortune and worked as a cattle drover and miner. Upon his discharge from the Union Army he decided that perhaps his fortune was in Bloomington, after all. Indeed it was. In time he was the owner of 120 acres and eight buildings on the square.

Born in Lawrence County, Duncan studied at Northwestern University (now Butler) and IU. Returning from military service in the Union Army, Duncan studied law with Moses Dunn. He held the offices of prosecuting attorney for Monroe, Lawrence, Orange and Martin Counties and judge of the circuit court. In his spare time he specialized in financial institutions and was the president of Workingmen's Building and Loan Association and director of the Citizens Loan and Trust Co., and the First National Bank.

HILL CAME from Clay County and entered IU in 1872. After practicing law in Brazil for awhile, he returned to Bloomington and assumed a leadership role in the affairs of the First National Bank. When he was elected State Treasurer, he resigned as president of the bank. At Hill's funeral in 1908 Judge Duncan said that the banker and political king-maker had been good to his community and IU.

McPheeters was home grown in that he was born in Bloomington, the son of a doctor. He had to drop out of IU in his junior year because of ill health. When he ran for State Senator, he lost by only four votes. He was Bloomington's postmaster for 28 years and a U.S. Commissioner for 15. After retirement from the post office he opened a book and stationery store on the east side of the square.

Next week: Other prominent Bloomingtonians.