

## CARTWRIGHT, CALDWELL C

CALDWELL C. CARTWRIGHT, retired merchant, landowner and financier and for many years one of the most prominent figures in the commercial and industrial life of Portland and of Jay county, is a native Hoosier, a fact of which he never has ceased to be proud, and has been a resident of this state all his life, a resident of Jay county since the days of his childhood. He was born at Winchester, in the neighboring county of Randolph, a son of James and Jane MILLIGAN CARTWRIGHT, the latter of whom was born in Pennsylvania but had come to Indiana with her parents in the days of her childhood, the MILLIGAN's settling in Randolph county. James CARTWRIGHT was born in Randolph county, his parents having been among the pioneers of that county, and there he was reared. He early became engaged in the milling business and in 1852 came to Jay county with his family and erected a sawmill at New Mt. Pleasant, having secured the contract to saw the lumber for a plank road that was to be built from Richmond to Ft. Wayne. For some reason work on this road was suspended after it had been pushed north about twenty miles from Pennville, but in the meantime Mr. CARTWRIGHT had got his mill going and the local demand upon its product was sufficient to make it a profitable enterprise, and it was kept in operation for ten years or more. James CARTWRIGHT also had a general store at New Mt. Pleasant and was there engaged in business when death interrupted his further activities in 1864. His widow was left with six children, one but an infant, Emma, who died in July of that same year, at the age of eight months. Mrs. CARTWRIGHT died in the year following and within another year the only daughter, Mary Ellen, died, leaving four other children, of whom but two now survive, Caldwell C. CARTWRIGHT and his brother, Charles E. CARTWRIGHT, of Spokane, Wash. Another brother, William C. CARTWRIGHT, of Indianapolis, died on October 17, 1921. Caldwell C. CARTWRIGHT, then sixteen years of age, was the eldest of this sadly bereft group of youngsters, the others being thirteen, eight and three years old, respectively, and the burden of the care of the younger children fell upon his shoulders. He had been in attendance at Liber College, but he did not finish the course, instead securing a school and teaching the following winter. He secured a home with the family of Benjamin BRADLEY and then for a year assumed the operation of a sawmill, after which he became engaged in the general mercantile business at New Mt. Pleasant in association with Charles P. STARR, a partnership which continued there for about seven years, at the end of which time the partners moved their stock to Portland and set up in business at

the corner of Meridian and Walnut streets. Eighteen months later Mr. STARR sold his interest in the store to Charles F. HEADINGTON and thus began the long partnership which has since been maintained between Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. HEADINGTON, who continued to operate the store until they sold it in 1919, having thus been engaged together in mercantile business for a period of forty-five years. The partnership was not broken, however, for they still hold in common farm lands aggregating 725 acres in Jay county besides certain other financial interests in common. Mr. CARTWRIGHT is vice. president of the Haynes Automobile Company, of Kokomo, of which he is the heaviest individual stockholder, and also is interested in numerous concerns in and about Portland, including the Portland Forge and Foundry Company, the Portland Drain Tile Company, the reorganized Haynes Milling Company, the Portland Body Works, the Knocker Shirt Company, the Sheller Wood Rim Manufacturing Company, the grain elevator of Russell & Co., and is vice president of the Midwest Stone Quarries Company and of the Lehigh Clay Products Company. On July 8, 1868, Caldwell C. CARTWRIGHT was united in marriage, in this county, to Sophronia REED, who was born in Jay county, daughter of Harvey and Mary J. ( CARLEY ) REED, both of whom were born in Gallipolis, Ohio. Harvey REED was a well-known farmer in the New Mt. Pleasant neighborhood and he and his wife were the parents of six children, of whom Mrs. CARTWRIGHT is the only one now living. To Caldwell C. and Sophronia ( REED ) CARTWRIGHT were born three children, Elwood N., who died at the age of eighteen years; Grace, who died at the age of four years, and Earl R. CARTWRIGHT, born on January 9, 1879, who is a professional musician, now living at Portland, and of whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Mr. CARTWRIGHT is a Republican and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, to the affairs of which they have for many years given their interested attention. SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.48-49. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut