

SHIMP, THOMAS W.

T. W. SHIMP, president of the Jay County Savings and Trust Company and one of the leading realty and insurance dealers in Portland, is a native son of Jay county and has long been recognized as one of the dominant factors in the commercial life of this community. Mr. SHIMP was born on a farm in Wabash township on January 12, 1867, a son of Jesse and Emily (HIESTAND) SHIMP, both of whom were born in Ohio, where they were reared and where they were married. In 1861, not long after their marriage, Jesse SHIMP and his wife came over into Indiana and located on a farm in Wabash township, this county. Sometime later they moved to a farm in Bearcreek township and on this latter place spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of ten children, two of whom, Alonzo SHIMP and Mrs. Margaret BONE, are now deceased, the remaining being George, Mrs. Laura KIMBLE, Mrs. Clara FLAUDING, and T. W. SHIMP, of this county; Grace, of Indianapolis; Mrs. Belle GILPIN, of California; Charles E. of Washington, Pa. and Valentine, of Van Wert, Ohio.

Reared on the home farm in Bearcreek township, T. W. SHIMP received his elementary schooling in the local district school and then attended the old normal school at Portland for three terms. He then began teaching in the schools of this county, his first school being school No. 5 in Bearcreek township, which he conducted for several terms, going then to the Salamonia school, which he taught for three years, meanwhile taking the scientific course in the Normal College at Lebanon, Ohio, and was graduated from that institution in 1891. Upon securing his diploma Mr. SHIMP was made principal of the public schools at Sciotaville, Ohio, and a year later was made superintendent of the schools at Ft. Recovery, Ohio, a position he occupied for six years, at the end of which time he transferred his services to the schools of Upper Sandusky, Ohio, where he acted as superintendent of schools and as county school examiner for five years, going thence to Delphos, Ohio, where he was in charge of the schools for six years. Wearying then of school service, Mr. SHIMP returned to Portland and in 1911 assisted in the organization of the Jay County Savings and Trust Company and was made cashier of the same, a position he occupied for about six years, at the end of which time he was elected president of the institution and has since served in that capacity, at the same time being actively engaged in the real estate and insurance business. During the time of America's participation in the World war Mr. SHIMP was an active and influential factor in the promotion of all local defense measures and in 1919 was made president of the County Council of Defense. He is a Democrat and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. SHIMP has been an elder in the Presbyterian church for the past twenty years and is now clerk of the session of the local church, and for five years was superintendent of the Sunday school. He has long been a member of the public library board and has served as president of that body.

On December 26, 1893, T. W. SHIMP was united in marriage to Ella E. SHEWARD, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (CLAIR) SHEWARD, and to this union three children have been born, namely: Paul Brown SHIMP, now living at Wilmington, Del., who volunteered for service upon the entrance of this country into the World war, was attached to the Fifth Engineer Corps and was mustered out as a sergeant of the first class after a period of service of about two years, ten months of which was spent overseas; Eva, who is a teacher of music in the Portland public schools, and Helen, who is a student in the high school.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.50-51. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.