

MASON, SAMUEL

Samuel MASON, M. D., president of the Peoples State Bank of Pennville and owner of an excellent farm on the edge of that pleasant little city, former trustee of Penn township, formerly one of the best known practicing physicians in this part of the state, but now for years retired from active practice, is a veteran of the Civil war, a native Hoosier, and has been a resident of this state all his life, a resident of Jay county for nearly fifty years, save for a period of about three years, during which he was engaged in practice at Hartford City [Blackford Co.] Doctor MASON was born on a pioneer farm in Jackson township in the neighboring county of Wells, on February 14, 1845, and is a son of Thomas and Harriet (DIXON) MASON, who had come over into Indiana from Fairfield county, Ohio, following their marriage in 1840, and had settled on a tract of land which Thomas MASON had entered from the Government in Wells county, where they established their home and reared their family. There were thirteen children in this family, of whom but two survive, Doctor MASON having a brother, George Albert MASON, for many years an attorney and one of the leading citizens of Montpelier. Thomas MASON was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1808, son of Dorsey MASON, a Pennsylvanian and died in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1883. His widow long survived him, and her last days were spent at Montpelier, Ind. She was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1818, and was eight years of age when he came to this country with her parents, Thomas DIXON and wife, the family locating at Newark, [Licking Co.] Ohio, where she grew to womanhood and married Thomas MASON, the remainder of her life being spent in Indiana. Thomas MASON was a practical man and a good farmer and as he developed the original quarter section he had acquired from the Government he added to his land holdings until he became the owner of an excellent farm of 240 acres and was accounted one of the substantial citizens of that section of Wells county.

Reared on the home farm, Samuel MASON received his early schooling in the neighborhood schools, the school house being a log cabin in a clearing in the woods, and in the spring of 1862, when seventeen years of age, came down into Jay county and entered Liber College, which then had acquired quite a reputation as an educational center in this county. In the summer of that year August 6, 1862 he enlisted his services as a soldier in behalf of the cause of the Union and went to the front as a member of Company K of the 75th regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, with which he rendered service until discharged six months later on account of physical disability. Upon his return he re-entered Liber College and there prepared himself to teach school, and for several years thereafter was engaged in teaching, this service being rendered in the neighboring counties of Blackford and Wells and in Missouri and Tennessee. In the meantime he was giving his attention to preparatory studies in medicine under the preceptorship of Dr. W. C. RANSOM, of Jadden, in Grant county, and presently entered the Indiana Medical College at Indianapolis, from which he was graduated in 1873. Upon receiving his diploma. Doctor MASON opened an office for the practice of his profession at Pennville. In 1879-80 he took a post-graduate course in the Ohio Medical

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.215-216. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.