

GEMMILL, WILLIAM ROSCOE

William Roscoe GEMMILL, who formerly was engaged in the hardware business at Pennville, but who now is devoting his attention wholly to his extensive farming interests in Jay and Wells counties, residing at his farm home on rural mail route No. 2 out of Pennville, in Penn township, was born on the place on which he is now living on October 8, 1882, and is a son of the late Grier Franklin and Amanda Jane (SPAHR) GEMMILL, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a daughter of James M. and Elizabeth (SMITH) SPAHR. The late Grier Franklin GEMMILL, a memorial sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, formerly and for years one of the most active and influential figures in the community life of Jay county, a miller and banker at Pennville, a large land owner and former member of the board of county commissioners, was born in Pennsylvania in 1833 and was two years of age when his parents, William and Frances (BLAINE) GEMMILL, came with their family to Indiana in 1835 and settled in Wayne county. In 1837 William GEMMILL came up into Jay county and located on a tract of land which he had entered from the Government in Penn township, where he established his home and remained until 1863, when he returned to his old home in York county, Pennsylvania, and there spent the remainder of his life. On the pioneer farm in Penn township G. F. GEMMILL grew to manhood, and in that township he established his home after his marriage. He early became engaged in the milling business at old Camden (now Pennville), was a widely known stock buyer, took an active part in local public affairs, became the owner of 455 acres of land and was vice-president of the Pennville Bank at the time of his death, which occurred at his home in Pennville on April 17, 1913. He and his wife were the parents of four children, two of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Leona. The mother of these children died in 1887.

William Roscoe GEMMILL received his schooling in the schools of Pennville and Penn township and from the days of his boyhood was a valued assistant in the labors of developing his father's agricultural interests in that township. After the death of his father he continued fanning until 1918, when he became engaged in the hardware business at Pennville and was thus engaged until in June, 1921, when he sold his store and has since been devoting his attention to his farms, the owner of 200 acres in this county and 200 acres in Wells county, and making his home on the old home place where he was born in Penn township. In addition to his general farming Mr. GEMMILL gives considerable attention to the raising of livestock and is doing well. He is a Democrat and is a member of the Pennville lodge of the Knights of Pythias.

Mr. GEMMILL married Goldie THORNBURG, who also was born in this county, daughter of Harvey and Sadie (McCLAIN) THORNBURG, and to this union two children have been born, William F. and Deloris I. The GEMMILL's have a very pleasant home and have ever taken an interested part in the general social activities of the community. Mr. GEMMILL is a stockholder and director of the Pennville Bank and is also a stockholder in the Blackford County Bank, at Hartford City, Ind.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.332-333. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.