

WASHINGTON GRIMES, a worthy representative of one of the old pioneer families of Jay County, and an enterprising farmer of Jackson Township, is a native of Frederick County, Maryland, born December 5, 1831, his parents, John and Elizabeth (Miller) Grimes, being natives of the same county. They reared a family of four children, named Henrietta, John H., Mary Ann and Washington. In 1837 the parents left their native State with their family and settled in Preble County, Ohio, and in 1843 came to Jay County, Indiana, when they located on the farm which is now the home of our subject. The land at the time of the settlement in the township was covered with dense timber, and their first dwelling was a long cabin, 18 x 20 feet, with puncheon floor, clapboard roof, and stick and mud chimney. Here the father, assisted by his sons, cleared and improved their land until the Grimes farm was considered one of the best in the neighborhood. Here the father lived until his death which occurred June 9, 1863. Mrs. Grimes died August 28, 1876.

Washington Grimes grew to manhood in Jay County; he attended the schools of his district. He has always followed the avocation of a farmer, and the surroundings of his homestead betoken the care and thrift of the owner. The old log cabin built in 1843 has disappeared, and in its place stands a fine two story residence, built in modern style and comfortably furnished throughout, and the barn and out buildings are noticeably good.

Mr. Grimes was married September 18, 18??, to Miss Mary Ann Priest, and to this union were born seven children of whom only four survive: James Newton, William II, John F. and George W. Two died in early childhood, and a daughter, Martha A., died January 27, 1885, aged twenty-two years. Mrs. Grimes died September 10, 1876. Mr. Grimes was married a second time, in Jay County, Indiana, April 18, 1880, to Mrs. Esther Ann (House) Stephenson, who was born May 27, 1843, a daughter of Edmond and Mary (Grafton) House. Mrs. Grimes was first married in Jackson County, Ohio, to James Stephenson, and to them were born three children: James N., Richard E. and Irena Jane. Mr. Stephenson died January 1, 1874.

Politically Mr. Grimes affiliates with the Republican party. He has never sought official position, yet at the wishes of his friends, he accepted the nomination for the office of county commissioner, and was elected by a majority of 204 votes which shows his popularity in the county. Financially he is numbered among the leading men of his township, and by his honorable dealings he has secured the confidence and respect of the entire community.

Biographical and Historical Record of Adams and Wells Counties, Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1887, pp. 304-305