

REED, CHARLES F. L.

Charles F. L. REED, for many years a teacher in the high school at New Corydon and for the past ten years a merchant in that pleasant village, one of the best known men in the northern part of Jay county, was born at New Corydon and has lived there all his life. Mr. REED was born on December 13, 1870, and is the son and only child of Hezekiah and Harriet (THOMPSON) REED, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families here. Hezekiah REED, an honored veteran of the Civil war, now living retired at New Corydon, was born in Darke county, Ohio, and was but a child when he came over into Jay county with his parents, the family locating in Wabash township. At the age of seventeen he enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union in the struggle against the rebellion of the Southern states and went to the front. At the battle of Stone River he was captured by the enemy and for three months thereafter was kept a prisoner in Libby prison at Richmond. He then was exchanged and returned home, but shortly afterward re-enlisted and returned to the front. After serving his term of enlistment he again returned home, but it was not long until he again got in the army, this time going out as a substitute for one of the men drafted from Wabash township, and in this service continued till the end of the war. In all this service he came off without a wound. Upon the completion of his military service Hezekiah REED returned to his home in Wabash township and after his marriage established his home at New Corydon, where he became a building contractor and also carried on the local undertaking business, and was thus engaged until his retirement in 1908.

Reared at New Corydon, Charles F. L. REED received his early schooling in the schools of that village and then took a term of instruction in the Normal School at Ridgeville, after which, in the winter of 1889-90, he began teaching school, a vocation he has followed continuously since, meanwhile for six years after entering upon his teaching career attending the summer sessions of the old Portland Normal School. Mr. REED's first school was the Staphon school (district No. 1) in Wabash township, and his work has been carried on in that township and in the New Corydon schools with the exception of one term (1900-01) when he taught in Jackson township. In the meantime he had been given considerable attention to the study and practice of pharmacy during the vacation periods and in 1899 took a course in pharmacy in the university at Valparaiso, from which he was graduated. In the summers of 1904 and 1905 he also attended the Valparaiso university, taking an extension of normal work and since 1904, with the exception of the years 1911 and 1913, when he was engaged in the Wabash township grade schools, has been teaching in the high school at New Corydon. In 1912 Mr. REED opened a paint and wall paper store at New Corydon and has since been carrying on that business in addition to his work as a teacher. He is a Republican and he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church at New Corydon.

On May 13, 1900, Charles F. L. REED was united in marriage to Nora E. ASHCRAFT, a teacher in the schools of this county, and to this union two children have been born, sons both, Frederick L. H., born on June 6, 1902, who died on November 27, 1917, and Ernest D., born on January 16, 1908. Mrs. REED was born in Wabash township and is a daughter of Daniel and Viola (GIBSON) ASHCRAFT, well known residents of that township and members of pioneer families in Jay county. She completed her schooling in the old Portland Normal School and in the normal school at Ada, Ohio, and for five years prior to her marriage had been teaching in the schools of this county, one term in Jackson township and four terms in Wabash township.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.274-275. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.