

McCOLLISTER, WILLIAM E.

WILLIAM E. McCOLLISTER, one of the best known farmers and landowners of Penn township and proprietor of a fine place on rural mail route No. 4 out of Bryant, is a native son of Jay county and has resided here most of his life, though a part of his youth and the days of his young manhood were spent in the neighboring county of Wells. Mr. McCOLLISTER was born on a pioneer farm in Pike township, this county. May 16, 1858, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (ARNUT) McCOLLISTER, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio, whose last days were spent in Wells county, Indiana. Henry McCOLLISTER was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, and remained there until about fourteen years of age when his place of residence was changed to Ohio, where he grew to manhood and was married. After his marriage he became engaged in farming in Ohio and remained there until about 1856 when he came over into Indiana and settled on a farm in Pike township, this county. Some years later he moved up into Wells county, where he bought a farm and spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1907, and where his widow is still living. He owned forty acres in Wells county and 120 acres in Jay county. He and his wife were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch alone survives, the others having been James M., Rebecca Jane and Ella Maria.

William E. McCOLLISTER was but a lad when his parents moved from this county up into Wells county, and in the schools of the latter county he completed his schooling. Reared on a farm, he has followed farming all his life, an assistant to his father until he was twenty-four years of age, after which he rented an "eighty" from his father and began farming on his own account. Later he bought a tract of thirty-five acres, a part of the place on which he is now living in Penn township, this county, and there established his home. Mr. McCOLLISTER is a good farmer, and as his affairs prospered he added to his holdings until now he is the owner of an excellent farm of 275 acres, which he has improved in admirable fashion, these improvements including four sets of buildings. He had to clear the greater part of this land and all improvements on the place have been made by himself. Mr. McCOLLISTER is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs. In 1882 William E. McCOLLISTER was united in marriage to Sarah Jane STRALEY and to this union four children have been born, namely: James L., who married Archie MARTIN; Martha Mildred, who married Joseph BRYAN and has three children, Kenneth, Carroll and Melvin Woodrow; Wilbur Ray, who married Thesel HOLLOWAY and has three children, Kenneth, Dorothy and Wilbur Ray; and Esther E., who is at home with her parents. Mrs. McCOLLISTER was born in this county and is a daughter of George and Martha Ellen (PROUDY) STRALEY, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania, but had become a resident of Ohio in his boyhood. In the days of his young manhood he came over into Indiana and after his marriage established his home in Wayne township, this county, where he spent the remainder of his days, a well-known farmer and stock buyer. Mrs. McCOLLISTER has a sister, Rebecca.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.353-354. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.