

LOCKER, BERT

Bert LOCKER, a well-known blacksmith and welder at Portland, where he has been in business for years, is a native son of Jay county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a farm in Madison township on September 9, 1878, and is a son of Jacob D. and Leara (FREEMYER) LOCKER, both of whom were born in that same township, members of pioneer families, and who are still living there. Jacob D. LOCKER is the proprietor of a well-kept farm of forty acres and is one of the well-known men in his community. To him and his wife have been born eleven children, all of whom are living save two, Oliver and Ethel, the others besides the subject of this sketch being Jesse, Andrew, Vernie, Leo, Blanche, Minnie, Elsa and Vera.

Reared on the home farm, Bert LOCKER received his schooling in the old Center school in Madison township and in the schools of Portland and as a young man left the farm and began working in the Bimel factory at Portland, continuing there for about six months, at the end of which time he began to learn the blacksmith trade under Lewis COOK and perfected himself in the details of that craft. After about eight years of service for others in this line Mr. LOCKER decided to begin operations on his own behalf and bought the Doctor CULBERT blacksmith shop on East Main street and started in business for himself. He remained at that location for about seven years and then bought the shop he has since been operating at 121 East North street, where he has one of the best equipped blacksmith and welding shops in this part of the state. His machinery is electrically equipped and he has his own generator for the acetylene welding done in his place. Mr. LOCKER is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs. On November 17, 1900,

Bert LOCKER was united in marriage to Anna GOWDY, who was born in Iowa, daughter of Aldon and Eliza (KREAMER) GOWDY, and to this union two children have been born, Gladys, born on December 25, 1901, and John, June 14, 1904.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.101-102. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.