

Elmer W. Andars, a member of the bar of the Jay Circuit Court, justice of the peace in and for Richland Township and a well-known grocer at Redkey, where he has been in business for years, is a native of the old Keystone state, but has been a resident of Indiana since he was eleven years of age and of Jay County since 1906, in the spring of which year he located at Redkey, where he has since resided, now the oldest grocer continuously engaged in that line in that city.

Mr. Andars was born on a farm in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, January 24, 1865, and is a son of George W. and Mahala (Stone) Andars, whose last days were spent in Delaware County, Indiana. George W. Andars also was born in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, and early became engaged there in farming, a vocation he followed in that state until 1876, when he disposed of his interests there and came with his family to Indiana, locating in Delaware County, where he bought a farm of seventy-nine acres. For about twenty years he made his home on that farm and then bought a place of ninety-eight acres in Perry Township, same county, where he established his home and where he spent the remainder of his life. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, of whom five are still living, Mr. Andars having four sisters, Sarah Ellen, Elizabeth A., Margaret N. and Allie V. The deceased children of this family were Catherine, Rebecca, Mary A., Daniel and Lorenzo B.

As noted above, Elmer W. Andars was but eleven years of age when he came to Indiana with his parents in 1876 and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Delaware County, receiving his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood. He married when twenty years of age and was engaged in farming and in carpentering in Delaware County for ten years or more thereafter, or until the spring of 1906 when he moved to Redkey and there, on March 6, 1906, became engaged in the grocery business. On January 1 of the following year Mr. Andars opened his present grocery store and has ever since been engaged in business there, the oldest continuous grocer in Redkey. Mr. Andars is a Democrat and in 1910 was elected Justice of the Peace in and for Richland Township. He has been twice re-elected to this office and is now serving his third term as justice. He was admitted to the bar of the Jay Circuit Court some years ago and is thus a practicing attorney as well as justice of the peace. Mr. and Mrs. Andars are members of the United Brethren Church and he is a Freemason and a member of both the subordinate lodge and the encampment of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Redkey.

It was on November 28, 1885, that Elmer W. Andars was united in marriage to Mary E. Brewer, who was born in Perry Township, Delaware County. To this union seven children have been born. Of these five are living, namely: Ray B., now living at Pontiac, Mich., who married Jessie Petty, of Delaware County; George R., who married Bessie Wegmer, who died on October .6, 1914; Clay H., who is unmarried and at home; Gwendolin, who married William H. Boltz, of Winchester, Ind., and has one child, a daughter, Bernice; and Nilah L., who is at home.

The Andars family has a pleasant home at Redkey and has ever taken an interested part in the general social activities of the community.