

## GAUNT, CHARLES L

Charles L. GAUNT, mayor of the city of Dunkirk, secretary and treasurer of the Indiana Glass Company at Dunkirk, president of the celebrated Boosters Club of that city, former principal of schools there and for years actively identified with the best interests of the place, is a native son of Jay county and has lived here all his life. Mr. GAUNT was born on a farm in Knox township on September 1, 1883, son of David and Martha S. (HARTMAN) GAUNT, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families here. David GAUNT, who for years was one of the best known farmers in Knox township, was a native of the state of Ohio, but had been a resident of Jay county since the days of his boyhood and developed a good piece of farm property in Knox township. He and his wife were the parents of six children, all of whom are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Joseph H. GAUNT, of Portland: Orlan F., of Dunkirk; Floyd, of Anderson, this state; Myron, also of Anderson, [Madison Co.], and Edith, of Dunkirk.

Charles L. GAUNT was reared on the home farm in Knox township and was graduated from the Dunkirk high school with the class of 1902, after which he attended three terms of ten weeks each in the normal school at Marion, and thus equipped began teaching school in his home township, his first school there being the Oak Grove school, over the destinies of which he presided for two terms. He then, in 1904, was engaged as a teacher in the schools of Dunkirk, having the fifth and sixth grades in the South school. During- this period of service Mr. GAUNT made such an excellent record that the next year he was engaged as principal of the Central school, teaching the sixth grade. In the middle of that term he was transferred to the principalship of the South school, where he taught the eighth grade, and for three consecutive terms was thus engaged, at the end of that time being transferred to the principalship of the North school, where he taught the commercial department. In the meantime Mr. GAUNT had been giving his attention seriously to the thought of commercial and industrial undertakings and in 1909 entered the office of the Indiana Glass Company at Dunkirk as bookkeeper and paymaster. In this dual position Mr. GAUNT served the establishment for seven years, at the end of which time he was elected secretary and treasurer of the company. That was in 1916 and ever since he has occupied that position, giving his undivided attention to the growing affairs of the important industrial concern with which he has so long been connected. The Indiana Glass Company employs about 550 persons when the plant is being worked to capacity and turns out over three car loads of glass a day, the output being confined to glass table ware, vases and lamps, the table ware being pressed and the vases and lamps blown. The sand used in this plant is brought from Ottawa, Ill., the soda ash from Detroit. Mich., the lime from northern Ohio, and the coal from West Virginia and Kentucky. Prior to 1906 the company used natural gas, but since that time has manufactured its own gas.

On September 1, 1906, Charles L. GAUNT was united in marriage to Bertha WILSON, who was born and reared on a farm in Grant county, this state, daughter of Jasper and Kate (JAY) WILSON, who were the parents of five

children, those besides Mrs. GAUNT being Cleo, Merle, Ruth and James. Mr. and Mrs. GAUNT have one child, a daughter, Treva L., born on November 27, 1907, who is a member of the class of 1924, Dunkirk high school.

The GAUNTS are members of the Congregational Church at Dunkirk and Mr. GAUNT is a member of the board of trustees of the same. He is a Republican and in the fall of 1921 was elected mayor of the city of Dunkirk and was inaugurated on the following January 2. He also has served as a member of the local school board and is now a member of the library board. Mr. GAUNT has for years been recognized as one of the "live wires" in the social and industrial life of his home town and is the president of the Boosters Club which has been such an active and effective agent in promoting the interests of the city of Dunkirk. He is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Hartford City lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

**SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.352-353. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut**