

REAVER, LEWIS C.

Lewis C. REAVER, one of Bearcreek township's well known and substantial farmers and landowners, now living retired from the labors of the farm at his pleasant place on rural mail route No. 11 out of Portland, has been a resident of Jay county for the past thirty years or more and during that time has done well his part in the development of the community in which he lives. Mr. REAVER was born on a farm in Carroll county, Maryland, February 25, 1855, and is a son of Washington and Rebecca (BOWERS) REAVER, both of whom were born in that same state. Washington REAVER was the owner of a 120 acre farm and he and his wife were the parents of nine children, five of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Jennie V., and three brothers, James B., Franklin P. and Joseph M. REAVER.

Reared on the home farm in Carroll county, Maryland, Lewis C. REAVER received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and remained at home until he was twenty years of age, when (in 1875) he came West and for ten years thereafter was engaged in farm work in Wayne county, Indiana, and Preble county, Ohio. He was married in the latter county and then returned to his old home in Maryland, taking charge of the home farm, which he operated for six or seven years, at the end of which time, in 1891, he returned to Indiana and became a resident of Jay county. Upon coming here Mr. REAVER rented the farm of 160 acres in Bearcreek township, the place on which he is now living, and established his home there. Four years later he bought this place and has continued to make it his home. When he took charge of the place but sixty-five acres of it had been cleared and it was but fully improved. He has rebuilt the farm buildings and has long had an excellent farm plant and a well cultivated place. Since 1916 Mr. REAVER has been living retired from the active labors of the farm, renting his place. He is a Democrat and is a member of Omega lodge No. 281, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Portland.

It was in 1885, in Preble county, Ohio, that Lewis C. REAVER was united in marriage to Lottie FLEISCH, of that county. Mrs. REAVER was born in Preble county and is a daughter of Joseph and Lucinda (LAFLAN) FLEISCH, who were the parents of eight children, seven of whom are living, those besides Mrs. REAVER being Ida, Olie, Jacob, Lawrence, Warren and William. Mr. and Mrs. REAVER have no children of their own, but have reared two children, William and Iva REAVER, born at Dunkirk, who were of the age of four years and six years, respectively, when they took them under their care. William REAVER, now a farmer in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, the owner of 140 acres, married Mabel MARTIN and has two children, Robert and Charlotte, Iva REAVER married Sylvester STARR, who is now operating Mr. REAVER's farm, and has two children, sons both, Lewis and Paul E. STARR.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.387-388. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.