

William A. Caster, one of the enterprising agriculturalists of Wayne Township, engaged in farming on section 36, was born in Preble County, Ohio, the date of his birth being July 15, 1839. He was but a child of two years when his father, James Caster, came to Jay County, and he was reared on the old homestead in Wayne Township, where his father still resides, is used being spent in assisting on the farm, and attending the common schools of the Township. He enlisted in defense of the old flag in October, 1861, in Company C, Seventy-fifth Ohio Infantry. His first engagement was at McDowell, Virginia, where he was wounded by a minie ball in the right leg. He was then taken to the hospital at Franklin, Pendleton County, Virginia, where he was confined to months, and during this time was taken prisoner by paroled. He rejoined the Union forces at New Creek Station, Virginia, and was sent to the hospital at Cumberland City, Maryland, and from there to Camp Chase, Ohio. Later he was granted a furlough, and returned home for a time and subsequently joined the Regiment near Alexandria, Virginia. He took it an active part in the battles of Chancellorsville in Gettysburg, and at the latter battle was again taken prisoner. He was then taken to Richmond, was in Libby prison 24 hours, and in Belle Island nine days, and after one months imprisonment, he was exchanged and sent to Maryland. His next engagement was in Gainesville, Florida. He was honorably discharged at Columbus, Ohio, in 1864.

He was united in marriage in March, 1868, to Miss Adelaide Samantha Wilder, of Jay County, a daughter of Lucius E. and Emily (Cook) Wilder. Mrs. Caster died in August, 1880, and Mr. Caster was again married a ninth, 1882, to Miss Margaret Jane Miller, a daughter of William H. Miller, a pioneer of Jay County. They are the parents of three children, named- Eva Almeda, Charles Ellis and Harlin Austin. As a farmer, Mr. Caster has met with success and is now the owner of 120 acres of land, which is well improved in very productive. He has made a comfortable log house, and he finds substantial barn 36 x 60' in size, and other outbuildings noticeably good. Politically he is a staunch Republican. He has an active, public spirited citizen of the Wayne Township, and is one of the most respected men in the County.

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**Contributed by Jim Cox**