

Elijah C. BAILEY, a former member of the township advisory board for Noble township and one of the best known and most substantial farmers and land owners of that part of the county, is a native son of Jay county, a member of one of the pioneer families here, and has lived in this county the greater part of his life) the exception being some years spent in farming in the state of Illinois. Mr. BAILEY was born on a farm in Madison Township, this county, December 30, 1869, and is a son of John and Eliza (SMITH) BAILEY, both of whom were reared in Jay County, members of pioneer families here, and who were married and spent their last days here. John BAILEY was a landowner in Madison Township, the owner of a farm of seventy-two acres; he and his wife were the parents of twelve children, of whom ten are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Elizabeth, Daniel, Dean, Marion J., Calvin, Emmanuel, Otis, Stephen and Viola. Reared on the borne farm in Madison township, Elijah C. BAILEY received his schooling in the Eley school and remained at home until he had attained his majority when he went to Illinois and began working there as a farm hand, and was thus engaged until his marriage eight years later. After his marriage he rented a farm and established his home in Illinois, where he remained for ten years, at the end of which time he returned to Jay county and established his home on an eighty acre farm he had bought two years before in Noble township and has since resided there, in the meantime having increased his holdings to 131 acres. Mr. BAILEY has made numerous substantial improvements on this place and has a well-equipped farm plant. He is also farming additional land, which he rents, and is doing well in his operations. Mr, BAILEY is a Democrat and has served two terms as a member of the advisory board for Noble Township. He is a member of the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America at Boonville, Ill. On December 22, 1897, Elijah C. BAILEY was united in marriage to Stella STAILEY, of this county, and to this union has been born seven children, Wilda, Agnes, Ora, Treva, Clyde, Ray and Eugene. The BAILEY's have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 3 out of Portland and take a proper interest in the community's general social activities. SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls.1922, Vol. II, pp.314-315. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut