

J. B. JAQUA, of Portland, a member of the bar, and one of the most active and enterprising citizens of Jay County, was born in Darke County, Ohio, in the year 1820, a son of Judson and Lucinda (Braffit) Jaqua, natives of New York and Pennsylvania, respectively. His grandfather, Gamaliel Jaqua, was born in the State of Connecticut, and his grandfather, James Braffit, was a native of Massachusetts. Until attaining the age of nineteen Mr. Jaqua was reared to agricultural pursuits. He was educated principally at the academy at Centerville, Indiana, and for four or five years followed school teaching, and during his leisure hours studied law. After completing his legal course he was admitted to the bar in 1852, at Hamilton, Ohio, and the following year came to Portland, where he has since made his home, practicing law, farming and working for the material interests of the Community.

Mr. Jaqua was married in 1848 to Miss Eliza J. Avery, who was born in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1829, and died in Portland in 1871. She was a daughter of Daniel Avery. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Jaqua, six of whom are living - A. L., Genevra L., wife of Nathan B. Hawkins; J. A., M. Z., C. W. and F. B.

Mr. Jaqua has done much toward building up the town of which he is a citizen, and is always interested in any enterprise which tends toward the advancement of his county. He in company with others built a large flouring mill at Portland; erected the Hawkins House, and established the Citizen's Bank; also built two good business rooms opposite the Citizen's Bank, and has given his aid toward various enterprises. He personally superintends the cultivation of about 300 acres of land, and has an interest in 300 or 400 acres more. Between the years 1857 and 1860 he served two or three years as county school examiner, and during the war of the Rebellion he was draft commissioner for Jay County. He is at present a practitioner in law, and also cashier of the City Bank.

Biographical and Historical Record of Jay County, Indiana, Lewis Publishing Co, Chicago, 1887, p. 691.