



SAMUEL B. GWIN is a native son of Brooklyn, his birth having occurred August 21, 1865. He is a son of Elias Gwin, one of the early pioneers of this county where he entered and improved a large tract of land. Mr. Gwin whose name heads this sketch is a well-known attorney-at-law in this place and controls a large practice. He received a collegiate education and was graduated from the Valparaiso Commercial College in 1882, after having spent one year in a regular course of study. He afterward entered the Iowa State University, and in the fall of 1884 began the study of law with the firm of Talbert & Gaynor, of Brooklyn. Entering Drake University, he pursued his legal studies there for some time and was graduated from the law department in June, 1886. A year later he was admitted to the Bar, and since November of that year has been located in Brooklyn. He is an active young politician, being a strong Democrat, and in the fall of 1890 made a race for the County Attorneyship, but was defeated by only fifty votes.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, James Gwin, was a son of one James, who emigrated with his parents to America during the Colonial days, locating in Pennsylvania. During the War of the Revolution he was in the service, and at the battle of Bunker Hill played the fife. Our subject's grandfather was born in Pennsylvania and was one of the early pioneer farmers of Holmes County, Ohio. About 1844, removing to Iowa, he settled near Brooklyn, engaging in agricultural pursuits

until his death in 1861. His wife, who was formerly Miss Elizabeth Huston, reared a family as follows: Nicholas, Thomas, Jesse, Elias, Julia and Jennie. The eldest of the family, Nicholas, served in the war and was severely wounded, from the effects of which he died soon after returning home. Thomas was also a valiant soldier in the war. Mr. Gwin was a Democrat in politics and was a Presbyterian in religious faith.

Elias Gwin was born in Holmes County, Ohio, and came to Iowa in 1844, living in this vicinity for nearly half a century, his death occurring July 25, 1891. He was reared on a farm and at one time owned four hundred and eighty acres north of Brooklyn. In 1865 he engaged in the butchering business with Harry Summerville, and later engaged for about ten years in buying and shipping cattle. About 1869 he entered into the coal and grain business and for several years was interested with I. M. Drake in an implement trade. At Malcom, he for a time ran an elevator. He was a leading public man and a liberal contributor to all enterprises calculated to benefit the vicinity and the community at large. His wife, who survives him was also born in Holmes County, Ohio, and bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Flack. Her father, Thomas Flack, was an extensive farmer, and a native of Westmoreland County, Pa. In his early manhood he removed to Ohio and about the year 1844 came to Brooklyn. He was of Scotch-Irish origin, a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and, politically, a Democrat.



JPL
413