

Standard History of Adams and Wells Counties, Indiana, Vol. II, John W. Tyndall & Orlo Ervin Lesh; Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co, 1918, p. 748-749.

George E. Wemhoff.

Possessing excellent business ability and judgment, George E. Wemhoff, of Decatur, general manager of the Wemhoff Monumental Works, is widely known throughout Western Indiana for his monumental achievements, beautiful marble and granite creations from his shop being seen in many of the best known cemeteries of this section of the state. A native of Adams County, he was born, in 1873, in Decatur, being a son of the late Bernard F. Wemhoff.

Bernard F. Wemhoff was born at Munster, Westphalia, in November, 1843, and died at his home, in Decatur, Indiana, June 12, 1906. Brought up in his native land, he learned the trade of a marble cutter when young, and afterward worked for three years on that magnificent work of art, the Cologne Cathedral. Immigrating to the United States just before the close of the Civil war, he located first in Kendallville, Indiana, there joining his brother, Rev. John A. Wemhoff, a Roman Catholic priest, who, in 1873, was instrumental in laying the foundation for the present Roman Catholic Church of Decatur. From Kendallville Bernard F. Wemhoff went to Fort Wayne, Indiana, and later, with others, became interested in establishing monumental works in the newly organized town of Decatur, and in this now flourishing city, in 1889, he established the Wemhoff Monumental Works, going into business on his own account, after having been associated with partners for many years. He met with excellent success from the first, the many beautiful monuments that he erected in the cemeteries of this vicinity bearing evidence of his skillful workmanship.

Bernard F. Wemhoff married, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Mary A. McClean, who was born in America, of Irish parents. She is now living, a bright and active woman of four score years. Both she and her husband are members of the Roman Catholic Church, and after locating in Decatur became identified with Saint Mary's Church. Mr. Wemhoff became an active member of the Knights of Columbus. Eight children were born of their union, as follows: George E., of this sketch; Edith, wife of Charles Pilliod. of Ohio, has three daughters; Oswald, of Decatur, travels in the interest of the Wemhoff Monumental Works; Estella. a most capable business woman, is secretary for a lumber company in which she is a stockholder, at Fort Wayne; Frank, a resident of San Francisco, California, is the western manager of the Wayne Oil, Tank & Pump Company; Otto, traveling salesman for the local Monumental Works; Celesta, a graduate of the Fort Wayne Business College, is with the Bowers Realty Company, of Decatur; John R., of Fort Wayne, an accountant for the Wayne Oil, Tank and Pump Company.

Brought up in Decatur, George E. Wemhoff, in common with his brothers and sisters, received his early education in the, parochial schools, and as a boy began working in his father's marble works, becoming familiar with the details of the business. Since the

death of his father, eleven years ago, Mr. Wemhoff has been general manager of the Wemhoff Monumental Works, and under his careful supervision the business is large and constantly increasing, having within recent years reached such proportions that a branch office was opened at Fort Wayne, in the Bass Block. This enterprising firm has filled many large orders, among others having erected the W. E. Mossman Monument in Fort Wayne, it being very tall and handsome; the beautiful statue erected to the memory of William Niblick, of Decatur; a similar piece of statuary erected in Saint Johns Cemetery, at Fort Wayne; and at Decatur a soldiers' monument of rare artistic beauty, designed by Charles Mulligan, a noted Chicago sculptor.

As an ex-president of the National Monumental Association, and the assistant editor of its great trade magazine, Mr. Wemhoff has met many artists, sculptors, and draftsmen of note, all of whom look upon him as a true friend. Mr. Wemhoff has among his most valued heirlooms an old German bull's eye watch, once owned by his paternal grandfather, and which, from its markings is known to be far more than a century old. Mr. Wemhoff married, in Decatur, Indiana, Osa France, a daughter of Henry France, an ex-county auditor, now deceased. Mrs. Wemhoff was born and educated in Decatur, and has always been active and prominent in social circles. Five children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Wemhoff, namely: Adrian, bookkeeper for the Alfo Company, in Decatur; Eulalia, Robert, Arthur, and Bernard. The family are all members of the Roman Catholic Church. In his political affiliations Mr. Wemhoff is a democrat.