

NIXON, J E

J. E. NIXON, M. D., of Portland, one of the best known physicians in this part of Indiana, is a native son of Jay county, a representative in the fourth generation of NIXON's who have created their impress upon the life of this county, and has lived here all his life save for a period of several years during which he was practicing his profession at Ridgeville, over the line in the neighboring county of Randolph. Doctor NIXON was born at Portland on April 12, 1875, during the time his father, the late Joseph P. NIXON, was serving the public as treasurer of Jay county. The NIXON's are numbered among the real pioneer families of Jay county. Doctor NIXON's grandfather, John NIXON, having come here with his family from Columbiana county, Ohio, in 1836, the year of the formal organization of Jay county, and settled on a tract of land which he had entered from the Government in Jefferson township. There he established his home and spent the remainder of his life, one of the useful and influential pioneers of that section. John NIXON was a skilled cabinet maker and much of the household furniture that entered into the pioneer homes of that neighborhood was made by him, as well as the coffins in which his pioneer neighbors were laid to their last rest. He was joined here in 1837 by his father, William NIXON, who came over from Columbiana county (Ohio) and here spent his last days. William NIXON was born in Loudoun county, Virginia, and was a son of George NIXON, who was born in Ireland, of English stock, and who was but a child when he came to this country with his parents, George NIXON and wife, in the year 1758. Joseph P. NIXON was three years of age when he came with his parents to this county in 1836 and he grew to manhood on that pioneer farm in Jefferson township, becoming in turn a farmer on his own account and the owner of a fine place of 280 acres, on which he labored with success. For several terms he served as trustee of Jefferson township and in 1874 was elected treasurer of Jay county. During the period of this incumbency he made his home at Portland and upon the completion of his term of service returned to his farm, where he remained until 1905, when he moved to Portland, where his last days were spent, his death occurring there in 1920. The NIXON corn planter which he designed and brought to perfection was one of his valuable contributions to the cause of bettering farm conditions. Joseph P. NIXON married Emaline HITE, who also was a member of one of the real pioneer families of this county, daughter of William HITE, who had come here from Ohio and had established in Jefferson township one of the first flour mills in Jay county. Mrs. NIXON preceded her husband to the grave about four years, her death having occurred in 1916. To Joseph P. and Emaline (HITE) NIXON were born eight children, six of whom are still living, those besides Doctor NIXON being James G., Millard, Anna, Elmer and Ida. Reared on the home farm in Jefferson township. Doctor NIXON received his early schooling in the schools of that district and supplemented this by a course in the old Portland Normal School and in the normal school at Marion, Ind. He early became qualified to teach school and for five years was employed as a teacher in the schools of this county. Meanwhile he had been giving his thoughtful attention to preparatory studies in medicine and presently entered the Medical College of Indiana at

Indianapolis, from which institution he was graduated in 1904. Upon receiving his diploma Doctor NIXON opened an office for the practice of his profession at Ridgeville, Ind., and was there thus engaged for six years, at the end of which time, in 1910, he located at Portland, where he since has been engaged in practice. Doctor NIXON is a member of the Jay County Medical Society, in which organization he has been an office bearer, and is also affiliated with the Indiana State Medical Association and the American Medical Association. He is a Democrat, a York Rite Mason and an elder in the Presbyterian church.

In 1905, Dr. J. E. NIXON was united in marriage to Mabel HIESTED, daughter of Daniel G. and Martha (ABEL) HIESTED, and to this union have been born three children, Wallace H., Martha and Grace.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.58-59. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.