

JEFFRIES, JAMES B

James B. JEFFRIES, a well-known farmer and landowner of Bearcreek township and proprietor of a well improved farm on rural mail route No. 1 out of Bryant, where he makes his home, is a native of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of this county for years. Mr. JEFFRIES was born on a farm in Fairview county, Ohio, July 20, 1859, and is a son of Jerome and Lydia (EMICK) JEFFRIES, the latter of whom was born in Virginia. Jerome JEFFRIES also was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, a member of one of the old families there, and for some time after his marriage made his home there, later moving to Licking county, where he became the owner of a farm of ninety-five acres and where he died on August 5, 1921. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Alice, Mary, William, Carrie, George, Charles, Alvin, Calvin and Ida.

Reared on the farm, James B. JEFFRIES received his schooling in the schools of Fairfield and Licking counties. As a young man he took a notion to do some prospecting in the West and for two years spent his time in Kansas, but then returned to Ohio and began farming for himself, he then' being twenty-four years of age. For four years he rented land and then bought a "forty" in Mercer county, Ohio, where he established his home after his marriage at the age of thirty. For fourteen years Mr. JEFFRIES carried on his farming operations on that place and then he sold it and moved over into Indiana, buying here the eighty-acre farm on which he is now living in Bearcreek township, this county. Since taking possession of this place Mr. JEFFRIES has made numerous substantial improvements, including the erection of a silo and has a well-equipped farm plant, he and his family being very comfortably situated. He and his wife are members of the Evangelical church of Bearcreek township.

It was on February 14, 1889, while living in Ohio, that James B. JEFFRIES was united in marriage to Clara ROW, who was born in Knox county, that state, but was reared in Licking county, a daughter of Aaron and Sarah (BURNER) ROW, both of whom were born in the latter county, and to this union have been born two children, Grace and William, both of whom are married and living in Bearcreek township. Grace JEFFRIES married William WHEELER, a Bearcreek township farmer, and has four children, Mary, Mabel, Homer and Grover WHEELER. William JEFFRIES, who also is farming in Bearcreek township, married Amelia ROBARD and has one child, Cloida W. JEFFRIES.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.162-163. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.