

Information valuable

History of counties features biographies

When the research team employed by the B.F. Bowen Company had finished collecting biographical material for the 1914 *History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties, Indiana*, they were then faced with the task of doing justice to the subjects.

THEIR WORK must have had its moments. Only the most blase research/writer could have dealt with creating a dignified biography in the case of the minister who had six wives. A funeral director, who was much respected, deserved a better description than that of a man "who has met with splendid success. . ."

Bear in mind that the subjects of the biographies or their families were paying for them, and the Bowen writers were obliged to be flexible and indulgent. But the subject who submitted his entire genealogy beginning in 1542 in Buckingham County, England, must surely have reminded the writer that "the customer is always right."

Looking Back

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By Rose H. McIlveen

FEW, IF ANY, of the Monroe County biographical sketches were written about men who had not duly earned the name of "prominent citizen."

Take, for example, the Showers Brothers, William and J.D., who were born in Ohio and Fort Wayne, respectively, the sons of a cabinet maker turned Methodist minister.

The furniture factory they established in Bloomington made the city a household word and rivaled the limestone industry as the county's major employer and economic base.

WILLIAM WAS described as being a stockholder and director of the First National Bank, as well as
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