

COOK, George W

George W. COOK, a well-known former merchant and retired undertaker at Dunkirk, is a native son of Jay county and has lived here all his life with the exception of a few years spent in business at Ridgeville, over in the adjoining county of .Randolph. Mr. COOK was born on a farm in this county on August 14, 1860, and is a son of William and Catherine (THRASH) COOK, the former of whom was born in that part of Virginia now comprised in the state of West Virginia and the latter in the state of Pennsylvania. William COOK enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War and went out with the 23d regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. For want of proper medical aid during an illness which seized him shortly after his enlistment he died in service, January 1, 1865, leaving his widow with four small children, two of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Oscar COOK. Bereft of his soldier father when but a child, George W. COOK early began to "do for himself." He completed his schooling by a short course in Ridgeville College and at the age of eighteen became engaged in the livery business at Ridgeville, where he also carried on the sale of buggies. He carried on this business for four or five years, at the end of which time he disposed of that line and in association with Charles WARD became engaged in the grocery business at Ridgeville. For about eight years this partnership continued and then Mr. COOK disposed of his interest and returned to Jay county, locating at Dunkirk, where he became engaged in the undertaking business. For nearly twenty-five years Mr. COOK carried on this latter business, becoming one of the best known funeral directors in this section of Indiana. For about ten years of this period he also carried on a general livery business at Dunkirk. In 1918 Mr. COOK sold his undertaking establishment to S. R. MARTIN and retired from business, continuing, however, to make his home at Dunkirk, where he has resided for so many years. Mr. COOK is a Freemason, affiliated with the local lodge at Dunkirk, and is a Republican. In May, 1881, George W. COOK was united in marriage to Melissa H. RIDDELBARGER, who was born and reared in the neighboring county of Randolph, daughter of David and Mary RIDDELBARGER, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Roll D., who was born at Ridgeville. Roll D. COOK completed his schooling at the university at Valparaiso. He married Ethel SMITH and is now engaged in the grocery business at Dunkirk, in which city he has resided since the days of his boyhood. SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.154-155. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut

