

KIDDER, JOHN J

John J. KIDDER, M. D., one of Jay county's well known physicians and surgeons, with offices at Salamonina, where he has made his home ever since entering upon the practice of his profession a quarter of a century ago, is a native son of this county, a member of one of the real pioneer families here, and has resided here all his life. Doctor KIDDER was born on a farm in Pike township on December 21, 1870, and is a son of William and Julia (COLLINS) KIDDER, both of whom were born in Warren county, Ohio, but had been residents of Jay county since the days of their childhood, having come over here with their respective parents in pioneer days. William KIDDER was a son of John and Sarah (BURRESS) KIDDER, who became residents of this county in 1837, the year following the formal organization of Jay county. John KIDDER and his wife were natives of New Hampshire, the former born in 1789. When sixteen years of age he moved with his parents to Maine. At the age of twenty-six he married and moved to New York, but a year or two later came West and settled in Warren county, Ohio, where he remained for about twenty years, or until 1837, when he came over into Indiana and entered from the Government a tract of 200 acres in Jay county, 120 acres of this land lying in Pike township, where he established his home. There he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring on May 14, 1858, and hers, October 4, 1875. Of the eleven children born to this pioneer couple eight grew to maturity and the KIDDER connection in the present generation is a considerable one.

William KIDDER was but a child when he came here with his parents from Ohio in 1837 and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Pike township. For several years during the days of his young manhood he was engaged in teaching school in the schools of this county, but after his marriage established his home on a farm of eighty acres which he had acquired in Pike township and thereafter devoted himself to farming. He and his wife were the parents of three children, one of whom died in infancy, the others being Joseph KIDDER, of Portland, and Doctor KIDDER, the immediate subject of this biographical review.

Doctor KIDDER grew to manhood on the home farm in Pike township, receiving his elementary schooling in the Antioch school (district No. 5), and for two terms taught school in the old Zoar school and in district No. 2 in that township. Under the preceptorship of his uncle, John G. ROSS, of Portland, he early began to turn his attention to the study of medicine and during the years 1893-96 was a student in the Ohio Eclectic Medical College at Cincinnati. In August, 1896, Doctor KIDDER opened an office for the practice of his profession at Salamonina. A month later he married and

established his home in that pleasant village and has since resided there, thus having followed the practice of his profession at that place for more than twenty-five years. The Doctor is a member of the Jay County Medical Society and of the Indiana State Medical Society and has ever kept abreast of the advance in medical science. He is a past noble grand of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (Jay County Lodge No. 803) at Salamonia and is also a member of Camp 13538, Modern Woodmen, at that place. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Salamonia.

It was on September 5, 1896, that Dr. John J. KIDDER was united in marriage to Cora CUPP, of this county, and to this union two children have been born: Orva T., who is now (1922) in his third year in Indiana University and is entered for the class of 1925 of the medical college of the university, and Thelma, who is a member of the midyear class of 1924, Portland high school. Mrs. KIDDER was born in Pike township and is a daughter of Valentine H. and Ellen (FREEMAN) CUPP both natives of Ohio, the latter born in Fairfield county and the former in Perry county. Not long after their marriage in Fairfield county, Ohio, Valentine CUPP and his wife came over into Indiana and established their home on a farm in Pike township this county. Valentine CUPP had a well improved farm of 100 acres and was accounted one of the substantial citizens of that township. To him and his wife were born two daughters, Mrs. KIDDER having a sister, Elizabeth.

Doctor and Mrs. KIDDER have a pleasant home at Salamonia and have ever taken an interested part in the general social activities of the community of which they long have been an influential part. During the time of America's participation in the World war Doctor KIDDER was a member of the Volunteer Medical Corps of the United States army, subject to call at any time, and he also took an active part in the promotion of the Liberty Loan "drives" in Madison township.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.170-171. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.