

OHMART, J. ERNEST

J. Ernest OHMART, junior member of the firm of Holmes & OHMART, abstracts, real estate and loans, at Portland, and former cashier of the Farmers State Bank of that city, is a native Hoosier and has lived in this state all his life. Mr. OHMART was born on a farm in the vicinity of North Manchester, in Wabash county, August 12, 1881, and is a son of Loren and Alice (SHOWALTER) OHMART, the latter of whom died on December 13, 1911.

Loren OHMART was born in Wabash county, a son of Levi OHMART and wife, pioneers of that county, and grew up as a farmer, a vocation he followed until his retirement and removal to North Manchester, where he is now living. He and his wife had five children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Roland, Inez, Rosa and Ralph.

Reared on the farm, J. Ernest OHMART completed his schooling in the high school at Laketon, Ind. and for about five years thereafter continued working on the farm. He then was appointed postmaster of Laketown, a village just southwest of North Manchester, and occupied that position for nine years and seven months, at the end of which period of service he became connected with the bank at Laotto, a village up on the line between Noble and Lagrange counties, serving as cashier of that institution for about eight months, at the end of which time he accepted the position of cashier of the Farmers State Bank at Portland and moved to the latter city. For about five years Mr. OHMART remained with this bank, acquiring there an experience with and knowledge of conditions hereabout, particularly with respect to farm loans and real estate values, that prompted him to go into business on his own account, and in June, 1920, he opened an office at Portland for a general real estate, loans and abstract business. In the following August he effected a partnership with John W. HOLMES, the veteran real estate man and abstractor, of Portland, and this partnership continues, a quite mutually agreeable arrangement.

In 1902 J. Ernest OHMART was united in marriage to Emma E. GOEHIER, who also was born in Wabash county, a daughter of Philip and Elizabeth GOEHIER, and to this union three children have been born, Geraldine, wife of Dr. William P. SMITH, of Portland; GOEHIER and Zoe. Mrs. OHMART's father, Philip GOEHIER, is a retired farmer living in North Manchester.

Mr. and Mrs. OHMART are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are Republicans. Mr. OHMART is a member of the Portland Chamber of Commerce and of the Rotary Club and is also affiliated with the local lodges of the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Modern Woodmen.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.258-259. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.