

## CLARK, WALTER LEE

Walter Lee CLARK, D.D.S., a veteran of the Spanish American War and former adjutant of the 3rd Battalion, 160th Regiment, Indiana National Guard, who for more than fifteen years past has been practicing his profession as a dental surgeon, at Pennville, in this county, is a native Hoosier and has been a resident of this state all his life. Doctor CLARK was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of Columbia City, in Jefferson township, Whitley county, Indiana, April 24, 1878, and is a son of Joseph and Leah ( SHINBECKLER ) CLARK, both of whom were members of pioneer families in that county. Joseph CLARK was but a child when his parents settled on a farm in Jefferson township, Whitley county, and he grew to manhood there, completing his schooling in the seminary at Roanoke, down in the neighboring county of Huntington, from which lie was graduated. After his marriage he established his home on the farm and remained there until his election in 1878 to the office of county treasurer, he then being twenty-nine years of age, when he moved to Columbia City, the county seat. He was re-elected to that office and thus served for two terms, upon the completion of which term of public service he became engaged in the hardware and lumber business at Columbia City, but presently disposed of his interests in the hardware line and became the manager of the extensive lumber interests of the North, Clark & Edwards Company, with which he remained connected until in 1899, when he disposed of his lumber yard and opened a shoe store in Columbia City, and in this latter business was engaged the rest of his life, his death occurring on July 17, 1903. He was a thirty-second degree Mason and a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. In addition to his term of service as county treasurer he also for some time rendered service as a member of the Columbia City school board and in other ways was actively identified with the civic life of his home town. Of the ten children born to Joseph CLARK and his wife eight survive, Walter Lee CLARK was but an infant when his parents moved from the farm to Columbia City in 1878, the year of his birth, and he grew up in that city and was in his last year of high school when the Spanish American war broke out in 1898, He left school and enlisted for service, going out as a member of Company G of the 160th regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and with this command saw service in Cuba. He received his discharge on April 25, 1899, and returned to Columbia City, where he became engaged as a woodworker in a furniture factory. When his father, a year or two later, opened his shoe store there, he and his brother became associated with their father in that business, the firm being

established as Joseph CLARK & Sons. After his father's death in 1903, Walter Lee CLARK entered the Indiana Dental College at Indianapolis, worked his way through college, and was graduated from that institution in 1906. During his senior year in college he was president of the P.G.C. Hunt Society of the student body. Upon receiving his diploma Doctor CLARK located at Pennville and has ever since been practicing his profession in that pleasant little city, one of the best known dentists in this part of the state. The Doctor's military experience during the time of the Spanish-American war confirmed him in his opinion of the value of National Guard service. From June 11, 1895, to 1917 he served as a member of the Indiana National Guard, for some years rendering service as adjutant of the 3d Battalion, 160th regiment. The Doctor is a Freemason, having become affiliated with the Masonic lodge at Columbia City during the time of his residence there, and is also a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Pennville, the present vice chancellor of the lodge. In his political views he reserves his right to independence. In 1910, at Pennville, Dr. Walter Lee CLARK was united in marriage to Wanda WRIGHT, daughter of Calvin B. and Mary Etta ( EDMUNDSON ) WRIGHT, of that city, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Wilda Virginia, born in 1913. Doctor and Mrs. CLARK have a pleasant home at Pennville and take an interested part in the general social and cultural activities of the community. Doctor CLARK is also interested in bee culture as a "side-line." He produced 2,200 pounds of honey during the past year and has seventy-five colonies of bees. He represents the A. T. Root Company in this vicinity. SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.313-314. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut