

PAXSON, ALBERT

Albert PAXSON, head of the firm of PAXSON & Son, proprietors of the sawmill at Pennville, and for years one of the active factors in the promotion of the best interests of that town and surrounding country, has been a resident of Jay county all his life. He was born on a farm in the Balbec neighborhood in Penn township on November 24, 1859, and is a son of Philip I. and Anna J. (PEACOCK) PAXSON, who were members of pioneer families in this part of the state. Philip I. PAXSON was a son of Joseph PAXSON and wife, who had come over here from Columbiana county, Ohio, in the early days of the settlement of this county and had become substantial residents of Penn township, the PAXSON's thus having been represented here from the days of the beginning of orderly social development here.

Philip I. PAXSON became a farmer and landowner in Penn township and here he and his wife spent their last days, as is set out elsewhere in this work. They were the parents of seven children) five of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having four brothers, John J., W. E., J. E. and O. P. PAXSON.

Reared on the home farm in Penn township, Albert PAXSON received his schooling in the Balbec school and early become engaged in farming, and also worked in the broom factory at Balbec for about five years. His first venture "on his own" was on a tract of ten acres which he bought and which he presently sold to advantage and then bought a tract of fifty-five acres, which he proceeded to cultivate. During the days of oil and gas development he also was quite extensively engaged in the oil fields. About the year 1900 Mr. PAXSON bought the sawmill at Balbec and operated that for about four years, at the end of which time he closed out his interest there and moved to Pennville, where he bought the sawmill and has since been engaged in business there, now having as a partner in the business his son, Harry E. PAXSON. The PAXSON's have an up-to-date plant. In addition to their general custom and market milling and lumbering, they also do a quite extensive business in the buying, selling and shipping of timber and their plant is quite interestingly reminiscent of the old days when "timber was king" hereabout. Mr. PAXSON is a Republican and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

In 1882 Albert PAXSON was united in marriage to Mabel BROWN, daughter of Isaac and Sarah J. (BRENNAN) BROWN, and to this union three children have been born, namely: Crystal, who married Lem DOWNING and has five children, Claude L., Chella Mabel, Frank Albert, Carl Elbride and Ralph B. DOWNING; Harry E., who married Virginia RUTH and is engaged with his father in the lumber milling business at Pennville, and Chella, wife of Jesse LANNING, who died on February 22, 1913. The PAXSON's have a pleasant home at Pennville and have ever taken an interested part in the general social activities of the community. Mr. PAXSON was one of the active members of the Home Union and also a member of the Pennville Improvement Association.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.286-287. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.