

William O. ROSS, one of the well known and substantial farmers and landowners of Jefferson township, was born in Jay county and has lived here all his life. Mr. ROSS was born in Jefferson township and is a son of Cyrus L. and Rebecca (MAY) ROSS, who in their generation were among the well known residents of that township, Cyrus L. ROSS was born in the neighboring county of Randolph and was fifteen years of age when his father, John ROSS, moved with his family up into Jay county and bought a farm of eighty acres in Jefferson township, where he spent the remainder of his life. On that farm Cyrus L. ROSS grew to manhood and after his marriage established his home there. After the death of his father he bought the interests of the other heirs in the place and continued to make that his home until his retirement from the farm and removal to Redkey, where his last days were spent. He acquired other lands in the vicinity and was long accounted one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood. He and his wife were the parents of four children, all of whom are living save the one daughter, Mary E., the subject of this sketch having two brothers, Charles and Elmer ROSS.

Reared on the home farm in Jefferson township, William O. ROSS received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and from the days of his boyhood was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing the farm. He married at the age of twenty-five and then established his home on a tract of 100 acres owned by his father in Jefferson township, a part of the place on which he is still living, and has resided there since. Upon his father's death he inherited that tract and has since added an adjoining tract of sixty acres, now having a well improved and profitably operated place of 160 acres, which he rents out by the field, having some time ago practically retired from the active labors of the farm. Mr. ROSS is a Democrat and is a Freemason, a member of the local lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons at Ridgeville.

On MAY 6, 1899, William O. ROSS was united in marriage to Nora E. FLESHER, who was born in this county, daughter of Wesley and Tabitha FLESHER, members of pioneer families in Jay county. Mr. and Mrs. ROSS have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of Ridgeville and take an interested part in the general social activities of the neighborhood in which they live.

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