

## JONES, GILFORD H

Gilford H. JONES, well known undertaker and veteran merchant at Redkey, dealer in furniture and carpets in addition to carrying on his undertaking establishment, is a native Hoosier and has lived in this state all his life. Mr. JONES was born at Francesville, in Pulaski county, on February 27, 1865, and is a son of William R. and Sarah (STOUT) JONES, both of whom were born and reared in the vicinity of Dupont, in Jefferson county, this state, and were married at Madison. William R. JONES, who formerly and for years was engaged in business at Redkey, under the firm name of W. R. JONES & Sons, and who is now living retired at Francesville, established his home on an eighty-acre farm in the immediate vicinity of Medaryville, in Pulaski county, after his marriage and for four years resided there. He in the meantime had been acquiring somewhat extensive land interests in the vicinity of the neighboring village of Francesville and presently moved to the latter place, where in 1877 he established a hardware store, which he continued to operate until 1900 when he moved the stock to Redkey and consolidated it with the stock of a furniture store at the latter place, for which he had traded a 120-acre farm, at the same time taking his sons, Gilf. H., Charles C. and John C., into partnership in the business, the firm operating under the name of W. R. JONES & Sons, and also carrying on an undertaking business. In 1891 this store was destroyed by fire and a new building was erected on the site, the same now occupied by the JONES brothers. On March 1, 1921, the long existing partnership was dissolved, Charles C. JONES taking over the hardware line and Gilford H. JONES taking the undertaking department and the furniture and allied lines. William R.

JONES is now living at Francesville, in the immediate neighborhood of which place he owns a 360-acre farm. His wife died on March 11, 1914. They were the parents of three sons, the two mentioned above and John C. JONES, who died on November 17, 1917.

Reared at Francesville, Gilford H. JONES received his early schooling in the schools of that village and supplemented the same by a course in a business college at Lafayette in the winter of 1884-85. Thus better equipped for the mercantile career upon which he had determined, he became associated with his father and brothers in business and on July 2, 1886, located at Redkey. In the following fall he married and established his home at Redkey and has ever since been a resident of that place, now one of the oldest merchants continuously engaged in business in that city. As noted above, Mr. JONES is now giving his whole attention to the furniture and undertaking end of the business with which he has so long been connected and has associated with him his son, Howard W. JONES, who gives his special attention to the undertaking department, representing the third generation of this family in business in Redkey, this establishment being one of the commercial "landmarks" in that city. This establishment now occupies two floors, 40x80 feet, and a balcony for furniture, besides one floor, 20x80 feet, which is given over to the display of carpets and the undertaking department. When in the summer of 1886 Mr. JONES became established in business at Redkey the store occupied a room 18x60 feet in dimensions. He has now been engaged in this line of business longer than any other individual in Jay county.

It was on November 17, 1886, that Gilford H. JONES was united in marriage to Stella A. REISH, who was born at Francesville, daughter of Solomon and Nancy REISH, who were among the early

residents of that place, and to this union six children have been born, four of whom, Howard W., Nina M., Marguerite and Helen, are living, Ralph having died at the age of nine years and five months and Bernice D., at the age of two years. Nina M. JONES married Floyd D. BURCHARD, a merchant of Rensselaer, Ind. and has one child, a daughter, Winifred. Howard W. JONES, who, as noted above, is now assisting his father in the business at Redkey, married Tyrah STEED. During the time this country was taking part in the World war he was a student at Chicago University and was attached to the S.A.T.C. of that institution. Gilford H. JONES and his family are Republicans. Mr. JONES is a 32d degree Mason and Knight Templar, affiliated with the blue lodge at Redkey, the commandery at Muncie and the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite at Indianapolis. He also is affiliated with the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Redkey.

**SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.148-150. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut**