

PHINNEY, ROBERT S

Robert S. PHINNEY, station agent for the Lake Erie & Western Railroad Company at Redkey and one of the best known young men in that city, is a Minnesotan by birth, but has been a resident of Indiana for ten or twelve years, nearly all of which time has been spent in the service of the railway company. Mr. PHINNEY was born in Rock county, Minnesota, September 8, 1888, and is a son of Fred P. and Mary E. (SIFERT) PHINNEY, who are now residing in Kansas.

Fred P. PHINNEY was born in Lodi, Wis. and moved to Minnesota with his parents when he was but a lad. He early became connected with railroad work and presently was appointed agent for the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company at one of that company's stations in South Dakota. He later served as agent for the Butte, Anaconda & Pacific at Anaconda, Mont., and still later for the New York Central lines, continuing in the railroad service until 1910, when he settled on a farm of 120 acres which he had bought in the vicinity of Ridgeville, in this state, where he remained for six years, or until 1916, when he disposed of his interests there and moved to a farm in the vicinity of Garden City, KS., where he is now living. To him and his wife seven children were born. Of these, four are living, the subject of this sketch, having three sisters, Grace, Ethel and Laura. The deceased were Fannie and Vera and a son who died in infancy.

When Robert S. PHINNEY was but a lad his father was stationed in the railway service at Bradley, Ill., and it was there his common schooling was completed. This he supplemented by a course in a business college and then took up railroad work, having become qualified both as a telegraph operator and as a clerk. His first assignment was as operator and agent at the New York Central's station at Bradley, Ill. He later served for some time as operator and clerk at Kankakee, Ill., and when his father moved to the farm in the Ridgeville neighborhood in 1910 he accompanied him and was for eighteen months engaged in helping out on the farm, continuing thus engaged until his acceptance in 1912 of a position with the Lake Erie & Western road. In 1915 he was appointed agent for that road at Redkey and has since occupied this position. Mr. PHINNEY is affiliated with the local lodges of the Free and Accepted Masons and the Knights of Pythias at Redkey.

On September 30, 1911, Robert S. PHINNEY was united in marriage to Opal E. ROSS, who was born in Pike township, this county, a daughter of Frank and Ella ROSS, and to this union four children have been born, Walter, Myron, Ella and Fred. Mr. and Mrs. PHINNEY have a pleasant home at Redkey and 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.118-119. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.