

PETERS, JESSE L

Jesse L. PETERS, manager of the Equity Exchange elevator at Portland, councilman-at-large for that city and for years one of the best known grain men in this part of the state, is a native of the Buckeye state, but has been a resident of Indiana since the days of his childhood. He was born in Darke county, Ohio, December 13, 1877, and is a son of Newton and Rachel (LIGHT) PETERS, both of whom were born in that same county, who came over into Indiana and located at Portland in the early '80s. The Rev. Newton PETERS was a farmer and a minister of the gospel. He and his wife had four children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Gertrude L., wife of George W. MYERS, of Portland, and two brothers, George M. PETERS and Harry D. PETERS, of Wayne township.

Jesse L. PETERS grew to manhood at Portland, completing his schooling in the old normal school there and in the Indiana State Normal School at Terre Haute, and was for some years engaged as a teacher, principal of the General Shanks school at Portland. In 1908 he purchased the elevator and general store at Collett and was there engaged in business for eight years, or until 1916, when, on the organization of the Portland Equity Exchange, he was made manager of the same. Not long afterward he resigned this position and became engaged in the mercantile business at Alexandria, Ind. and later at Burlington, Ind., continuing thus engaged until 1921, when he returned to Portland to resume the management of the Equity Exchange elevator and has since occupied that position. The Equity Exchange started in a small way but it was not long until it had so firmly established itself in the confidence of the farmers hereabout that it has grown to be the most extensive grain elevator in Jay county, its operations providing an outlet for a wide market. Mr. PETERS is a Democrat and for some time served as a member of the local board of health at Portland. In 1921 he was elected councilman-at-large and is now serving in this latter capacity.

In 1902 Jesse L. PETERS was united in marriage to Myrtle E. CROUCH, who was born in Mercer county, Ohio, but who had been a resident of Portland since the days of her girlhood and to this union have been born two children, Madonna and Ivy R.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.101. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.