

## JAY, ORLISTUS

Orlistus JAY, the well-known grain, hay and coal merchant, formerly and for many years operator of a string of grain elevators and mills, one of the most prominent factors in the grain business in this section of the state, is a "Buckeye" by birth, but has been a resident of Indiana since the days of his young manhood, his active career having been spent in Redkey, where he started in business and where he is now living. Mr. JAY was born in Miami county, Ohio, and is a son of the Rev. Thomas and Sarah (YOUNT) JAY, the former of whom was for many years an influential minister of the Friends church, as well as a substantial landowner, a descendant of William JAY, who was a brother of John JAY, the illustrious American statesman who was the first chief justice of the United States Supreme Court. The Rev. Thomas JAY and his wife were the parents of ten children, four of whom, Oliver, Mary, Anna and Clara, are deceased, the survivors, besides the subject of this sketch being Elizabeth, Webster, Ellen, Belle and Emma.

Under the roof of his parents and in the public schools of his native county, Orlistus JAY was prepared for college and then was sent to Earlham College, the sterling old Quaker school at Richmond, Ind. In the meantime Mr. JAY had been giving his thoughtful attention to the development of the grain business and upon leaving college he came up into JAY county and started in business at Redkey, presently erecting there the first modern grain elevator built in that city. As his business expanded, and under the methods he applied to the business it did rapidly expand, he branched out into other fields, created a stock company for the more systematic direction of the business and erected grain elevators at Elwood, Portland, Ft. Recovery, Blaine and Mulberry, in the latter place also erecting a flour mill, and so continued actively and successfully engaged in the grain business, head of the JAY Grain Company, until his retirement from that company. Since disposing of his interest in the JAY Grain Company, Mr. JAY has continued to make his home at Redkey, where he and his wife are very comfortably situated, and where he is now operating his grain elevator, coal yard and hay barn.

It was in April, 1885, that Orlistus JAY was united in marriage to Emma BAKER, who was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, daughter of David and Janie (READ) BAKER, the former of whom, an officer of the Union army during the Civil war, was engaged in the dry goods business at Phillipsburg, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. JAY have one child, a daughter, Nilah who was born at Redkey and whose schooling was completed at DePauw University. On June 19, 1910, Nilah JAY was united in marriage to Charles WHITEHAIR, and to this union three children have been born, Jay, Janie and Paul. Mr. WHITEHAIR is a traveling secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association and was for two years that association's representative in India. Mr. and Mrs. JAY are members

of the Methodist Episcopal church at Redkey and have for years taken an earnest and active interest in the affairs of the church. Mrs. JAY long served as secretary of the Missionary Society of the church and Mr. JAY was a member of the board of trustees of the church at the time the handsome new church edifice was erected. He is a Republican and has ever taken an interested part in local civic affairs, having served as a member of the school board at the time the present commodious school building was erected in 1893. For many years Mr. JAY was one of the leaders in the prohibition movement and in common with all who thus served as pioneers in that movement rejoices at the constitutional inhibition placed by the people upon the liquor traffic.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of JAY County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.233-234. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.