

PAXSON, JOSEPH ELWOOD

Joseph Elwood PAXSON, a well-known retired farmer and building contractor and landowner of Penn township, a resident of Pennville and for many years one of the leading factors in the development of that section of the county, is a native son of Jay county, a member of one of the real pioneer families of this county, and has lived here all his life. Mr. PAXSON was born on a farm in Penn township on September 14) 1847, and is a son of Philip I. and Anna J. (PEACOCK) PAXSON, the latter of whom was born in the neighboring county of Randolph, a member of one of the families included among the early settlers of that county.

Philip I. PAXSON was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, and was a son of Joseph PAXSON and wife, who were among the quite numerous emigrants from that county who came over here into Indiana in the '30s and settled in Jay county when the lands here were being taken up and developed, the PAXSON's settling on a tract of land which Joseph PAXSON had entered from the Government in Penn township. Philip I. PAXSON was but a lad when he came over here from Ohio with his parents and he grew up here. After his marriage he established his home on a farm in Penn township and became the owner of a well improved farm of eighty acres. He and his wife spent their last days in this county and were among the influential residents of the Pennville neighborhood. They were the parents of seven children, of whom five are now living, the subject of this sketch and his four brothers, Oliver P., John J., Albert and William Elmer PAXSON.

Reared on the home farm in Penn township, Joseph Elwood PAXSON received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and early began farming. He married at the age of twenty-three years and after his marriage continued farming for about three years, at the end of which time he began to devote his whole time to carpentering, at which from boyhood he had worked off and on, and it was not long until he had established a reputation as a building contractor which secured to him all the work he could do throughout that section, he thus becoming one of the best known builders in Jay county. He also owns a good farm of seventy-four acres in Penn township. Mr. PAXSON continued active in this vocation until his retirement in the spring of 1921. He continues to make his home in Pennville, where he has resided for many years and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Mr. PAXSON is a Republican and he and his wife are members of the United Brethren church.

It was on April 1, 1871, that Joseph E. PAXSON was united in marriage to Mary L. PARRETT, who was born in Wabash county, this state, daughter of Amos and Mary

(SHELLEY) PARRETT, the latter of whom was born in Montgomery county, Ohio. Amos PARRETT was born in Preble county, Ohio, and he and his wife were married in Wabash county, Indiana, to which county their respective parents had moved from Ohio. He grew up as a shoemaker, but later became engaged in mercantile business and after awhile moved into Huntington county, where his last days were spent. He and his wife had six children, those besides Mrs. PAXSON being Martha, Joseph, Lydia, Clemmie and John.

To Joseph E. and Mary L. (PARRETT) PAXSON have been born seven children, namely: Iva, who married Thomas J. HARRELL and has two children, Mary and Avis; Bert, who married Iva BUNKER and has three children, Thelma, Floyd and Merle; Clemmie, who is at home with her parents; Opal, who married Walter WILLIAMS and has two children, Vada and Helen; Leslie, who married Orpha WALDO and has three children, Mary BURDETT, Waldo and Carl; Esta, who is at home with her parents, and Phyllis, who married Forest HULLINGER and has two children, Joseph and Rosamond.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, p.322-323. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.