

JAQUA, ALONZO L

ALONZO L. JAQUA, a veteran real estate dealer at Portland and for years recognized as one of the leaders in that line in this county, is a native of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of Portland since he was three years of age and has thus been a witness to and a participant in the amazing development that has marked that city during the past half century and more.

Mr. JAQUA was born on a farm in Darke county, Ohio, March 6, 1850, son of James B. and Eliza J. (AVERY) JAQUA, the latter of whom was born at Nashville, Tenn., but had been a resident of Ohio since the days of her childhood, her parents having moved up from Tennessee to get away from slavery conditions in that state. James B. JAQUA was a member of one of the real pioneer families of Ohio, his grandfather, Gamaliel JAQUA, a native of Connecticut and a soldier of the war of the Revolution, having settled in Preble county about the time Ohio was admitted to statehood and there spent his last days. James B. JAQUA was a farmer in Darke county, a landowner and a practicing attorney. In 1853 he disposed of his interests in Ohio and moved with his family to Portland, where he established himself in the practice of law and where he spent the remainder of his life, for many years having been regarded as one of the leaders of the bar of the Jay Circuit Court, as is set out elsewhere in this work. His wife died on November 24, 1871, and he survived her nearly thirty-five years, his death occurring at Portland on May 13, 1906. They were the parents of nine children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Alice (deceased), Carrie E. (deceased), Geneva I., who married Nathan B. HAWKINS, Judson A., Minnie Z., Carl W., Pearl R. (deceased) and Frank B.

Reared at Portland, to which place, as noted above, he had moved with his parents when but three years of age, Alonzo L. JAQUA received his schooling in the schools of that city, completing the same at the old Liber College. When twenty-five years of age he became engaged at Portland in the manufacture of brick and was thus engaged for several years, at the end of which time he became engaged in the retail lumber business, his lumber yards occupying the site at present occupied by the Jay County Lumber Company. After four years he retired from the lumber business, but several years later again became engaged in that line and were for four years again thus occupied. In 1885 Mr. JAQUA sold his lumber yard and became engaged in the real estate business, which line he ever since has followed and in which he has been quite successful, long having been regarded as one of the leading realty dealers in this part of the state, his offices in South Meridian street having been the scene of many an important realty transfer.

On September 5, 1893, Alonzo L. JAQUA was united in marriage to Louelle OSWALD, who was born at Ft. Recovery, Ohio, but who was reared in Portland, where she completed her schooling in the old normal school, her parents having moved to Portland from Ohio when she was a child. Mrs. JAQUA is a daughter of Louis and Jane (CURTIS) OSWALD the former of whom was for years a merchant at Portland. Louis OSWALD and wife were the parents of six children, three of whom are still living, Mrs. JAQUA and her sisters, Magdalena and Sarah, Her brother, Louis G. OSWALD, formerly well known in Portland, died at San Antonio, Tex., at the age of thirty-nine years.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, p.74-75. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.