

Crawford S. **Erwin**

(Copied from Flora Record)



Few men in our county have succeeded in stamping their names and personality upon the mind and hearts of our people like the subject of this article. Comparatively young in years, quiet in manner, but sincere in his principles and friendship he has called about himself a host of warm friends and admirers who are ever ready to honor him because in so doing they feel that they honor themselves. It is true that there are those who do not appreciate noble elements in character, and cannot, for they lack those elements themselves, but such are the exceptions and not the rule. The people were never more sensitive to the charm of true worth in character than they are today and this is true of all classes. Even men who never pretended to make any claim upon popular favor believe in the good in other men are ever ready to help such to attain to their ambitions. The man who swears approves the man who does not revile his creator. The man who frequents the saloon oftimes votes the temperance ticket and all in all we hold a doctrine of our own that there is much good in every man's heart no matter what his outward life may be. Hereon lies the powerful influence for good which the man of correct life exerts.

The history of Crawford S. **Erwin** clearly indicates the truth of the above statements. From childhood his life has been a model for young people. Born in Clay County on a Hoosier Prairie farm, October 9, 1866, he was denied the guidance of his fathers counsel, for the remorseless reaper, death, claimed the father a few days before the son was born. The homestead was located not far from the Center District schoolhouse in Hoosier Prairie Township and till the age of nine years the little boy attended that school. His mother and older brother concluded to try the South and accordingly the family moved to the State of Texas where they for four years. The opportunities for schooling there were not good and the boy returned at the age of thirteen to find himself far behind his former classmates. Rev John F. **Harmon**, then a young man, was the teacher in Center District and "one of the best of men" as his old time pupils still say of him. Mr **Harmon** inspired young **Erwin** to regain what he had lost by being out of school and by his encouragement and assistance he made fine progress in his studies. Many a night he pored over his books till the midnight hour. When he was about sixteen years of age he determined to go to Valpariso, Indiana, Normal