

## **ROWE, BENJAMIN R.**

Benjamin R. ROWE, the leading harness manufacturer of Portland, was born in the village of Etna, Licking County, Ohio, the date of his birth being October 19, 1856. He was about eight years old when his father, R.T. ROWE, came to Jay County with his family and settled in Noble Township, where he still owns a fine farm. For many years the father followed mercantile pursuits, but later has been engaged as traveling salesman.

Benjamin R. spent his youth in alternately working on his father's farm and clerking in the store, being thus engaged until he began learning his trade. He came to Portland in the spring of 1873, in May of that year becoming apprenticed to John BRADLEY to learn the trade of harness-making. He remained with Mr. BRADLEY three years, and at the expiration of his apprenticeship, wishing to learn more thoroughly the details of his trade, he went to Columbus, Ohio, and worked under instruction for eighteen months. He worked at his trade at Portland, Greenville, Ohio, and Unionville, Indiana, until March, 1881, when he established his present business in Miller's Block, Meridian street. He is master of his trade, understanding thoroughly all its details, and has met with excellent success in business. In addition to a large and complete stock of harness, he also deals in boots and shoes, his store-room, which is 22 X 70 feet in size, being well filled with his stock of goods. Quiet, industrious in his habits and strictly honorable in his dealings, he has gained the confidence and esteem of all who know him, and is classed among the respected citizens of Portland.

**Biographical and Historical Record of Jay County, Indiana, Lewis Publishing Co, Chicago, 1887, p. 696-697.**