

NEIL, FORREST W

Forrest W. NEIL, one of Greene township's progressive farmers and owner of a well improved farm on rural mail route No. 2 out of Portland, is a Missourian by birth, an Ohioan by rearing but a Hoosier by choice and adoption, having been a resident of Indiana and of Jay county since the days of his young manhood. Mr. NEIL was born on a farm in Missouri on August 28, 1874, and is a son of James J. and Clara F. (WILSON) NEIL, who more than twenty years ago became residents of this county. James T. NEIL, who is now living retired at Pennville, was born in the State of Pennsylvania, where he grew to manhood, later going to Missouri where he married and continued to make his home until about 1886 when he disposed of his interests there and moved to Ohio. He bought a farm in this latter state and made his home there until 1899, when he disposed of his interests there and moved over into Indiana and bought a farm of forty acres in this county, establishing his home on the same in December of that year. He continued to make his home there until his retirement from the farm and removal to Pennville, where he is now living. To him and his wife seven children have been born, all of whom are living, those besides the subject of this sketch the first born being Maud, Lawson, Seber, Pearl, Roxie and Lena.

Forrest W. NEIL was twelve years of age when the family left Missouri to make their home in Ohio and in the schools of the latter state he completed his schooling. He came with his parents to Jay county in 1899, and here began farming on his own account, renting a place in Penn township. Two or three years later he married and established his home on that place, continuing there until 1908, when he bought the eighty-acre farm on which he is now living in Greene township and has since made his home on this latter place, where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Since taking possession of this place Mr. NEIL has erected an entirely new set of buildings and has made numerous other improvements, now having a well-equipped farm plant. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of livestock and is doing well. He is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs.

It was on September 10, 1902, that Forrest W. NEIL was united in marriage to Edith E. MOORE, who was born in this county, and to this union seven children have been born, all of whom are living save one, Elma June, who died in infancy, the others being H. Lloyd, Frances, Helen, Wilma, Virginia and Betty 1. Mrs. NEIL is a daughter of the late John and Frances P. (WIGHT) MOORE, the latter of whom of "Mayflower" descent was born in Crawford county, Ohio, in 1840, a daughter of Warren W. and Harriet (WHITE) WIGHT, and was a teacher in the schools of Galion, Ohio, at the time of her marriage to Mr. MOORE. She died at her home in this county on December 13, 1896. The late John MOORE, in his generation one of the best known men in Jay county, was born in Morrow county, Ohio) in 1833, and was the fifth in order of birth of the eight children born to William and Jane (BISHOP) MOORE, the former of whom was born in Ireland

and the latter in Pennsylvania. John MOORE and Frances WIGHT were married in 1862, and they continued to make their home in Ohio until 1868, when they came to Indiana and settled on an eighty acre farm in Penn township, this county. Mr. MOORE was a practical sawyer and erected a sawmill at Pennville which he operated for some years. His affairs prospered and he eventually became the owner of a fine farm of 300 acres in Penn township, on which in 1890, he erected one of the best brick houses in that part of the county. His death occurred there in 1907. In the days when the task of draining this region was being worked out he long served as a ditch commissioner and in that capacity rendered a real service to the county. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, all save one of whom grew to maturity, Mrs. NEIL having had five brothers, Clarence, Albert, William, John B. and Ray L. MOORE, and two sisters, Jennie and Mary E.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.178-179. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.