

William M. Ashley, one of Jay County's well known and substantial farmers and landowners and proprietor of an excellent farm in Pike Township, on rural mail route No. 8 out of Portland, where he makes his home, is a native son of Jay County and has lived here all his life. Mr. Ashley was born on a pioneer farm in Pike Township on January 1, 1855, and is a son of Warren and Anna C. (Bickel) Ashley, the latter of whom was a daughter of George W. and Nancy (Glassford) Bickel, Pennsylvanians, who came to Jay County from Ohio and were among the earliest settlers in Pike Township. Warren Ashley was born in North Carolina, son of a Revolutionary soldier, and in that state spent his youth. As a young man he came west and located in Jay County, where he presently married Anna C. Bickel and established his home on a farm in Pike Township and became one of the useful factors in the agricultural development of that neighborhood. On that farm he spent the remainder of his life. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, six of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having one sister, Nancy, and four brothers, Luther, Dennis, Charles and Andrew J. Ashley.

Reared on the home farm in Pike township, William M. Ashley received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and when he began farming on his own account rented a farm in that township. He worked that place for about twenty years and then bought the farm of eighty acres on which he is now living in that township and has since resided there. Since taking possession of this place Mr. Ashley has erected a new set of buildings and now has a well-equipped farm plant. He is a Republican and he and his wife are members of the Antioch Methodist Episcopal church.

In February, 1896, William M. Ashley was united in marriage to Laura Bragg and to this union two daughters have been born, Etta and Nettie, both of whom are married and have children of their own. Etta Ashley married Howard Williams and has two children. Roger and Laura, and Nettie Ashley married Leo Farrell and have two children, Ray and May.