

BLAKELY, VERNON E

Vernon E. BLAKELY, tailor and dealer in men's furnishings at Redkey and a veteran of the World war, has been a resident of this community since the days of his boyhood. He was born at Celina, Ohio, March 22, 1895, and is a son of James and Ida BLAKELY, who were afterward residents of Peru, Huntington and Redkey, this state. It was thus that Vernon E. BLAKELY received his schooling at these several towns. He was graduated from the Redkey schools and for some time afterward was variously engaged until in 1913, when he became engaged at Redkey in the business which now engages his attention and in which he has been quite successful. He started in a small way, opening a shop for cleaning and pressing and taking orders for "made-to-measure" clothes for men and in 1914 put in a general line of men's furnishings, and was thus engaged when the United States took a part in the World war. In June, 1918, Mr. BLAKELY entered the service of the United States army and closed his store. He was attached to Company A of the 337th Battalion, Tank Corps, and with this command served for six months overseas. He received his discharge on May 22, 1919, and straightway returned to Redkey, where he resumed that department of his neglected business relating to orders for made-to-measure clothes and was thus engaged until in June, 1920, when he was enabled to start in business at his present location with a general line of men's furnishing goods in connection with his tailoring establishment and is doing well. Mr. BLAKELY is an active member of Ralph Williamson Post, No. 238, of the American Legion, and is also affiliated with the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias (No. 383) at Redkey. He is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs. On September 15, 1915, Vernon E. BLAKELY was united in marriage to Clara M. WRIGHT, who was born at Pennville, this county, daughter of Mack and Pearl WRIGHT, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Helen Joyce, born on December 27, 1920. Mr. and Mrs. BLAKELY have a pleasant home at Redkey and take a proper part in the general social activities of the community. SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.157-158. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut