

GRISSELL, JAMES L

JAMES L. GRISSELL, city engineer and superintendent of the light, water and power department of the city of Portland and an active and influential factor in the municipality, is a native son of Jay county and has lived here all his life save for a period during which he served as deputy to the engineer of the neighboring county of Randolph, with his residence at Winchester. Mr. GRISSELL was born on a farm in Penn township, in the vicinity of the city of Pennville, February 27, 1886, son of Lowell P. and Mary C. (DAVENPORT) GRISSELL, the latter of whom was born in Wayne county, this state. Lowell P. GRISSELL, a well-known farmer of Penn township, was born in this county, a member of one of the real pioneer families here, and he and his wife were the parents of three sons, James L. GRISSELL having two brothers, Russell and Lowell H. GRISSELL. Reared on the farm in Penn township, James L. GRISSELL received his elementary schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home and then entered the Pennville high school. Later entering the Tri-State College of Engineering, he took there the course in civil engineering and was graduated from that institution on March II, 1911. Thus admirably equipped for the profession to which he had devoted himself Mr. GRISSELL accepted a position as deputy to the county engineer of Randolph county and was thus engaged for a year, at the end of which time he transferred his service to the Union Traction Company and was for a year thereafter engaged in electric railroad construction work between Muncie and Newcastle. He then returned to Winchester and resumed his former position as deputy county engineer, in which capacity he continued to serve until in January, 1918, when he accepted the position as city engineer at Portland and thus returned to his home county. A year later the positions of city engineer and superintendent of the light, water and power department of the city were merged and Mr. GRISSELL has since been rendering service to the city in this dual capacity. On February 27, 1918, James L. GRISSELL was united in marriage to Flora J. BECK, who was born and reared at Mansfield, Ohio, daughter of Henry and Emma (DRACKERT) BECK, and to this union two children have been born, daughters both, Julia Ann and Mary Emily. Mr. and Mrs. GRISSELL are members of the First Presbyterian church of Portland and are Republicans. Mr. GRISSELL is a member of the Portland Commercial Club and is one of the charter members of the Kiwanis Club of that city. He is a Scottish Rite (32) Mason, a member of the blue lodge at Pennville, of the council, chapter and commander at Winchester and of the consistory at Ft. Wayne, and is also a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, affiliated with the temple at Ft. Wayne. During the time of America's participation in the World war Mr. GRISSELL rendered service as a student officer of field artillery in the Central Officers Training School at Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky, and he is a member of the local post of the American Legion at Portland, to the expanding affairs of which patriotic body he is giving his earnest attention, as are so many of the young men of this community.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.63-64. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut