

## **FINCH, SELMA**

SELMA FINCH, a well-known grocer, of the firm of FINCH & BROSHER, proprietors of the Central grocery and shoe store at Portland, one of the best stores of the kind in eastern Indiana, is a native son of Jay county and has lived here all of his life. Mr. FINCH was born in Greene township on March 8, 1872, and is a son of Adam H. and Eliza J. ( ALLEN ) FINCH, the latter of whom was born in Preble county) Ohio, but was reared and educated in Indiana. Adam H. FINCH was born in Wayne county, Indiana, and was for many years a well-known farmer and merchant at Collett, the pleasant little village south of Portland. He and his wife were the parents of two children, Lillie M. and Selma. They had besides an adopted son, Joseph. When Selma FINCH was eight years of age his parents moved to Pike township, this county, and there he completed his schooling. As a young man he worked with his father in the latter's store at Collett and later he started in business for himself at Collett and was thus engaged there for ten years, at the end of which time he sold his store there and bought an eighty acre farm in Wayne township on which he established his home and which he farmed for three years. He then moved to College Corner, where he opened a grocery store, meantime retaining possession of his farm, and was in business at College Corner for about five years, at the end of which time he traded his farm for the Southside grocery at Portland and returned to the latter city, where he has ever since been in business and where he has done well. Mr. FINCH continued to operate the Southside grocery for about four years and then, in association with Sherman BRUBAKER and Albert H. BRUBAKER, bought the Central grocery, where he is now located. About a year later Messrs. FINCH and BROSHER bought the BRUBAKER interest in the store and have since been proprietors of the place, which is one of the best stocked and most admirable equipped stores in Portland. On the second floor of the establishment they conduct a shoe department. They also carry on a general retail meat business, and have eighteen persons employed in the establishment. Mr. FINCH is a Democrat and is a member of Red Cross Lodge No. 88, Knights of Pythias, at Portland. On March 29, 1902, Selma FINCH was united in marriage to Ella BOCKOVEN, who also was born in Jay county, daughter of Louis and Mary ( DEVOR ) BOCKOVEN, and to this union four children have been born, Mary, Sharon Lea, Glen and Frank, the first named of whom is now a student at Earlham College. The FINCH's have a pleasant home at Portland and have ever taken an interested part in the city's general social activities.

**SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, p.78-79. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut**