

Frank Antles, a well-known farmer and landowner of Bearcreek Township, now living retired at his pleasant farm home on rural mail route No. 11 out of Portland, was born in that same township, a member of one of the pioneer families of Jay County, and has resided there all his life. Mr. Antles was born on December 9, 1853, and is a son of David A. and Rebecca Ann (Stanley) Antles, the latter of whom was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, and was a daughter of Thomas C. Stanley, who came to Indiana with his family in pioneer days and settled in Bearcreek Township, this county. David A. Antles was born in Wayne County, Ohio, in 1830, and was a son of Joseph and Mary (Hough) Antles, the latter of whom was born in Union County, Pennsylvania, a daughter of David and Elizabeth (Byron) Hough. Joseph Antles was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, in 1810, and was a son of David and Elizabeth (McCullough) Antles, who became residents of Wayne County, Ohio, about 1818.

In this latter county Joseph Antles grew to manhood and in the fall of 1829 married Mary Hough. He remained in Wayne County until in June, 1841, when he came with his family to Indiana, driving over with two yoke of oxen, and bought an "eighty" in section 23 of Bearcreek Township, this county, where he put up a log cabin and established his home. On that pioneer farm Joseph Antles spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in the spring of 1852. His widow survived for about twelve years. They had ten children, David, Elizabeth, Nancy, Sarah Jane and Isaac, who were born in Ohio, and Fidelia, Dennis, Joseph and Hymelious and Cornelius (twins), born in this county. David A. Antles, father of the subject of this sketch, was eleven years of age when he came with his parents to Jay County and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Bearcreek Township. On April 7, 1850, he then being under twenty years of age, he was united in marriage to Rebecca Ann Stanley, who also had come over here from Ohio with her parents in the days of her girlhood. After his marriage Mr. Antles located on a farm in section 22 of Bearcreek Township and not long afterward bought an "eighty" in that same section. Ten years later he moved to a farm in section 27 and in 1871 bought the place now owned and occupied by his son Frank in that township. On this latter place he spent the remainder of his life and developed there an excellent piece of property. David A. Antles was a Republican and for some years served as justice of the peace in and for Bearcreek Township. He and his wife were members of the Baptist Church and their children were reared in that faith.

There were ten of these children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, Alfred A. and Frederick M. Antles. Reared on the home farm in Bearcreek Township, Frank Antles received his schooling in the Old Center School and in the Higgins School. He was about seventeen years of age when the family moved to the farm he now owns in Bearcreek Township and he helped develop the same into a well-equipped home farm. He married when twenty-seven years of age and then established his home on a tract of sixty acres off the south end of the farm, which he bought from his father and twenty-five acres of which he had cleared.

After his father's death, Mr. Antles bought from the other heirs the remaining 100 acres of the home farm and has since owned 160 acres, which he has developed in admirable fashion. For some years past he has been living practically retired from the active labors of the farm, operations there now being carried on by his son-in-law, Ned E. Beals. There are eleven oil wells on the Antles farm, the leases for the same being carried by the Emerald Oil Company of Bryant, and Mr. Antles has for years been deriving considerable revenue from this source. Mr. Antles is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office. On April 24, 1881, Frank Antles was united in marriage to Elizabeth Bishop, who also was born in Bearcreek Township, and to this union two children have been born, daughters both, Lona O. and Edna, the latter of whom married James A. Fifer, now supervisor of production control in the big plant of the Goodyear Rubber Company at Akron, Ohio, and has three children, Madeline, Marceil and James C. L. Fifer. Lona O. Antles married Ned E. Beals, who is now operating the Antles farm, and has one child, a son, Ivan.

Mrs. Antles is a daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Prilliman) Bishop, who in their generation were among the best known residents of Bearcreek Township. Peter Bishop was an European by birth, born in the city of Dresden, the ancient capital of the kingdom of Saxony, and was nineteen years of age when he came to this country and not long afterward became a resident of this county and in time the owner of a farm of 160 acres in Bearcreek township, where he spent his last days. His wife, Elizabeth Prilliman, was born in Miami County, Ohio. They were the parents of eight children, four of whom are living, Mrs. Antles having two sisters, Lydia and Susanna, and a brother, Wilson M. Bishop.