

JACK, MARION

MARION JACK, former representative from Jay county in the lower house of the Indiana General Assembly, former deputy treasurer of Jay county and in other ways actively identified with public affairs, a substantial landowner of Wayne township, now living retired in Portland, is a native Hoosier and has lived in this state all his life. Mr. JACK was born on a farm in the near vicinity of Ridgeville, in the neighboring county of Randolph, March 25, 1851, and is a son of Robert M. and Asenath (ODLE) JACK, who later became residents of Jay county, but whose last days were spent at Ridgeville. Robert M. JACK was born in Warren county, Ohio, and was twelve years of age when his parents, Robert L. and Sarah Elizabeth (FERRIS) JACK, left Ohio and came over to take up some of the newer lands in Indiana. Robert L. JACK entered a tract of 400 acres in the vicinity of Ridgeville in Randolph county. On this place he established his home, cleared the tract and became one of the substantial and influential pioneers of that neighborhood. On that pioneer farm Robert M. JACK grew to manhood and when twenty-one years of age was given a 100 acre farm by his father, on which place he established his home after his marriage and continued to live there for about ten years, at the end of which time, in the middle '50s, he contracted a severe case of "Kansas fever" and with his family moved to the Sunflower state, which had just about that time been organized as a separate territory, though it was not admitted as a state until 1861, but after a year's experience amid the turbulence which then marked that territory was content to return to Indiana and settle down on his father-in-law's farm near Deerfield. Two years later he came up into Jay county and bought a farm of 130 acres in the neighborhood of Collett, settling there on March 1, 1861. He cleared that place and remained there until 1874, when he sold his farm and moved to Ridgeville. He later went to Oregon, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there in 1894, he then being seventy-five years of age. Robert M. JACK and wife were the parents of seven children, all of whom are living save two, Harry, who died on December 26, 1907, and Elizabeth, who died on September 3, 1911, those besides the subject of this sketch being Edna, Cora Alice, Elmer R. and Rebecca Jane.

Reared on the farm, Marion Jack completed his schooling in Ridgeville College and early began teaching school, a vocation he followed during the winters for a period of thirty-eight years, his summers being occupied on his father's farm in Pike township, where he made his home after his marriage in 1874, his father retiring from the farm in that year. In the meantime Mr. JACK was giving his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs and was coming to be recognized as one of the leaders in the Republican party in this county. In 1900 he was elected to represent this county in the state Legislature and in 1902 was his party's nominee for the office of county recorder, but was defeated along with the rest of the ticket in that year. In 1903 he bought a place in Wayne township and moved from his Pike township farm, accepting the position of deputy to the county treasurer, and served in that position until 1907. Upon leaving the court house Mr. JACK gave his full attention to the affairs of his Wayne township farm and remained there until his retirement from the farm in 1914 and removal to Portland, where he has since resided and where he and his wife are very comfortably situated. They are members of the United Brethren church at Portland.

It was on March 8, 1874, that Marion JACK was united in marriage to Elma RHODES, of New Mt. Pleasant, and to this union five sons were born, Oren Leroy, who died on December 12, 1888; Forest

A., Harry, Merle R. and Ivan R. Forest A. JACK has been twice married. To his union with Letta AYRES, one child was born, a daughter, Dona. His wife and daughter both died and he married his deceased wife's sister, Margaret AYRES. Harry JACK, who is living in Wayne township, married Thetis FRAZEE, also of this county, and has two children, Gerald and Marion. Merle R. JACK, who is now living in Canton, Ohio, married Pearl WATERS, also of this county, and has three children, Elma, Iona R. and Ralph. Ivan R. JACK married Mabel GEORGE, of this county, and has three children, Ivan Robert, Maxine L. and Dorothy M., it thus being noted that Mr. and Mrs. JACK have eight grandchildren, in all of whom they take much delight.

Mrs. JACK is a member of one of the real pioneer families of Jay county, her parents, John and Susanna RHODES, having settled in Jefferson township in 1837. Both were born in Columbiana county, Ohio, the former in 1815 and the latter in 1819. Upon coming to this county John RHODES entered a "forty" in Jefferson township and there established his home. Besides farming, he also was a carpenter and did much of the early building thereabouts. He also was active in public affairs and for years served as justice of the peace in and for his home township. He and his wife had eight children, of whom four are still living, those besides Mrs. JACK being Mrs. Elizabeth J. KIDDER, Mrs. Lydia C. FINCH and John A. RHODES.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, p.76-77. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.