

CLOSE, WILLIAM B

William B. CLOSE, a well-known expert machinist and proprietor of a well-equipped machine shop at Portland, is a native son of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of Portland for more than a quarter of a century. He was born in Wyandot County, Ohio, October 2, 1862, son of John H. and Mary (HOWARD) CLOSE, and was reared at Van Wert, where he received his schooling. He early began to learn the machinist's trade and continued working as a machinist at Van Wert until 1895, when he came over into Indiana and opened a machine shop of his own at Portland, where he ever since has been located and where he has created a call for his services covering a territory of thirty miles or more about that city, having equipment at his shop on West Water street for all kinds of boiler repairing and general machine work. His plant is electrically equipped and is up to date in other particulars. Mr. CLOSE is a Republican and he and his wife are members of the Friends church. William B. CLOSE has been twice married. In 1883, at Van Wert, Ohio, he was united in marriage to Anna J. WAGGERS, who was born in that city, daughter of Jonah and Elmira (MIDDAUGH) WAGGERS, and to this union were born three children, daughters all, Ada C., Bertha E., who died at the age of thirty-four years, and Nella A. The mother of these daughters died in 1898, and on October 17, 1899, Mr. CLOSE married Mrs. Mae (BARNHARDT) HOPE, who was born in Howard County, Indiana, daughter of Benjamin and Catherine (HUBER) BARNHARDT, and to this union two children have been born, Mary and Charles. By her former marriage Mrs. CLOSE has a son, Ellis J. HOPE. SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, p.376. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.