

MONTGOMERY, I. A.

I A MONTGOMERY, proprietor of a general store at Bryant and one of the best known men in that section of Jay county, is a native son of this county and has lived here all his life. Mr. MONTGOMERY was born in the village of Westchester on October 12, 1877, and is a son of George G. and Sarah (GRIFFITH) MONTGOMERY, both members of pioneer families in this county, the latter born in Washington, Pa., but a resident of Jay county since the days of her girlhood, her parents having come to Indiana and settled in Noble township, this county, in pioneer days. George G. MONTGOMERY was born in Wabash township, this county, a member of one of the real pioneer families there. He completed his schooling in old Liber College and for some time in the days of his young manhood was engaged in farming. In 1877, he became engaged in the mercantile business at Westchester in partnership with his brother-in-law, Isaac GRIFFITH, and was thus engaged until in the early '90s when he sold his interest in the store and returned to farming, a vocation he followed until 1899, when he again became engaged in the mercantile business, in association with his son, I. A. MONTGOMERY, opening the store at Bryant which is now owned and conducted by the latter. This mutually agreeable partnership continued for eighteen years, or until the retirement of the elder MONTGOMERY in 1917, when I. A. MONTGOMERY bought his father's interest in the store and has since been carrying on the business alone. George G. MONTGOMERY died on September 7, 1919. To him and his wife were born seven children, five of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Laura and Edna, and two brothers, William and Fred MONTGOMERY.

A. MONTGOMERY received his early schooling in the schools of Westchester and supplemented this by attendance for two years at the normal school at Marion, Ind. Upon attaining his majority he formed the association with his father in the mercantile business at Bryant and continued doing business at that place under that partnership until, as noted above, he bought his father's interest in the store in 1917, and has since then been carrying on the business alone. Mr. MONTGOMERY has an admirably equipped store and carries a full line of goods, his trade covering a wide territory in the upper part of Jay county and throughout the lower part of Adams county. He is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after office, his expanding commercial interests being sufficient to engross his attention.

On September 17, 1902, I. A. MONTGOMERY was united in marriage to Mary MILES, of Bryant, and to this union two children have been born, a son and a daughter, Ivan, who was graduated from the Bryant high school with the class of 1921, and Myra who is a member of the class of 1923. Mrs. MONTGOMERY was born at Laura, Ohio, but has been a resident of Jay county since her childhood, she having been but three years of age when she came to this county with her parents, Dr. J. T. and Susan (COATE) MILES, who located at Bryant, where she received her schooling and grew to womanhood. The MONTGOMERY's have a pleasant home at Bryant and have ever taken a proper interest in the general social activities of the community.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.139-140. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.