

BONE, WILLIAM

William J. BONE, who died at his pleasant farm home on rural mail route No. 2 out of Bryant on December 30, 1921, and who was one of the best known farmers and stockmen in Jay county and formerly and for years one of the leading figures in the development of the oilfields in this county, was a native son of Jay county and all his life was spent here. Mr. BONE was born on a farm in Bearcreek township on February 6, 1856, and was a son of Henry and Margaret (BURCH) BONE, both of whom were born in Ohio, the former in Greene county and the latter in Mercer county. Henry BONE became a resident of Jay county about the year 1840. He was trained as a wagon maker and for some time followed that vocation, but later gave his whole attention to farming and was the owner of a farm of 110 acres in Bearcreek township, where he long resided. He was twice married. By his first wife, Elizabeth PINGERY, daughter of John PINGERY, of Bearcreek township, he had three children, John, George and Mary, all now deceased. By his second wife, Margaret BURCH, he had five children, those besides the subject; of this memorial sketch being Sarah, Lewis D., Flora T., and Robert F. Reared on the home farm in Bearcreek township, William J. BONE received his schooling in the old Bloomfield schoolhouse and as a young man began to "do for himself," working as a farm hand in the neighborhood. For about four years he was thus engaged and then he rented the home place and for two years operated the same. He then bought a tract of sixty acres in Bearcreek township and established his home on that place, in time becoming the owner of 200 acres of excellent land in that township. Upon the opening of the oil field in this region Mr. BONE became one of the most active figures in that amazing development and for years was recognized as one of the leading oil men hereabout, at one time having been the owner of no fewer than thirty-eight producing oil wells, ten of which he drilled himself. Some time ago Mr. BONE sold all his wells and leases and retired from active participation in the oil development. He also rented his farm and his last days were spent in quiet retirement, his death occurring on December 30, 1921, he then being in his sixty-fifth year. Mr. BONE was a Republican and had ever taken an interested part in the general political affairs of the community, but had not been a seeker after public office. His widow is a member of the Christian church. In July, 1880, William J. BONE was united in marriage to Polly B. CARLEY, who was born in Wayne township, this county, daughter of Elijah. and Rachel (POLEN) CARLEY, and to this union six children were born, James A., Luther H., Addie B., Earl C., Olen G. and Iven, all of whom are married save

the last named, who is still at home. James A. BONE, who is now the proprietor of the Hotel Wescott barber shop at Richmond, Ind. [Wayne Co.], married Reva SISK and has been a resident of Richmond for some years. Luther H. BONE, who married Ethel HAMMITT and is living in Bearcreek township, is the guager for the Indiana Oil Company. Addie B. BONE married James FIFER, who is now employed as a clerk in the offices of the G. R. & L railroad at Kendallville, Ind.[De Kalb Co.], and has one child, a son, Leon. Earl C. BONE, a veteran of the World war, married Clara GROSS and is now engaged as manager of the "When" store at Richmond, Ind. He enlisted for service in April, 1917, and served for nearly two years, or until his discharge in March, 1919, much of this period of service having been spent overseas. Olen G. BONE married Anna McCROSKEY and is now living at Newcastle, Ind.[Henry Co.], where he is employed as a barber in the Hotel Bundy barber shop. Iven BONE is making his home with his mother on the farm in Bearcreek township. SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.418-419. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut