

BENJAMIN R. BRADLEY, one of the prominent citizens of Greene Township, Jay County, was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, February 14, 1825, a son of John & Elizabeth (Evans) Bradley, who were also natives of the State of Pennsylvania. His grandfather, Thomas Bradley, was a native of Ireland, coming to America before the Revolutionary War and served through the entire war. He died in Pennsylvania. In 1832 the parents of our subject settled in Trumbull County, Ohio, where the mother died in 1834. The father survived until 1872, dying in Moultrie County, Illinois, at the age of seventy-five years. Of their six children, Benjamin R. was the eldest son and second child. One son, John E., lives in Moultrie County, and a daughter, Mrs. Sarah Margaret Cochran, is a resident of Moultrie County, Illinois. The other children are deceased.

Benjamin R. Bradley, the subject of this sketch, was married in Trumbull County, Ohio, June 17, 1847, to Miss Mary Reed, a native of Pennsylvania, born November 5, 1827, who was brought to Ohio by her parents when nine years of age. She is a daughter of James Reed. To Mr. and Mrs. Bradley were born five children – John, James R., who died January 19, 1882, at the home of his parents, aged thirty years, leaving a wife and one child; David E., residing in Greene Township; George H., died in infancy, and Nancy Ellen died aged five years. After his marriage Mr. Bradley followed blacksmithing in Ohio until 1853, when he came to Jay County, Indiana, and settled on section 24 of Greene Township, May 2, of that year. Here he purchased forty acres of land on which a small log house had been built, and about an acre of ground had been cleared, and he began clearing his land and making a home. He resided on this farm about thirteen years, to which he added by purchase thirty-six and a half acres, and in 1866 he sold his land and removed to Portland and engaged in the trade of saddle and harness making, which he followed nine years with fair success. In 1876 he traded his town property, consisting of his business house and two residences for 131 acres of land on section 24, Green Township, which he now owns and occupies. One hundred acres of his land is well improved and under fine cultivation, and his residence and farm buildings are noticeably good. Mr. Bradley in his political views is a Democrat. In 1856 he was elected to the office of justice of the peace, serving as such eight years, and during his residence in Portland he served two years as magistrate, and was elected assessor of Green Township in 1880 and served two years. Both he and his wife are members of the Christian church.

Biographical and Historical Record of Jay County, Indiana, The Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1887, pp. 333-334.