

Jesse H. BAKER, one of the substantial retired farmers of the Dunkirk neighborhood and former owner of a well-kept farm in Richland township, now living at Marion, Ind., [Grant Co.] is a native of the old "Buckeye" state, but has been a resident of Indiana and, until recently, of Jay county since he was fourteen years of age, a period of nearly half a century, and thus may be accounted one of the few remaining pioneers of that part of the county, for he cleared the land on which he has lived all these years. Mr. BAKER was born at Burlington, Ohio, September 11, 1851, and is the son and only child of Jesse and Mary (OGLESBY) BAKER, the latter of who became a resident of Jay County in 1865 and here spent the remainder of his life. The elder Jesse BAKER died before his son Jesse was born and the latter remained in Ohio until he was fourteen years of age, when, in 1865, he came to Indiana with his mother, to whom her father had given a tract of eighty acres in Richland township, this county, and here the mother and son established their home, this farm lying one and one-fourth miles east of the present site of the new high school building at Dunkirk. Jesse H. BAKER was a strong and willing lad and his mother was a woman of courageous spirit, and presently they had a clearing on their place and a log cabin erected for their first home in what then was a practical wilderness of a farm, for there had been no initial clearing done on the place and it was covered by "the forest primeval." Jesse H. BAKER grew to manhood on that place and after his marriage when twenty-six years of age continued to make his home there. As the years passed he developed an excellent piece of property and has for years been known as one of the substantial farmers of that section and an influential member of the community. It was on November 4, 1877, that Jesse H. BAKER was united in marriage to Emeline HARTMAN, who was born in Knox Township, this county, March 5, 1859, and who died on June 9, 1921. Mrs. BAKER was the fifth in order of birth of the children born to Levi and Jemima (SHRACK) HARTMAN, who were among the pioneers of Knox Township. To Jesse H. and Emeline (HARTMAN) BAKER were born two sons, Walter M., born on July 20, 1878, and L. Raymond, April 17, 1883, the latter of whom completed his schooling at the Marion Normal School and the Muncie Business College and is now employed in the office of the steel mills at Muskegon, Mich. He married Clara BICKING. Walter M. BAKER was reared on the home farm in Richland Township and after completing the course in the Dunkirk high school entered the Normal School at Marion, where he was in attendance for two years and a half. He supplemented this by a three-year course in DePauw University and then entered upon his career as a teacher. For two years Mr. BAKER served as principal of the high school at Dunkirk and for two terms as principal at Redkey and then was made superintendent of the schools at Upland, Ind., a position he occupied for two years, at the end of which time he was made superintendent of the Amboy schools. He remained there two years and then spent a year in the West, during which time he took a supplemental course in the University of Wyoming. Upon his return to Indiana, Mr. BAKER accepted a position as teacher of mathematics in the high school at Marion and has since been a resident of that city. For two years he continued teaching mathematics and then turned his attention to the organization of a junior high school at Marion and has since been serving as principal of the same. In 1905 Walter M. BAKER was united in

marriage to Grizella SAVAGE, who was born in Miami county, this state, daughter of Charles and Minnie (McKIM) SAVAGE, and to this union have been born two children, Charles and Jean. Since the death of his wife, Emeline, Jesse H. BAKER has been at home with his son, Walter M. BAKER, at 210 South E Street, Marion, Ind. The farm which he owned was sold on December 27, 1921, to Monroe ORR, who is now residing on the farm. SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls.1922, Vol. II, pp.409-410. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.