

EDMUND M. KELLY. Prominently identified with the industrial and manufacturing prosperity of Davidson county, Edmund M. Kelly is carrying on an extensive and flourishing milling business in Nashville, being president of Liberty Mill Company, and manager of its affairs. He is a native-born resident of Nashville, and one of its most highly esteemed citizens.

His father, the late P. B. Kelly, was born in County Mayo, Ireland, and belonged to a family of some note, one of his brothers, E. M. Kelly, having served during his active career as a civil engineer in the British Army, and after his retirement from the army, on half pay, spending his remaining years in County Mayo, his birthplace. P. M. Kelly attended school regularly as a boy and youth, and after completing his early studies emigrated to America, being the only member of his family to cross the ocean. Coming directly to Nashville, Tennessee, he engaged in milling, for several years owning and operating a plant in this city. He afterwards bought a mill in western Tennessee, and for a time operated it successfully. Returning, however, to Nashville, he spent the remainder of his days in this city, passing away at the age of sixty-three years. He married Mary Blankenship, who was born in Wilson County, Tennessee, a daughter of Moses Blankenship, who came from Virginia to Wilson county, Tennessee, as a pioneer, and there operated one of the first mills in that section, but subsequently removed to Nashville, where his death occurred. Mr. Blankenship married Naomi Owen, who was born near Wheeling, Virginia, and they reared a large family of children, including five sons, four of whom served in the Confederate army, the extreme youth of the younger son debarring him from such service. Mrs. P. B. Kelly died at the age of forty-nine years, leaving seven children, as follows: J. W., P. H., E. M., S. W., J. S., M. N. and Annie.

While yet a school boy, Edmund M. Kelly frequented his father's mill, acquiring not only a liking for the work, but a knowledge of the business that has been of much use and great value to him ever since. Completing his early education at Montgomery Bell Academy he spent a short time in the office of his father's mill. In 1879 Mr. Kelly became associated with E. T. Noel, with whom he continued until 1890, when he organized the Liberty Mill Company, and built the plant, which has since been in continuous operation. When in 1891, the mill was completed, Mr. Kelly, who had been elected president of the company, assumed its charge, and under his able management the plant has steadily grown, at the present time, with its accessories, having a capacity of three thousand, six hundred barrels of flour per day, and two thousand, two hundred of corn products, and a large amount of feed. The productions of this immense plant have made Nashville known not only in the United States, but throughout the various countries of Europe, in all the South American republics, and in Cuba and Porto Rico.

A man of great executive and financial ability, Mr. Kelly is actively identified with many organizations of importances, being a member, and a former director of the Nashville Board of Trade; president of the Southeastern Millers' Association; a member of the National Grain Exchange; a director of the Millers' National Federation; of the American Bread Company; of the Fulcher Brick Company; and also a director of the Nashville Traffic Bureau. Fraternally, Mr. Kelly belongs to Corinthian Lodge, No. 414, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons; Nashville Consistory Scottish Rite Masons and to the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

On April 29, 1884, Mr. Kelly was united in marriage with Miss Clara M. Shiver, who was born in Nashville. Three children have been born of their union, namely: Clara, Myrtle, wife of Dr. Allen F. Odell; and Dorris.

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