

FLESHER, JOEL M

Joel M. FLESHER., widely and popularly known among his friends hereabout simply as "Joe" FLESHER, the well-known livestock auctioneer at Dunkirk, is a native son of Jay county, a representative in the fourth generation of the FLESHER family in this county, and has lived here all his life. Mr. FLESHER was born on a farm in Jefferson township on November 16, 1886, and is a son of Jeremiah and Charlotte (OWENS) FLESHER, who were among the best known residents of that township. Jeremiah FLESHER was born in that township, son and only child of Granville and Mary (MAY) FLESHER, the former of whom was but eighteen months of age when his parents, Adam and Elizabeth FLESHER, came over into Indiana from Ohio in 1835 and settled on a tract of 200 acres of ground in what later came to be Jefferson township, Jay county, but which then was included within the boundaries of Randolph county, Adam FLESHER thus having been among the early settlers of this county. Jeremiah FLESHER, in his generation, followed in the footsteps of his grandfather and his father and became a substantial farmer, creating an excellent piece of property in Jefferson township. To him and his wife three children were born, the subject of this sketch having a brother, William O. FLESHER, who continues to make his home on the old home farm, and a sister, Anna, who married Jasper CARDER, of this county, and has two children, Mary and Martha. Reared on the home farm in Jefferson township, Joseph M. FLESHER received his early schooling in the schools of his neighborhood and supplemented this by attendance at the Redkey high school and a course in Chicago University. He also took a course in a school of auctioneering at Chicago and in 1909 announced himself in Jay county and in surrounding counties as a professional auctioneer, with special reference to the crying of sales of livestock in which he specializes, and has ever since followed this calling, one of the best known auctioneers in this part of the country. In 1921 Mr. FLESHER cried sales in no fewer than twenty-six states, these live stock sales having been confined pretty largely to pure bred Poland China hogs and dairy cattle, particularly Holsteins and Jerseys. Mr. FLESHER remained on the home farm until 1915, when he moved to Dunkirk, where he has since resided and where he and his family are very pleasantly situated. Mr. FLESHER is a Republican. He is a Scottish Rite Mason and a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and is also affiliated with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Joseph M. FLESHER has been twice married. In 1903 he was united in marriage to May CLOYD, of Randolph county, this state, and to this union two children were born, daughters both, Frances Deniah and Jewyideen. The mother of these children died on August 26, 1911, and in 1913 Mr. FLESHER married Aletha FRAZEE, who was born at Dunkirk, daughter of James H. and Frances FRAZEE, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Dorothy Eliza, born in 1914.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.388-389. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut