

His colleagues on this Board from time to time were, ex-Mayor John T. Martin, ex-Mayor R. T. Ault, Messrs. B. D. Duvall and George E. Miles. Mr. Harrison has devoted himself with zeal and energy to the improvement of the Public School facilities of Brunswick. During the term of his office the High School was established, manual training and business courses introduced, the school advanced to the list of accredited high schools of the state, new buildings have been erected, the teaching force increased from six teachers in 1900 to eighteen in 1910. At the present time the Board of which he is president is engaged in a movement looking to the erection of a new High School building with modern equipment to be centrally located in the town.

Mr. Harrison has been active in the cause of organized labor—being a member of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers since 1892, and was for several years an organizer for the American Federation of Labor.

In politics Mr. Harrison is a Republican and has been more or less active in County politics since 1896. In 1903 he was encouraged by his friends to announce himself for the House of Delegates and finding that he was opposed by a strong element within the organization he was compelled to make one of the most strenuous fights ever witnessed in the District. He won out, however, in the primary and in the convention. In the election that followed he was again successful, leading the Legislative ticket. In the Legislature he followed his party organization in all political measures but his independent attitude toward other questions made him distasteful to the professional politicians. His unobtrusive manners made him a number of friends at Annapolis and he was fairly successful with all that he undertook there.

Ever since Mr. Harrison became active in community affairs he has been classed as an Anti-Saloonist. His experience at Annapolis had the effect of fixing his convictions upon the saloon question with even a greater degree of positiveness than before. In 1905 he identified himself with the Anti-Saloon League and became active in the League affairs in his home county. In 1906 he was one of the leaders in opposition to the most spirited effort ever made to legalize the sale of intoxicants in Brunswick. This contest was fought fiercely throughout the entire Legislative session of 1906 and was the most thoroughly advertised local measure of that session. The defeat of this bill was one of the last acts of the Senate before final adjournment.

In 1905 a public meeting was held in Brunswick by representatives of the R. R. Y. M. C. A. with the end in view of establishing a branch of their organization in that town. The following committee was appointed to solicit funds to further that cause: Messrs. John T. Martin, Z. T. Brantner, T. A. Sigafoose, Dr. H. S. Hedges and Mr. Harrison. This committee was subsequently enlarged. Mr. Harrison was elected Secretary of the Committee and served in that capacity until the building was erected, equipped and the Association successfully established.

Mr. Harrison is a Past Chancellor Commander of Loyalty Lodge No. 122, K. of P., and is a member of Delaware Tribe No. 43, I. O. R. M.

He is a lover of books, being a diligent reader from his boyhood. His range of reading is extensive, including a course in Law. His literary taste is discriminating and his collection of books shows evidence of careful selection. His habits are domestic, his manners unobtrusive. His chief characteristic is earnestness. His convictions are strong. His conclusions are formed slowly and he does not easily turn aside from them. Throughout his life he has been handicapped by physical and temperamental disabilities, but by force of will-power he has to some extent at least overcome these impediments.

JOHN P. T. MATHIAS, one of the most prominent citizens of Thurmont, Md., and well-known in political circles, was born on a farm near Creagerstown, Frederick County, Md., September 7, 1848. He is a son of Philip and Eleanor Carmack (Stimmel) Mathias.

Griffith Mathias, grandfather of John P. T. Mathias, served in the Revolutionary War as a recruiting officer from Maryland. He was the father of two children: Philip and Rose Ann.

Philip Mathias, son of Griffith Mathias, died at the age of eighty-two years. He spent his life following the occupation of a farmer. He was married to Eleanor Carmack Stimmel, who lived to be eighty-eight years old. They were the parents of the following children: Eliza J., the wife of Capt. J. W. Stocksdale, of Philadelphia, Pa.; Laura, the wife of J. B. Ogle, of Rocky Ridge, Frederick County, Md.; Ella J., the wife of Joseph Routzahn, deceased, of Dayton, O.; Elizabeth, who married Irvin W. Loy, of Thurmont; John P. T.; Alice, who married C. B. Routzahn, of Ohio; Rose, the wife of Charles H. Krise, of Way-

nesboro, Pa.; Susan, married C. N. Thomas, of Frederick, Md.; Etta S., married C. L. Hartsock, Frederick; Park G., of West Virginia; and Abbie, the wife of D. S. Snively, of Hagerstown, Md.

John P. T. Mathias, son of Philip and Eleanor Carmack (Stimmel) Mathias, was raised on a farm and received his education in the public and private schools of Frederick County. While a young man, he became a clerk in the store of Lewis Wachter, at Lewistown, Md., and later he was in the employ of O. T. Zimmerman, of the same place. After some time, he went to Baltimore and entered the hat trade as a traveling salesman for the firm of Adams, Buck & Company, wholesale hatters. After he had been on the road for some time, he formed a partnership with Captain Irvin A. Buck, trading under the firm name of Buck & Mathias, and they engaged in the wholesale hat business, which was continued until the fall of 1893. After closing out this business, he retired and located in Thurmont, where he has since continued to make his home. Mr. Mathias, who is one of Thurmont's leading citizens is highly esteemed by all who know him. He is a director in the Citizens' National Bank of Thurmont. He has large land interests in West Virginia, and owns considerable excellent farm land.

In politics, Mr. Mathias is an active supporter and staunch adherent of the Republican party. In the fall of 1901, he was nominated by his party for the Maryland House of Delegates and was elected, serving in the session of 1902. While a member of the House he served on various committees, including Education and Printing. In 1907, he was the candidate of his party for the State Senate and was elected by the large majority of twelve hundred. In both branches of the Legislature his record has been an enviable one, and he has always had the best interests of his constituents at heart. He was a delegate to the National Convention that met at Chicago in 1908, and nominated William H. Taft for President, Mr. Mathias being vice-president of the Maryland delegation.

Fraternally, Mr. Mathias is a member of Acacia Lodge, No. 155, A. F. and A. M., Thurmont; Jerusalem Council, Royal Arch Chapter, No. 109, Baltimore; Beausant Commandery, No. 8, Knights Templar of Baltimore, and of the Knights of Pythias. In religion, he is an active and consistent member of St. John's Lutheran Church, in which he is an elder. For four years, he served as county president of the Christian Endeavor Society. He is also

a staunch supporter of the Anti-Saloon League of Frederick County.

Mr. Mathias was married July 2, 1879, to Elizabeth Agnes McCurdy, daughter of Hon. Charles and Amanda (Wysong) McCurdy, of Charlestown, West Va. They have one son, Charles McCurdy, who was graduated from John Hopkins' University, Baltimore, in 1908, and is now a student in the Law Department of the University of Maryland.

CHARLES BYERLY, proprietor of the well-known and long established art and photograph gallery that was founded nearly seventy-five years ago in Frederick City, Md., was born in that city, January 24, 1874. He is a son of John Davis and Mary (Markell) Byerly.

Jacob Byerly, the grandfather of Charles Byerly, a son of Henry Byerly, was a native of Pennsylvania, and descended of an old German family of that State. Jacob Byerly was also a native of Pennsylvania, and in 1842 removed to Frederick City, where he died in 1881. He engaged in the making of daguerreotypes, the forerunners of modern photography. He established the business that is now conducted by his grandson, Charles Byerly. He met with success in his undertaking, and was one of the leading citizens of Frederick in his time. He was held in high esteem by all who knew him. He was married to Catharine Bear, daughter of David Bear, of Cumberland County, Pa.

John Davis Byerly, the father of Charles Byerly, son of Jacob and Catharine (Bear) Byerly, was born in Newville, Cumberland County, Pa., in 1839. He came to Frederick with his parents, where he was reared and received his education. He learned the trade of a photographer under his father, and for many years conducted the business now owned by his son, Charles Byerly. He met with substantial success, and in 1899 retired from active business cares. He is one of the leading and best known citizens of Frederick. In politics, he has always been an adherent of the Republican party. Fraternally, he is a member of the Order of Red Men. He is affiliated in a religious way with Grace Reformed Church of Frederick, of which he is an active and consistent member. Mr. Byerly was married in 1869, to Mary Markell, daughter of George Markell, who was a prominent merchant of Frederick. She is also a member of Grace Reformed Church. They were the parents of four children, two of whom survive: Charles,