

GEORGE B. ROSS, who has been identified with the interests of Jay County for many years, was born in Darke County, Ohio, October 10, 1827, a son of Nathaniel and Charlotte (Reed) Ross, natives of Virginia and Ohio, respectively, the father of Irish and the mother of Scotch ancestry. They spent their last years in Ohio. The father was a farmer and preacher of the United Brethren church, and also a practicing physician. He died after a life of great usefulness, about fifteen years ago, at the age of eighty-seven years his wife having preceded him about twelve years.

George B., our subject, grew to manhood in his native county, where he was reared to the avocation of a farmer, receiving his education in the common schools of his neighborhood. He was married in Darke County in 1850, to Miss Christena Evans, a daughter of John and Penina (Wilson) Evans. Mrs. Ross was born in the State of North Carolina, but reared from infancy in Ohio. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Ross -Sophia M. married Calvin Hudson and died April 1, 1885, leaving a daughter named Ora; Sylvester L. lives in Pike Township; Susannah, attending school; Ellen died aged five years; Mary died aged three years, and George F., a school boy.

Mr. Ross continued to reside in his native county until 1851, when he came with his family to Jay County, Indiana, and the same year bought forty acres of land in Wayne Township which he immediately began to improve. Being in poor circumstances he was unable to go on with the improvements, and the following year he returned to Ohio, where he remained until 1855. He then returned to Jay County, and for the next six years lived on section 29, Pike Township. He then removed to a tract of eighty acres of timberland on section 20, a little west of Bluff Point, clearing a space on which to erect a log cabin. Here he has since made his home and by diligence and industrious habits he has succeeded well in his agricultural pursuits. His home farm now contains 145 acres of choice land, 100 being cleared and under fine cultivation, a comfortable residence and good out-buildings, beside which he owns a tract of forty acres on section 9 of the same township. Mr. Ross recalls to mind the fact that he started to earn money for himself with an ax borrowed to earn money to buy one. He has done all in his power to give his children good educational advantages, counting nothing lost that contributes to that object. In politics he casts his suffrage with the Democratic party. He has served his township efficiently as magistrate for four years. Mr. and Mrs. Ross and their daughters, Susannah and Lydia, are members of the Society of Friends. Sylvester Ross, the eldest son, is a member of the Methodist Church.

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