

Melvin E. BADER, a well-known grocer at Redkey and one of the leading business men of that city, was born in Redkey and has lived there most of his life. Mr. BADER was born on September 1, 1873, and is a son of Thomas and Mary L. (BOOTS) BADER, the former of whom, a native of Germany, was for years engaged in the grocery business at Redkey, at which place he had located not long after the town was laid out following the coming of the railroad through that section of the County. Thomas BADER and his wife were the parents of four children, all of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, James W. and Thomas E. BADER, and a sister, Harriet. Reared at Redkey, Melvin E. BADER received his schooling in the excellent schools of that city and as a lad began working in the glass jar factory which was established there following the opening of the natural gas field in that locality. For three years he continued in that employment and then took up work at the Redkey window glass factory, where he remained for two years, at the end of which time he entered the grocery store of Jacob Smith. After a year of employment there he returned to the window glass factory, where he remained for a year. In the meantime he had married a Delaware County girl and he then moved over into Delaware County and established his home on a rented farm, where he remained for four years, at the end of which time he bought a grocery store at Trenton, up in Blackford County, and moved to that place. For four years Mr. BADER continued in the grocery business at Trenton and then he disposed of his interests there and moved to a farm over in Darke County, Ohio, but after ten months of further farming experience he decided that the grocery business was more in his line and he came back to Redkey and established the grocery which he ever since has been conducting and in which he has been quite successful. It was on Christmas Day in 1900 that Melvin E. BADER was united in marriage to Carrie St CLAIR, who was born in Delaware County, this state, daughter of James W. and Anna (MORQUELL) St CLAIR, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Elsie M., who is still in school. Mr. and Mrs. BADER have a pleasant home at Redkey and take a proper part in the community's general social activities. They are Republicans.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls.1922, Vol. II, pp.156-157. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut