

IRA BUTCHER, an active and enterprising business man and proprietor of the tile factory located in the western part of Portland, is a native of Jay County, Indiana, born in Greene Township March 7 1850, his parents, Christian and Mary E. (Hofman) Butcher, being among the early settlers of the county. He was reared to the vocation of a farmer on his father's farm, and in his youth learned lessons of persevering industry, being early inured to hard work

August 4, 1874, he was united in marriage to Miss Christiann Detamore, a native of Preble County, Ohio, and a daughter of Joseph Detamore. They are the parents of two children - Mary E and Barbara Alice.

In March 1874, Mr. Butcher came to Portland, and soon after engaged in working at the plasterer's trade. In the fall of 1884, in partnership with his brother-in-law, John Detamore, he established his present large tile factory, on a tract of three acres, which he had purchased from Ira Denney, and in the spring of 1886, he bought Mr. Detamore's interest in the business, of which he has since been sole proprietor, in which hi is meeting with excellent success. During the year 1886 he manufactured about \$4,000 worth of tile, and this year, 1887, will probably reach \$5,000. He manufactures all sizes of tile, ranging from two to twelve inches. In April, 1887, a gas well was sunk on a lot near his premises, and he will no doubt be the first man in Jay County to burn tile with gas. Mrs. Butcher is a member of the Methodist church.

**Biographical and Historical Record of Jay County, Indiana, Lewis Publishing Co, Chicago, 1887, p. 686.**