

BORTNER, HENRY W

Henry W. BORTNER, cashier of the bank of Redkey and former superintendent of the Redkey schools, is a "Buckeye" by birth but has been a resident of Indiana since the days of his childhood and of Jay county for more than twenty years, or since he was called to the schools of Redkey in 1900. Mr. BORTNER was born at West Point, Ohio, January 11, 1862, and is a son of George W. and Sarah A. RUHL BORTNER, who not long after the date here given became residents of Indiana. George W. BORTNER was born in Little York, Pa., in 1819, and was seven years of age when his parents moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio and settled in Morrow county, where they had a quarter section of land. On that pioneer farm he grew to manhood, remaining there until he was twenty-five years of age. He married in Ohio and continued to live in that state until 1865, when he came with his family to Indiana and settled on a farm in Noble county. In 1871, he moved to Randolph county and there made his home for some years, at the end of which time he moved back into Ohio and located in Darke county, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there on May 13, 1888. Henry W. BORTNER was nine years of age when his parents moved to Randolph county and his early schooling was received in the schools of that county. He supplemented this by attendance for one term each at the National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio; the Central Normal School at Danville, Ind., and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and in 1887, began teaching school in Randolph county. For fourteen years Mr. BORTNER continued associated with the schools of that county, his concluding work there being done in the Ridgeville schools, in which he served for one year as principal of the high school and three years as superintendent of schools. In 1900, Mr. BORTNER was called up into Jay county to accept the principalship of the high school at Redkey and for four years he served in that capacity and then was appointed superintendent of the city schools, in which capacity he served for six years, or until 1910, in which year he accepted a position as assistant cashier of the Bank of Redkey and left the schoolroom after nearly twenty-five years of faithful service. In 1915, Mr. BORTNER was elected cashier of the Bank of Redkey and has since served in that capacity, one of the best known bankers in this part of the state. Mr. BORTNER is an elder in the Presbyterian church at Portland and is a Democrat, a Freemason and an Odd Fellow. On August 6, 1891, Henry W. BORTNER was united in marriage to Mary H. CORY, who was born in Indiana, daughter of Michael and Louisa CORY, of Delaware county, and to this union were born three

children, but one of whom, Ralph, survives, the other having died in infancy. Ralph BORTNER was born at Ridgeville on May 20, 1897, and was thus three years of age when his parents moved to Redkey. He supplemented the schooling received in the Redkey public schools by a course in the Indiana Business College at Muncie and is now attending LaSalle Extension University at Chicago. Mrs. Mary H. (CORY) BORTNER died at Asheville, N. C., on October 28, 1918, at the age of fifty-four years, and is buried in Hill Crest cemetery at Redkey. SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, p.141. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.