

## **DENNEY, Jacob F**

Jacob F. DENNEY, former judge of the Jay Circuit Court, former mayor of the city of Portland and for nearly thirty years a member of the bar in this county, practicing law at Portland, is a native son of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of Portland since the days of his young manhood. Judge DENNEY was born on a farm in Mercer county, Ohio, June 6, 1874, and is a son of Azariah and Lydia REIGEL DENNEY, the latter of whom was born in Pennsylvania. Azariah DENNEY was born in Ohio and was seven years of age when his parents settled in Mercer county, that state. There he grew to manhood and was married, after which he established his home on a farm and there spent the remainder of his life, a substantial citizen and landowner of that county. Judge DENNEY completed his public schooling in the high school at Ft. Recovery and while going to school became attracted to the study of law. Upon leaving school he entered the law office of LaFollette & Adair at Portland and under this preceptorship continued his study of law and in February, 1894, was admitted to the bar of the Jay Circuit Court and straightway opened an office in Portland for the practice of the profession to which he had devoted his talents. The Judge is a Democrat and from the days of his youth has taken an earnest interest in civic affairs, having thus for years been recognized as one of the leaders of his party not only in Jay county but throughout the Eighth district. Not long after his admission to the bar he was elected city attorney and has served several terms at one time and another in that capacity, and also has served one term as mayor of the city of Portland. In 1914 he was appointed judge of this judicial circuit and served a term in that important capacity. In 1916 Judge DENNEY was the Democratic nominee for Congress from this congressional district, but "the fortunes of war" were against his election. Upon retiring from the bench the Judge resumed his practice and has since been thus engaged. He is a member of the local lodges of the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Loyal Order of Moose. Judge DENNEY carried Olive BRYAN, daughter of George W. and Louise BRYAN, and to this union one child was born, a daughter, Florence, who died at the age of fifteen years. The Judge and Mrs. DENNEY have a pleasant home at Portland and have ever taken an interested part in the city's general social activities. SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.285-286. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut