

LEE, RICHARD O

Richard O. LEE, former trustee of Jackson township and one of the best known farmers of that part of Jay county, a former teacher in the schools of this county, has been a resident, of Jay county since the days of his early childhood. Mr. LEE was born on a farm in Allen county, Ohio, August 29, 1884, and is a son of Martin M. and Elizabeth (COURT) LEE, who later became residents of Jay county.

Martin M. LEE was a Virginian by birth, born in that section of the Old Dominion now included in West Virginia, and was but a boy when he accompanied his parents over into Ohio, the family settling in Alien county, where he grew to manhood, was married and engaged in farming until 1886 when he came with his family to Indiana and settled on a fifty-acre farm he had bought in Jackson township, this county, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1892. He and his wife were the parents of six children, five of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Mabel, Abbie and Grace, and a brother, George LEE. One daughter, Effie, is deceased.

Richard O. LEE was two years of age when he came with his parents to this county in 1886 and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Jackson township. He was but eight years of age when his father died and he thus early began to assume mature responsibilities. Upon completing the course in the Polington high school Mr. LEE began teaching school and was for two years thus engaged, one winter at the Oakland school and one at the Center school. He then became engaged as a pumper in the oil field and for eight years followed that vocation, or until his marriage in 1910, when he bought the farm of forty acres on which he is now living in Jackson township and has since been actively engaged in farming. Mr. LEE is a Democrat and has for years given his thoughtful attention to local political affairs, long regarded as one of the leaders of his party in that part of the county. In 1914 he was elected trustee of Jackson township and served a four-year term in that important office. He is a member of the local aerie of Eagles at Portland.

On November 25, 1910, Richard O. LEE was united in marriage to Lottie COX, who was born in Jackson township, this county, a daughter of William and Amanda (MERRILL) COX, and to this union four children have been born, one of whom, Orville, is deceased, the others being William, Marion and Lawrence. The LEE's have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of Portland and take a proper and interested part in the general social activities of the community in which they reside.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.254-255. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.