

which he is held in his community is evidenced by the fact that he has frequently been elected to public office, and in the discharge of his duties has ever displayed a conscientious desire to advance the interests of the people among whom he has lived for so many years. He served for one term as a member of the school board, was then sent to the council of Sylvester, and in 1900 became the representative of his district in the Lower House of the Georgia State Legislature. He served during one term in that capacity, and in 1907 was sent to the State Senate from his district, and served one term also in that body. He has always been a stalwart democrat and wields no small influence in his party.

Doctor Sikes was married in 1880, in Worth County, Georgia, to Miss Georgia Ford, daughter of James Nathan and Catherine Ford, well known and highly esteemed residents of this community. To this union there were born six children, as follows: William Arthur, who is deceased; Elizabeth, a resident of Sylvester; Robert Eli, who died in infancy; Benjamin Franklin, of this city; and the Misses Gladys and Kate, who reside with their parents at the handsome family home.

JAMES ROBERT IRWIN. Admitted to the Georgia bar thirty years ago, James R. Irwin began practice at the little Town of Conyers, then a struggling village, with few pretensions as a commercial or industrial center. He has grown with the community and for many years has been one of the most active factors in its upbuilding. Major Irwin as a lawyer is one of the oldest and one of the ablest of the Rockdale County bar. He is forceful as an advocate, a man of sterling integrity, and valued both in his profession and in citizenship.

James Robert Irwin was born in Walton County, Georgia, December 11, 1854, a son of Willis and Susan (Moon) Irwin. His father was a son of Christopher Irwin, who in turn was a son of Isaiah Irwin, a native of Virginia. Willis Irwin, who died in 1892, at the age of seventy-four in Walton County, was a farmer, and during the war served with the Georgia State troops under Governor Joseph M. Brown. He was active in democratic politics for a number of years. His widow is still living with home at Jersey, in Walton County, with her daughter Mrs. W. B. Barrett. Major Irwin was the second of six children, the others being: F. A. Irwin, a prominent attorney and former city judge of Cedartown, Georgia; Milton C., a farmer in Rockdale County; Nellie, wife of W. B. Barrett of Jersey; Marcus D., a graduate of the law department of the University of Virginia, and now a practicing attorney at Lawrenceville, Georgia; and Colquitt B., a resident of Conyers.

Major Irwin spent his early life on a farm with an education from the country schools and from the Conyers High School. The storm and stress of the war period left their impress on his youthful mind, and seriously interfered with the steady prosecution of his studies. He finally took up the study of law under Hon. J. N. Glenn of Conyers, and was admitted to practice by Judge John D. Stewart of the Superior Court in 1884. Almost immediately he opened an office at Conyers, and has been pursuing the practice of law with cases in all the courts and with a steadily growing prestige for more than thirty years. Among other important clients he represents the Bank of Rockdale.

Major Irwin has his title as proof of a service of nineteen years in the Georgia State Militia, retiring with the rank of major, and had he wished he might have been a colonel. He has served as mayor of Conyers, and has long been an active figure in the democratic party of his home county. He takes considerable interest in practical farming, has a fine farm near Conyers, and his yearly average of cotton has been a hundred bales. He is affiliated with the Lodge, Chapter and Council of Masonry, and for thirteen years served as