

## **BIRCH, CHARLES F**

Charles F. BIRCH, Sr., proprietor of the Dunkirk Mold Works, of Dunkirk, and one of the best known manufacturers of that city, whose molds for glass factories find a market not only in this country but in England and France, has been a resident of Dunkirk for the past twenty-five years or more and has thus long been thoroughly identified with the industrial life of that city. He was born at Wheeling, W. Va., November 2, 1847, son of George and Jane (JACKSON) BIRCH, the latter of whom was born on Long Island, New York. George BIRCH was a native of England, who was early trained to the craft of glass cutting and who for some time owned his own establishment in this line, for many years following this vocation at Wheeling. He and his wife were the parents of five children, all now deceased save the subject of this sketch, the third in order of birth, the others having been John, George, Mary and Robert. Charles F. BIRCH was reared at Wheeling, in the schools of which city he received his schooling and also took a course in bookkeeping. When fifteen years of age he began working in the shops of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company at Wheeling, where he learned the machinist's trade and where he remained for five years, at the end of which time, in the winter of 1867, he then being twenty years of age, he entered the establishment of Hobbs, Brockunier & Co. at Wheeling and took up' the trade of mold maker, in which he soon became very proficient. Mr. BIRCH remained with this firm for twenty years, or until 1887, when he transferred his connection to the Nickel Plate Glass Company at Fostoria, Ohio. This firm was merged with the United States Glass Company in 1889 and he continued with the new combination until 1895, in which year he came to Indiana and located at Dunkirk, which ever since has been his home. The Ohio Flint Glass Company had engaged Mr. BIRCH as foreman of the mold department of its plant at Dunkirk and he continued thus engaged until the plant was destroyed by fire in 1900, after which he was given charge of the mold department of the Marring-Hart Glass Company at Dunkirk, a connection he retained until 1916, in which year he established himself in business as proprietor of the Dunkirk Mold Works, a concern which has been a success from the start. As noted above, Mr. BIRCH manufactures molds for glass works not only in the United States but in France and England and has created one of Dunkirk's thriving and substantial industrial plants, the demand for the products of his skill keeping a considerable force constantly employed. Mr. BIRCH has been thrice married. On December 5, 1867, he was united in marriage to Mary A. TURNBULL, who was born at

Steubenville, Ohio, and of the children born to that union four are living, namely: Ida M., who married Edward WILLIAMS, a farmer of Ohio, and has two children, Clara and Jane WILLIAMS; Edna T., who married Otis HARROUN, also an Ohio farmer, and has two children; Charles F., Jr., who is now engaged in the mold business at Lancaster, Ohio, and who married Sadie CHRISTIE and has two children, Earl and Eloise; and Isaac T., unmarried, who is living at Huntington, W. Va., where he also is engaged in the mold business. Mrs. Mary A. BIRCH died on July 3, 1894, and on February 29, 1896, Mr. BIRCH married Eva FRAZIER, who died in 1897. On December 23, 1897, Mr. BIRCH married Emma A. ALLEN, who was born in Ohio, daughter of Ephraim and Sarah ( TAYLOR ) ALLEN, but who was reared and educated in Jay county. Mr. BIRCH is a Republican. He is a member of the Masonic lodge at Dunkirk and of the Hartford City lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.172-173. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.