

BICKEL, GEORGE W

George W. BICKEL, one of Madison township's well known and substantial farmers and land owners proprietor of an excellent farm on rural mail route No. 3 out of Ft. Recovery, Ohio, is a native son of Jay county, a member of one of the real pioneer families of this county, and has lived here all his life. Mr. BICKEL was born on a farm in Pike township on August 29, 1858, and is a son of Andrew Jackson and Elizabeth (THARP) BICKEL, the latter of whom was born in Perry county, Ohio, a daughter of Asa and Margaret (IMEL) THARP, and who came to Jay county with her widowed mother in 1855.

Andrew Jackson BICKEL was born in what later came to be organized as Pike township, this county, November 8, 1833, and was a son of George and Nancy (GLASSFORD) BICKEL, who were married in Preble county, Ohio, and who in the spring of 1833, with the two children born to them in their Ohio home, came over here into Indiana and settled in the woods in what in time came to be Pike township, Jay county, but which then was a part of Randolph county. On that pioneer farm George BICKEL established his home and reared his family. Eight children were born to him and his wife after they came to Indiana, thus giving them a family of ten children and as most of these married and had families of their own the BICKEL connection of this line in the present generation is a considerable one. The mother of these children died in 1858. George BICKEL survived until 1877. He created a good farm there in the woods and was regarded as one of the influential factors in the development of that community. Andrew Jackson BICKEL grew to manhood on that farm and when twenty-four years of age, in November, 1857, married Elizabeth THARP. For a time after that event he continued to make his home on the old home place and then bought a tract of land adjoining, where he lived until 1881, when he moved to a farm in section 25 of Wayne township, lived there a few years and then returned to Pike township and on this latter place spent the remainder of his life, one of the leading men of that community. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, all of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having four sisters, Margaret, Rebecca, Christina and Alice, and two brothers, William J. and Simeon BICKEL. Reared on the farm, George W. BICKEL received his schooling in the old Green Hill school (district No. 1) in Pike township and from the days of his boyhood was well trained in the ways of farming. For three or four years before his marriage he looked after the affairs of his Grandmother THARP's farm and then began farming- for himself as a renter in Pike township. After his marriage he rented a farm in Noble township, but in the

following year moved to the place on which he is now living in Madison township, his father-in-law having provided a place of ninety-two acres there for him and his wife, and he ever since has resided there, he and his family having a very pleasant and comfortable home. Since taking possession of that place Mr. BICKEL has added to his land holdings until now he is the owner of 252 acres, to the operation of which he continues to give his personal attention, although for some years his sons have been in active charge of the place, the father very properly being content to relax a bit from the strenuous labors which have marked his life from the days of his boyhood. Mr. BICKEL is a Democrat, as was his father, and he and his wife are members of the Church of the Disciples at Salamonia/ He is an active member of the Madison Township Farmers Federation and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that progressive and enterprising body. It was on August 6, 1882, that George W. BICKEL was united in marriage to Diana A. SHEFFER, of this county, and to this union nine children have been born, all of whom are living saving Flossie, who died at the age of seventeen months, the others being Blanche, Earl, Harry, Clarence, Artreese, Cecil, Arlie and Lester, the two latter of whom and Artreese are unmarried and still living at home. Blanche BICKEL married Garfield BEARD, a farmer of Wayne township, and has two children, Walter and Merrill BEARD. Earl BICKEL, who is farming in Randolph county, married Pearl WHITACRE and has one child, Sterling. Harry BICKEL, who is farming in Noble township, married Elmira ARMSTRONG and has one child, Erma. Clarence BICKEL, who is farming in Noble township, married Dora KOBER and has one child, Mabel. Cecil BICKEL, who is farming in Madison township, married Edith ROCKWELL. Mrs. Diana A. BICKEL was born in Preble county, Ohio, but has been a resident of Jay county since the days of her childhood, when her parents, Ira and Diana (HAPNER) SHEFFER, moved over here and located on a farm in Madison township. Ira SHEFFER, who became quite an extensive landowner in this county, was a native of Virginia, having been born in that section of the Old Dominion which split off and became West Virginia during the time of the Civil war, and his wife was born in Preble county, Ohio, a member of one of the pioneer families there. They were the parents of seven children, four of whom are still living, Mrs. BICKEL having a sister, Lucinda, and two brothers, Henry and James SHEFFER. SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.253-254. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.