Francis M. Sonday

Though but a short time a resident in the town no citizen has impressed himself mere favorably on the community, which is due to his genial character, his friendly greeting to everybody as well as his excellent business habits and reliability as a citizen. He is full of enterprise and has already done much to improve the conditions of his adopted home and altogether has been a valuable addition to the commercial and social life of this enterprising and progressive little city. His parents, Jacob and Barbara Sonday, were settlers of Jay county, where they earned their livelihood by farming and were esteemed members of the community in which they lived. Francis M. Sonday, the second of their nine children, was born in Jay county, June 8, 1873, and was reared to manhood in the place of his nativity. Being studious and attentive, he received a good education in the common schools, which has served him a good purpose through life. His parents were poor, however, and before reaching his majority he was compelled to "strike out for himself" as they say in the country. In 1892 he secured employment at farm work in Allen county and kept at this for about three years, when he took personal charge of his own farm of one hundred and forty acres. Wearying of this, he concluded to try another line and in 1900 opened up in the general mercantile business at Ari, one of the live towns of Allen county, and near his home place. He was appointed postmaster of the place and acted as local agent for the Wabash Railroad Company. He remained at Ari for fifteen months and then returned to his farm, which he sold and in April, 1906, came to Churubusco, where he purchased the furniture and undertaking business of E. L, Welshmier, enlarged the stock and otherwise improved the plant and now conducts a first-class establishment. In 1906 he erected a commodious store building, twenty-two by ninety with three floors, built of cement blocks, equipped it thoroughly and by paying strict and personal attention to all the details has enjoyed a full measure of prosperity. He is public spirited and enjoys the confidence and esteem of all his townsmen. In 1892 Mr. Sonday was married to Miss Alice Galloway. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sonday are identified with the United Brethren church.

Source: History of Whitley County, Indiana By Samuel P. Kaler, R. H. Maring