

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

— OF —

Members of the Senate of 1908.

Allegany County—JOHN BENJAMIN SHANNON, Democrat—
Frostburg.

Mr. John Benjamin Shannon was born November 7, 1865, in Springfield, Hampshire county, W. Va. His father was the late Justice Benjamin Shannon, who served the people of his district in that office for about 40 years. His mother was the late Catherine Chadwick Shannon. Mr. Shannon was liberally educated in the public schools of his native State—a course supplemented by one of two years under the tutelage of Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Nevitt, principal of a private school at Springfield. After a year's experience in teaching school, Mr. Shannon entered the service of Messrs. Daniel Annan and L. M. Shepherd, of Cumberland, this State, and sold dry goods at Keyser, W. Va.

In 1886 he was employed by Howett, Warner & Co., of Philadelphia, Pa., with whom he remained about two years, until 1888, when he established his present retail shoe business in Frostburg, this State. Several years ago Mr. Shannon was elected vice-president of the Maryland Shoe Company, of Cumberland, Md., and for the past seven years has been a director of the Leatherbury Shoe Company, of Clarksburg, W. Va., one of the most extensive wholesale shoe houses in that State. His business career, conducted along conservative and safe lines, has been one of satisfactory success. Since his majority Mr. Shannon has shown much interest in political matters, particularly in Allegany county. As chairman of the County Democratic Committee he had charge of several campaigns—a task of no small magnitude when undertaken against heavy odds. But the work afforded him opportunity to become popular, as is his wont, so much so that several years ago the Democrats of the county nominated and elected him Register of Wills by a majority of about 1200. This triumph was doubly distinguished in the fact that he was the only Democrat on the