

SCHENK, WILLIAM F.

William F. SCHENK, M.D., one of Jay county's well known physicians, who has been engaged in the practice of his profession at New Corydon for nearly a quarter of a century, is a native son of Jay county and has resided here the greater part of his life. Doctor SCHENK was born on a farm in Noble township on January 26, 1866, and is a son of Gottlieb F. and Christina (RUCKWEID) SCHENK, both of whom were of European birth, natives of the kingdom of Wurtenburg, and the latter of whom was fourteen years of age when she came to this country with her parents, the family locating at Cincinnati. Gottlieb F. SCHENK was twenty years of age when he came to America and after sojourning awhile in New Jersey he went to Cincinnati, where presently he married Christina RUCKWEID. For some time after his marriage he continued to make his home at Cincinnati and then went across the river to take charge of the farm of the attorney general of the state of Kentucky, in the vicinity of Covington. There he made his home until in the early '60s, when he came up into Indiana and bought a farm of eighty acres in Noble township, this county. On this place he made his home until about 1878, when he disposed of that farm and bought a quarter section in Madison township and moved to the same, making a good farm of it. Gottlieb F. SCHENK lived to a good old age, his death occurring in 1912. His wife had long preceded him to the grave. They were the parents of eight children, all of whom are living save three, Mrs. Caroline PFIEFER, Mrs. Mary HUTCHENS and John SCHENK, the others besides Doctor SCHENK being Christian, Charles, George and William SCHENK.

Reared on the home farm, he having been about twelve years of age when his parents moved from Noble to Madison township. Doctor SCHENK completed his elementary schooling in the schools of Madison township and early turned his attention to the study of medicine. He went to the Pacific coast and in the medical college at Portland, Ore., spent a year, at the end of which time he returned to Indiana and entered the Eclectic School of Medicine at Indianapolis, where he was in attendance for two years. He then went South and entered the College of Eclectic Medicine and Surgery at Atlanta, Ga. and in due time was graduated from that institution. Upon receiving his diploma Doctor SCHENK located at Chattanooga, Ohio, where he opened an office for the practice of his profession and where he remained a year, at the end of which time he returned to Indiana and opened an office at Berne. A year later he came back to Jay county and established himself in practice at New Corydon, where he ever since has been located. It was in 1898 that Doctor SCHENK located at New Corydon. Three years later he married and established his home there and he and his family are very pleasantly situated. The Doctor is a Democrat and is a member of the Masonic lodge at Geneva and of the local lodge of the Woodmen at New Corydon.

It was on June 2, 1901, that Dr. William F. SCHENK was united in marriage to Preska DAVIDSON, a school teacher of this county, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Vera, born on October 22, 1903, who is a member of the class of 1922, Portland high school. Mrs. SCHENK was born in Wabash township, this county, and is a daughter of William and Elizabeth (ASHCRAFT) DAVIDSON, the former of whom was formerly and for years engaged in the mercantile business at Ample and was also postmaster there. Mrs. SCHENK's schooling was completed in the old Normal School at Portland and for six years prior to her marriage she was a teacher in the schools of this county. She is a member of the Jay City United Brethren church.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.278-279. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.