

COAL MEN OF AMERICA
A Biographical and Historical
Review of the World's Greatest Industry.

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The sketches below are from the above book. In addition to the sketches, [there are photos in the book and can be found here.](#) On pages 107 > 115 there are more names of Indiana Men who were involved with the Coal Business. [Pages 96 > 115 have been uploaded and are fully searchable.](#) The text can be copied for your use. Please use the above book title for your reference. If you wish to download the whole book: [“Coal Men of America”, it can be found here.](#)

Walter A Bledsoe, Terre Haute, Indiana,
President Walter Bledsoe & Co., Terre Haute, is also Secretary of the Fayette Realty & Development Co., and has been in the coal business twenty-five years. He was formerly with the New Pittsburgh Coal & Coke Co. and the Indiana Southern Coal Co., filling the position of General Sales Agent. Mr. Bledsoe is one of the best known of Indiana operators and has a wide and favorable acquaintance in the coal trade.

Alfred M Ogle, Terre Haute, Indiana
President Vandalia Coal Co., Terre Haute, Indiana, was born at Stamford, Connecticut, September 28, 1882, and has been in the coal business for fourteen years. He also organized the Indiana Coke & Gas Co., Vigo Mining Co., and the Atlas Mining Co. Mr. Ogle is one of the most prominent of the Indiana coal operators. He is now connected with the United States Fuel Administration.

Bernard H Batty, Indianapolis, Indiana
Vice President and Sales Manager of the Vandalia Coal Co. at Indianapolis, Indiana, has been connected with the coal business for twenty-three years, formerly as a Jobber and with the Island Coal Co., which was merged with the Vandalia Coal Co. In 1905. He was born in Indianapolis March 1, 1879, and has many warm friends in the trade.

Harry W Redman, Chicago, Illinois
Northwestern Sales Agent for the Vandalia Coal Co., 1500 Old Colony Building, Chicago, Illinois, was formerly with the Victoria Coal Mining Co., the Shirley Hill Coal Co. and the Monon Coal Co., and has been in the coal business fifteen years. He was born near Casey, Illinois. November 23, 1876.

George H Richards, Terre Haute, Indiana,
President of Richards & Sons, Terre Haute, Indiana, was born at Bristol, England, May 11, 1873, and has been in the coal business for twenty-six years. He is also General Manager of the Lower Vein Coal Co. and a Director of the Willow Creek Coal Co.

Clement J Richards, Terre Haute, Indiana,
Vice President of Richards & Sons, Terre Haute, was born in Shelburn, Indiana, December 5, 1881, and has been in the coal business eighteen years. He is also President of the Willow Creek Coal Co. and Treasurer of the Warren Coal Co.

Frank W Richards, Terre Haute, Indiana,
Secretary and Treasurer of Richards & Sons, Terre Haute, Indiana, was born in Woodhouse, England, November 3, 1874, and has been in the coal business for twenty-one years. He is also Vice President of the Lower Vein Coal Co., Secretary of the Willow Creek Coal Co. and Secretary of the Warren Coal Co.

Bernard J Richards, Terre Haute, Indiana,
Director of Richards & Sons, Terre Haute, Indiana, was born at Woodhouse, England, July 24, 1876, and has been in the coal business for nineteen years. He is also General Manager of the Willow Creek Coal Co.

Edward Shirkie, Terre Haute, Indiana.
Was born in Scotland January 11, 1859, and has been engaged in the coal business forty-three years. Mr. Shirkie is President of the Bickett-Shirkie Coal Co. He started with his father to operate a coal mine and in 1884 opened the first shipping mine in the Clinton field and has been in that field ever since that time. Mr. Shirkie is a member of the Indiana Coal Operators' Association and the International Railway Fuel Association.

John S Shirkie, Terre Haute, Indiana,
President of the West Clinton Coal Co., Terre Haute, Indiana, was born in Carbon, Indiana, May 4, 1878, and has been in the coal business twenty-three years. He was formerly connected with the Retlaw Mining Co. and W. S. Bogle & Co., Inc., and has served as member of the Indiana Coal Operators' Association.

Hugh Shirkie, Terre Haute, Indiana. President of the Shirkie Coal Co., Terre Haute, was born in Elyrshire, Scotland, January 13, 1862, and has been in the coal business forty-three years. He is President of the Glendale Coal Co. and the Glenco Coal Co. Mr. Shirkie was formerly connected with the firms of Shirkie & Sons, Bruletts Creek Coal Co., Dering Coal Co., Kelly mines and Oak Hill Coal & Mining Co. He served as President of the Indiana Coal Operators' Association for two years and as Vice President for a period of eleven years. [No Photo]

Steward Shirkie, Terre Haute, Indiana.
General Manager and Treasurer of the West Clinton Coal Co., Terre Haute, Indiana, was born in Carbon, Indiana, April 3, 1873, and has been in the coal business twenty-seven years. He was formerly connected with the Oak Hill Mining Co., Dering Coal Co., Indiana Bituminous Coal Co. and others and with his brother started the West Clinton Coal Co. in 1912. He is a member of the Indiana Bituminous Coal Operators' Association.

William M Zeller, Brazil, Indiana
President of Zeller, McClellan & Co.. Inc., and also of the American Coal Mining Co., Brazil, Indiana, is also interested in the Brazil Collieries Co. and has been in the business for thirty-nine years. Formerly he was connected with the following: Superior Block Coal Co., Clay County Block Coal Co., Zeller & Zigler Coal & Mining Co., Zeller & McClellan Coal & Mining Co. He was born in 1861 at Harmony, Indiana.

William J Snyder, Brazil, Indiana,
Secretary and Treasurer of the American Coal Mining Co. and of Zeller, McClellan & Co. at Brazil, Indiana, has been nineteen years in the coal business and is a member of the Indiana Coal Operators' Association. He was born at Catasauqua, Pennsylvania, August 16, 1863. Mr. Snyder has a wide acquaintance in the coal trade.

Homer Beeson Talley, Terre Haute, Indiana,
President of the Coal Bluff Mining Co., Terre Haute, Indiana, was born in Terre Haute, Indiana, September 4, 1877, and has been in the coal business sixteen years. He is also President of the Coal Creek Coal Co., and Treasurer of the Fort Harrison Mining Co. He has served on the Executive Committee of the Indiana Bituminous Coal Operators' Association and Indiana Coal Trade Bureau's Executive Committee.

Archibald D Spears, Clinton, Indiana,
Secretary-Treasurer of The Ferguson-Spears Coal Co. at Clinton, Indiana, has been in the business for twenty-one years. He was born in Butler County, Pennsylvania, June 20, 1880. Formerly he was mining engineer for the Clinton Coal Co. and others. He is a member of the Indiana Coal Operators Association.

Andrew J Cochran, Indianapolis, Indiana.
Manager of the Cochran Coal Co., Indianapolis, Indiana, has been in the business for fourteen years, formerly with the New Linton Coal Co. He was Modoc for Indiana, Order of KoKoal. He was born at Macon City, Missouri, May 6, 1867. Mr. Cochran has a host of friends in the trade.

Frank L Fenstemacher, Indianapolis Indiana.
Well-known wholesale coal salesman of Indianapolis, was formerly Assistant Manager of Sales with the Oliphant-Johnson Coal Co. For five years Mr. Fenstemacher was General Manager of the Findlay Ice & Fuel Co., Findlay, Ohio, and for fifteen years Sales Agent for the Sunday Creek Coal Co. in Ohio and at Indianapolis. He was born at Carroll, Ohio, December 3, 1864, and has many warm friends in the coal trade.

Emma Edith Gates, Indianapolis, Indiana
Proprietor of the EL K. Gates Coal Co., Indianapolis, Indiana, has been in the retail business for twenty years. She was formerly with the C. Ehrlich Coal Co. and the Star Elevator Co. Mrs. Gates was born at Mattoon, Illinois, March 26, 1869. She has many friends in the trade and has built up a very successful business.

John A George, Indianapolis, Indiana,
President and Treasurer Indianapolis Coal Co., 234-240 Newton Claypool Building, Indianapolis, was born in Columbus, Indiana. October 9. 1869. and has been in the retail coal business twenty-seven years. The first nine years of his business experience was in Columbus. He is a Director of the Vandalla Coal Co., a well-known Indiana mining corporation. He was one of the organizers and the first President of the Indianapolis Retail Coal Merchants' Credit Association, was the first President of the Indiana Retail Coal Merchants' Association, and has been one of the Indiana Directors of the Michigan-Ohio-Indiana Coal Association.

Fred Goepper, Indianapolis, Indiana.
A well-known Indianapolis retail coal merchant with a yard located at West Michigan Street and the C, I. & W. Ry., was born in Germany June 2, 1869, and has been in the retail coal business in Indianapolis twenty-four years. His son, Fred A. Goepper, Jr., aged 23 years, is associated with him.

Arch Grossman, Indianapolis, Indiana.
President of the Cedar Creek Coal Co., 414 Merchants' Bank Building, Indianapolis, has been in the coal business for thirteen years, formerly with the New York Coal Co. He is a Director of the National Coal Jobbers' Association and of the Indiana Coal Jobbers' Association. He has served as KoKoal Skout in Indiana. He was born at Columbus, Ohio, May 31, 1887, and is one of the most popular coal salesmen in Indiana.

Ellsworth E Heller, Indianapolis, Indiana,
Manager for E. B. Heller & Co., Indianapolis, Indiana, has been in the retail coal business for fifteen years. He served for three years as President of the Indianapolis Retail Coal Merchants' Credit Association and is a member of the Board of Governors. He is Chairman of the Seventh district of the Indiana Coal Merchants Association. He was born June 18, 1863, in Fayette County, Indiana, and is a leading coal merchant of Indianapolis.

Donald Read Lindley, Indianapolis, Indiana, Vice President of the Bicknell Coal & Mining Co. and Treasurer of the Pike County Coal Co., Merchants Bank Building, Indianapolis, Indiana, was formerly connected with Lindley, Schmid & Co. Mr. Lindley was born February 16, 1886, at Evansville, Indiana, and is well known in the trade.

Otis D Maurer, Indianapolis, Indiana, Manager of The Ehrlich Coal Co. at Indianapolis, Indiana, has been connected with the coal business for sixteen years. He was born August 31, 1876, at Brazil, Indiana, and has many friends in the trade.

A B Meyer, Indianapolis, Indiana, President of A. B. Meyer & Co., Indianapolis, Indiana, has been identified with the coal business for forty years. He is a Director of the United Fourth Vein Coal Co. and formerly was President of the Western Coal Dealers' Association. He has also been a Director and Vice President in the Michigan-Ohio-Indiana Coal Dealers' Association. He was born at Indianapolis in 1853. Mr. Meyer is very highly regarded in the trade.

F. A. Kroeff, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Vice President of Xiezer & Co., Ft. Wayne, and Manager of the coal department, has been connected with the retail business six years. The company operates a branch coal yard at Monroeville, Indiana. He was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, October 27, 1875 [No photo]

Francis H Ragan, Indianapolis, Indiana, General Sales Agent and Manager Ragan-McAbee Coal Co., Indianapolis, has been fourteen years in the business, formerly as Indiana Sales Agent of the C W Johnson Coal Co. of Chicago and as General Sales Agent of the Consolidated Indiana Coal Co. and the Red Jacket Coal Co. He was born at Greencastle, Indiana, December 25, 1866. D. H. McAbee is Secretary and Treasurer of the company. He was formerly State Factory Inspector for ten years.

S P Reed, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Of Reed Bros. Coal & Feed Co. at Ft. Wayne, Indiana, is an equal partner in the business with which he has been connected for eight years. He has served as Secretary of the Ft. Wayne Coal Club. He was born May 28, 1883, at Ft. Wayne.

Jared J Reed, Ft. Wayne, Indiana A partner in Reed Bros. Coal & Feed Co. at Fort Wayne, Indiana, has been in the retail business nine years. He has served as Secretary of the Ft. Wayne Coal Club. He was born January 10, 1885, at Ft. Wayne.

Henry W Berning, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, President and Manager of the Walton Avenue Coal Co. at Ft. Wayne, Indiana, has been in the retail coal business for four years, succeeding Fred Goette, Sr., who formerly operated the business. Mr. Berning was born at Ft. Wayne, August 8, 1890.

Fred H Goette, Jr., Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Secretary and Treasurer of the Walton Avenue Coal Co. at Ft. Wayne, Indiana, has been in the business four years. He was born at Ft. Wayne August 8, 1898. He is a son of the previous owner, Fred Goette, Sr.