

Samuel BLAZER, one of the old and honored pioneers of Greene Township, has been identified with the interests of Jay County since 1838. He was born in Gallia County, Ohio, August 2, 1813, a son of Philip and Elizabeth BLAZER, who were natives of Pennsylvania, and of Dutch descent. They were married in their native State, and of the nine children born to them only two are living -- Samuel B., who was the fourth son and sixth child, and Henry, who lives on the old homestead of his parents. Of the remaining children, George came to Jay County a year or so before our subject, and settled in Pike Township, where he lived until his death, which occurred the first year of the late war; John, another son, settled in Madison County, Indiana, and died a few years since; one daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth GILMORE, died a few years ago in Madison County, Indiana; Jacob, Adam, Philip and Margaret are the names of the other children who are deceased. Jacob, the eldest child, was never married, and died at the age of seventy-five years. The other children were married and had families. The parents after their marriage settled on wild land in Ohio, where they made a home, and lived in that State until their death. Samuel BLAZER, the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood on the home farm in Ohio, remaining with his parents until attaining the age of twenty-one years. On coming to Jay County in the fall of 1838 he commenced chopping and clearing his land, a tract of 160 acres that he had entered from the Government prior to his coming, and by persevering industry he soon had enough cleared to make a home. He was married April 9, 1840, to Miss Prudence COLLINS, who was born in Warren County, Ohio, August 4, 1820, where she lived until coming to Jay County, Indiana, with her parents, John and Elizabeth COLLINS, about the year 1836. Both of her parents died of fever soon after coming to the county. Mr. and Mrs. BLAZER have had born to them twelve children -- Elizabeth, widow of John KERNS, is living in Jefferson Township; Mary died aged five years; Henry died aged three years; the next two children died in infancy; Nancy married John SPAHR, of Greene Township; Mrs. Catharine WESTON lives in Jefferson Township; Elvira and Elvina (twins), the former married James McFadden and is now deceased, and the latter is living with her parents; Jacob resides in Greene Township, and Emma is the wife of Ozro SANDERS, of Jefferson Township. Mr. BLAZER has lived on his farm on section 36, Greene Township, since his marriage, his [p 354] first residence being a small cabin, located near the site of his present more commodious residence. He has a good home property of eighty-three acres, he having given the rest of his land to his children. He has been prosperous in his farming pursuits, and has owned and improved much over 300 acres of land, and by his honorable and upright dealings he has won the confidence and esteem of all who know him. In politics he was formerly a Whig, but has voted the Republican ticket since the organization of that party."