

METZNER, WESLEY T

WESLEY T. METZNER, a well-known and substantial retired building contractor of Portland, is a native son of Jay county and has lived here all his life, an important factor in the county's general development, for his building operations have been carried on in all parts of the county. He was born on a farm in Noble township on November 9, 1855, son of John and Catherine (YOUNG) METZNER, the former a native of Germany, born in the kingdom of Saxony, October 2, 1805, a son of Jasper and Hannah (REISENBERG) METZNER; and the latter a native of France, born on July 18, 1819, daughter of Nicholas and Salome (YOUNG) YOUNG, who were among the early settlers in Jay county and whose last days were spent here. John METZNER was twenty-three years of age when he came to this country in 1838 and on November 4, 1839, at Newark, Ohio, he married Catherine Young, who had come to this country two years prior to that date. For twelve years after his marriage John METZNER worked at his trade, that of a wagon maker, at Louisville, Ohio, and then, in 1851, come over into Indiana and located on a farm of eighty acres in section 7 of Noble township, this county, where he and his wife established their home and spent their last days, well known and influential residents of that community. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom four are still living, the subject of this sketch having a brother, William F. METZNER, and two sisters, Catherine E., wife of George STOLZ, of Portland, and Mary A., wife of Harvey A. HUEY.

Reared on the home farm in Noble township, Wesley T. METZNER received his schooling in the old METZNER schoolhouse) so named because it occupied a site at the cross-roads on a corner of his father's farm. From the days of his boyhood he was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of the farm and for several years after his school days were over continued farming, at the same time being more or less engaged working at the carpenter's trade and thus acquired an early skill as a builder. He married at the age of thirty and then bought a forty-acre farm in Wayne township, establishing his home there. It was then that Mr. METZNER entered upon his career as a building contractor, a line which he followed with success until his retirement in 1920, for many years having been regarded as one of the county's leading contractors, his operations covering a wide territory hereabout. Years ago Mr. METZNER left his farm home in Wayne township and moved to Portland, where he since has made his residence. He sold the place in Wayne township and is now the owner of a well-developed farm of something more than 102 acres in Pike township. Mr. METZNER is a Republican and for some years during the time of his residence in Wayne township (1894-99) served as assessor of that township. He is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Portland and he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church.

It was on November 15, 1885, that Wesley T. METZNER was united in marriage to Mary Emma ROSER, who also was born in this county, and to this union were born four children: Ethel C., Jay E., Mabel E. and Mary V., the last named of whom died on

May 13, 1920. Ethel C. METZNER married John McDANIEL, of Portland, and has three children, John, Max M. and Lee A. Jay E. METZNER, who is unmarried, is now living at Muncie, Ind., where he is employed as a bookkeeper in the offices of Ball Bros. During the World war he served as clerk of the draft board of Delaware county. Mrs. METZNER was born in Noble township, a daughter of Evan and Catherine (SPRECHER) ROSER, natives of Pennsylvania, who had located in this county about the year 1860. Evan ROSER was a substantial farmer of Noble township and he and his wife spent their last days there. They were the parents of five children, of whom but two are now living, Mrs. METZNER and her brother, Edwin ROSER.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.99-100. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.