

BROWN, WILLIAM

William BROWN, one of the well-known farmers and landowners of Jefferson township, was born in that township and has lived there all his life. Mr. BROWN was born on July 21, 1849, and is a son of Benjamin and Sarah (NIXON) BROWN, the latter of whom was a member of the pioneer Nixon family of this county, to which family further reference is made elsewhere in this work. Benjamin BROWN was born in Ohio, where he grew to manhood. As a young man he came over into Indiana and after his marriage established his home on an eighty acre farm in Jefferson township, this county, and there spent the remainder of his life, one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, six of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Jane and Elmeretta, and three brothers, Jacob, David and Andrew J. BROWN. Reared on the farm on which he was born, William BROWN received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and from the days of his boyhood was a helpful factor in the labors of developing the home place. He was married at the age of twenty-two and for two years thereafter, or until he was twenty-four years of age, continued to make his home there. He then bought a small farm of twenty-seven acres in Jefferson township and there made his home until his father's final invalidism, when he returned home to take charge of the home place. His father died a few months later and he then bought the old home farm, the place where he is now living, rural mail route No. 5 out of Portland, and has since resided on that place, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Mr. BROWN has added to his holdings there and now has a well-kept place of eighty-seven acres and an excellent farm plant. He is a Democrat and he and his wife are members of the Elm Grove Church of Christ. It was on December 31, 1871, that William BROWN was united in marriage to Elizabeth HOMER, of this county, and to this union three children have been born, namely: Sarah, who married William R. BECHDOLT, of this county and has five children, Marie, Leta, Royce, Lucile and Dee Lee BECHDOLT; Joseph, who is unmarried and who remains at home looking after the affairs of the farm, an aid to his father, and Howard, who married Ruth DERRY, of Illinois, and has three children, Robert, Amy and Nellie Elizabeth. Mrs. Elizabeth BROWN was born in York county, Pennsylvania, but has been a resident of this county since she was but a child, her parents, Samuel and Elizabeth HOMER, having moved to Jay county in April, 1855, and established their home in Greene township. A few years later Samuel HOMER moved with his family to Noble township and in this

latter township spent the remainder of his life. SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.255-256. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut