

KEENE, R E

R. E. KEENE, manager of the plant of the Jay County Lumber Company and one of the best known lumber men in this county, has been a resident of Portland since 1911, in which year he was made manager of the lumber company's plant with which he ever since has been connected. Mr. KEENE was born at Spencer, in Owen county, this state, April 17, 1878, son of Henry C. and Cynthia A. (LUKENBILL) KEENE, both of whom were born in that same county, members of pioneer families there. Henry C. KEENE was a well-to do farmer and he and his wife were the parents of six children, all of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, Emmet S. and Elbert, and three sisters, Sophronia, Millie and Jessie.

Robert E. KEENE received his schooling in the schools at Spencer and as a young man went to Elwood, Ind. where he became engaged in the lumber yard of the Winters Lumber Company. He worked there about a year, acquiring a good deal of valuable fundamental knowledge of the lumber business, and then went to Windfall, where for four years he was connected with the plant of the Windfall Lumber Company. Thus broadened by further experience in the lumber business Mr. KEENE accepted a proposition to return to Elwood and take the management of the yards of the Winters Lumber Company. For twelve years Mr. KEENE remained at Elwood thus engaged and then, in 1911, accepted the position of manager of the yards and mill of the Jay County Lumber Company at Portland and has since resided at Portland looking after the company's affairs there. This company handles all sorts of building material and also does a lumber milling business.

On November 22, 1910, Robert E. KEENE was united in marriage to Margaret P. McCURDY, daughter of Ninion and Letitia McCURDY, and to this union two children have been born, James W. and Margaret. Mr. KEENE is a Republican. He is a member of the Portland Country Club and is a member of the Masonic lodge at Windfall and of the Elks lodge at Elwood.

**SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.67-68. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.**