

PETERS, HARRY D

Harry D. PETERS, a well-known dairyman and farmer living just north of Portland in Wayne township, this county, is a native of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of Jay county since he was ten years of age. Mr. PETERS was born on a farm in Darke county, Ohio, January 13, 1872, and is a son of the Rev. Newton and Rachel (LIGHT) PETERS, both of whom were born in that same county and the latter of whom is still living. The Rev. Newton PETERS, who died at his home in this county on August 26, 1916) was reared on a farm and followed farming all his life, becoming a substantial landowner in this county as well as a successful dealer in real estate. He was for year's pastor of the Baptist church in the vicinity of Lightsville, over in Darke county and had a wide acquaintance throughout this section. It was in 1882 that he came to Jay county, he and J. K. RIFFLE in that year having bought a tract of 240 acres in Wayne township, this transaction being historically looked upon as the beginning of the notable real estate "boom" which was inaugurated in Jay county about that time, and during that "boom" he bought and sold a number of good farms in this county, making his home on the west "eighty" of the 240 acre tract in Wayne township, where he spent his last days. He and his wife were the parents of four children, all of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mrs. Gertrude MYERS, and two brothers, Jesse L. and George PETERS.

As will be noted by a comparison of dates above, Harry D. PETERS was ten years of age when he came to Jay county with his parents in 1882. He completed his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home in Wayne township and by attendance for two terms at the old Portland Normal School, which at that time was under the direction of Professor Reese, and remained at home, helpful in the labors of the farm, until his marriage at the age of twenty-two, when he established his home on the eighty acre farm on which he is now living, one mile north and one-half mile west of Portland. Upon taking- possession there Mr. PETERS began to make a specialty of his dairying operations and for four years operated his own milk wagon, finding a ready market in Portland, but since then has been selling his milk to a concern which looks after the delivery. Mr. PETERS has a herd of fifteen pure bred Holstein dairy cows and raises his own cattle, his herd being subject twice a year to the test for tuberculosis and his cows are thus on the credited list as being absolutely free from this scourge. In addition to his dairying Mr. PETERS carries on his farming- operations in accordance with modern methods and has an excellent farm plant, his buildings being new and up to date and everything on the place "shipshape." Mr. PETERS is a Democrat, is an active member of

Portland Grange No. 2190, Patrons of Husbandry, and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church at Portland.

It was on April 4, 1894, that Harry D. PETERS was united in marriage to Mary E. RUNKEL, who was born in Madison township, this county, daughter of Stephen and Catherine (HEIL) RUNKEL, and to this union two children have been born, Ollie Naomi, who is a member of the class of 1922, Portland high school, and Clarence Everett PETERS, member of the class of 1923. The PETERS family is very pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 2 out of Portland and its members take an interested part 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.308-309. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.