

PENCE, JAMES R

James R. PENCE, a well-known agriculturist of Penn township, living on a well improved farm on rural mail route No. 2 out of Pennville, has lived on that place for more than fifty years. Mr. PENCE was born on a farm in Henry county, this state, October 2, 1859, and is a son of Levi and Susanna (McMULLEN) PENCE, the latter of whom was born in Wayne county, Indiana, a member of one of the old families of that county. Levi PENCE was born in Warren county, Tennessee, and was but a boy when he came to Indiana with his parents, the family settling in Delaware county, where he grew to manhood and became a school teacher. After his marriage he began farming in Henry county and remained there until 1865 when he came to Jay county and bought an un-cleared tract of eighty acres in Penn township, a part of the farm on which the subject of this sketch is now living.

Levi PENCE cleared and drained that place and improved it in good shape, one of the first men in the county to discern and utilize the possibilities of thorough tile draining and he did much to promote the system of under draining throughout that section. For some time after coming here he also was engaged in teaching school during the winters and was helpful in other ways in helping to bring about proper social and economic conditions in the community. He increased his original land holdings until he became the owner of 120 acres and was accounted one of the substantial citizens of the community in which he lived. His wife died on July 6, 1911, and he survived until November 26, 1915. They were the parents of four children, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Effie I. and Alma M., and a brother, Dexter PENCE.

As will be noted by a comparison of above dates, James R. PENCE was about six years of age when he came to Jay county with his parents. He grew to manhood on the home farm, receiving his schooling in the local schools and under the thoughtful home training of his parents, and from the days of his boyhood has devoted himself to the farm, which he is now managing in behalf of the family. The PENCE farm, now a tract of 146 acres, is well improved and profitably cultivated. Mr. PENCE has kept abreast of modern progress in agricultural methods and his operations have been carried on in up-to-date fashion. In addition to his general farming operations he has given considerable attention to the raising of livestock and has done well. In his political views Mr. PENCE is Independent.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.301-302. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.