

BROKAW, REUBEN E

Reuben E. BROKAW, M. D., who died at his home in Portland in the summer of 1913 and whose widow is still living in that city, had for years been one of the best known physicians in Jay County and at his passing left a good memory. It therefore is but fitting that in a volume of biography such as this there should be carried some modest tribute to that memory. Doctor BROKAW was a native Hoosier and much of his life had been spent in this county. He was born in the neighboring county of Adams on May 18, 1868, son of William and Eliza (YOUNG) BROKAW, the latter of whom was born in the state of Pennsylvania. William BROKAW, who was born in Ohio, was a building contractor, who moved from Adams county to Portland during the '70's and was there engaged in building operations until 1890, when he moved with his family to Cleveland, Ohio. Doctor BROKAW was the third in order of birth of the eight children born to the above parentage. He was but a lad when the family moved from Adams county to Portland and he was graduated from the Portland high school with the class of 1888. He then became a school teacher and was engaged in teaching for four years, at the end of which time he went to Cleveland, his parents having moved to that city in 1890, and entered the medical school of Western Reserve University, from which he was graduated in 1895. Upon receiving his diploma Doctor BROKAW was appointed house surgeon or interne at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, Cleveland, and his grade in the examination for this position having been the highest of the eight competitors seeking the post. In the spring of the following year the Doctor married and opened in Cleveland an office for the practice of his profession, remaining there until the fall of 1897 when he moved back to Portland, opened there an office and continued in practice in that city, with offices in the Cartright & Headington building, the rest of his life, his death occurring on July 27, 1913. Doctor BROKAW was a member of the Jay County Medical Society, the Indiana State Medical Society and the American Medical Association and in the deliberations of these several organizations took a warm interest. He was a Scottish Rite Mason and a Knight Templar, was a Republican, and was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Portland, as is his widow. It was on April 1, 1896, that Dr. Reuben E. BROKAW was united in marriage to Mary Lillian STEVENSON, who was born in this county, and to this union two children were born, William B. and Mary G. William B. BROKAW was graduated from the department of electrical engineering with the class of 1921, Tri-State College, Angola, Ind. Mary G. BROKAW is living at Cleveland, Ohio, where she is connected with the dispensary of the

Telling-Bell-Vernon Company. Mrs. BROKAW is a daughter of Robert and Emma (BROWN) STEVENSON, both of whom were born in this county, members of pioneer families here, and the former of whom formerly and for years operated a mill on the site now occupied by the J. A. Hood wholesale grocery house, at Portland. She was reared at Portland and after a course in the old normal school there took a two-year course at Earlham College, specializing there in art. Since the death of her husband Mrs. BROKAW has continued to make her home at Portland, where she is very pleasantly situated.

Announcement was made in February, 1922, that she had deeded property at Portland valued at \$10,000 or more to the Portland Masonic lodge as a memorial in honor of her late husband. SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.193-194. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut