

REX, JOSEPH

Joseph REX, proprietor of a garage at Redkey and one of the best known citizens of that town, was born in Hardin county, Ohio, on October 12, 1871, and is a son of William and Emmaline (LANTZ) REX, the former of whom was a veteran of the Civil war. William REX was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, and was but a lad when his parents moved with their family to Hardin county, Ohio, where he finished his schooling and early became engaged as a workman in a sawmill. He was thus employed when the Civil war broke out. He enlisted his services in behalf of the Union and went to the front as a member of the 45th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was presently advanced to the rank of sergeant. He was in all the engagements participated in by the 45th Ohio and at the battle of Resacca was wounded three times. Upon the completion of his military service, Mr. REX returned to Ohio and became engaged in mechanical pursuits at Lima where he established his home after his marriage. He and his wife were the parents of five children, one of whom died in infancy, the others besides the subject of this sketch being Henry U., Orpha and William.

Reared at Lima, Joseph REX received his schooling in the schools of that city and early became a trained mechanic. He married at the age of twenty-one and when the automobile industry entered upon the amazing development that has marked its progress during the past two decades he took up that branch of mechanics and became thoroughly qualified along that line. In 1902 he moved to Redkey and in 1903 bought a livery barn and about 1910 began the garage business, which he has since operated with much success, his garage being admirably equipped and one of the most popular service stations hereabout.

It was in 1892, at Lima, Ohio, that Joseph REX was united in marriage to Daisy PLACE, who was born in that city, and to this union two children have been born, sons both, Ralph R. and Fred S. the latter of whom is unmarried, and both of whom received their schooling at Redkey. Ralph R. REX, who is a veteran of the World war, married Lela BARTLETT, who was born in the neighboring county of Delaware, daughter of Arthur BARTLETT and wife, and has two sons [?], Ronald J. and Jane E. Ralph R. REX enlisted his services in behalf of the United States army shortly after America's declaration of war against the Central European powers in the spring of 1917, enlisting at Fort Wayne on July 30, 1917. He was sent to Ft. Thomas and two weeks later was transferred to Kelly Field, where he was attached to the Aviation Corps and where he remained in training for eight months, with special reference to electrical equipment. He then was transferred to the gun works at Utica, N. Y., where he was made special instructor in electrical equipment, an assignment which kept him occupied until he was sent to Ellington Field on aerial combat work. At this latter field he remained for three months, at the end of which time he was transferred to the flying field at Dayton and assigned to the task of compiling field textbooks on aviation. Mr. REX enlisted as a private and was advanced in the ranks to the grade of second lieutenant, his commission being awarded as a mark of merit in service. He was discharged on January 20, 1919.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.220-221. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.