

## Joseph Noterman

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### JOSEPH NOTERMAN

Joseph Noterman, deceased, succeeded his father as active head of the Cincinnati jewelry manufacturing concern which the latter had established under the name of Joseph Noterman & Company in 1889 and which has been in continuous existence throughout the intervening period of thirty-eight years. The control of the business, which fell upon his shoulders at the time of his father's retirement in 1899, now devolves upon his two sons, Edgar J. and Ronald M. Noterman. He departed this life on the 6th of October, 1921.

Joseph Noterman was a native of Covington, Kentucky, where his widow still makes her home at 212 Sterrett avenue. His father, Joseph Noterman, Sr., was born in Belgium in 1831 and at the age of twelve years came to the United States, locating in New York city, where he spent four years and learned the jewelry trade. It was in 1848 that he removed to Cincinnati and began working for the then well known firm of Beggs & Smith, the leading jewelers of the city, in whose establishment at 14 West Fourth street he remained for a number of years. During the '60s Mr. Noterman formed a partnership with Joseph Jonas, under the firm style of Noterman & Jonas, and this association proved successful from its inception. The partnership continued until 1889, when it was dissolved by mutual consent, and Mr. Noterman at that time started the firm of Joseph Noterman & Company, which is still in existence. The founder remained actively connected with the business until 1899, when he retired, spending the evening of his life in well earned ease. His death occurred in the year 1905. His record may indeed serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others, for the success which he attained was directly attributable to his industry, perseverance and integrity.

Joseph Noterman, Jr., acquired his education in Covington, Kentucky, and as a youth applied himself to learning the jeweler's trade. He was still a young man when, in 1884, he joined his father in the jewelry business, of which he became the active head at the time of the latter's retirement in 1899. Later he had the assistance of his sons, Edgar J. and Ronald M. Noterman. The firm manufactures platinum jewelry and emblem goods and occupies what is probably the largest and most modern jewelry plant in the west, situated at 411 Race street in the Feder building in Cincinnati. After assuming the management of the business, Joseph Noterman, Jr., carried it along in more rapid strides and more than ordinary prosperity fell to the lot of the company. A contemporary biographer said: "The reputation of the company reaches as far and farther than Cincinnati's trade territory and the policy of honorable dealing and fair representation that gained the company confidence and patronage years ago remains as one of its chief characteristics, continuing to draw new customers and to support the concern on the high plane which

it has always occupied. The company makes mountings that are noted for their artistic beauty and unexcelled finish and a feature of the business is diamonds, loose and mounted, quality being the watchword of the company at all times. \* \* \* One of the oldest houses of manufacturing jewelers in Cincinnati, Joseph Noterman & Company are conceded to be leaders in their line not only in this city but in the entire middle west."

Mr. Noterman was widely known to the trade and in 1908 was elected president of the Cincinnati Wholesale Jewelers and Manufacturers Association. At that time the Jewelers Journal stated: "As a successful business man he is likewise a successful official for the association, and the organization can expect an extraordinarily prosperous and satisfactory regime during the period Mr. Noterman is at its head." He completed his term in the chief executive capacity in a very satisfactory manner, was out of office for some years and was then elected treasurer of the same organization.

Mr. Noterman was a York Rite Mason who also attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite and crossed the sands of the desert with the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He likewise belonged to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, to the Business Men's Club, to the Courier Press Club and to the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce.

On the 15th of February, 1898, in Covington, Kentucky, Mr. Noterman was united in marriage to Miss Anna Mabus, daughter of John and Anna (Reuss) Mabus, the latter being directly descended from German nobility. John Mabus arrived in Covington in 1848, when a lad of about fourteen years, and became a prosperous merchant tailor. Mr. and Mrs. Noterman were the parents of two sons: Edgar J., who married Minerva Welling; and Ronald M., who wedded Miss Ruth Smith of Fort Thomas, Kentucky, on March 12, 1927. Edgar J. Noterman was elected eminent commander of Covington Commandery, No. 7, K. T., which chair both his father and grandfather had also held.

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