

ROUSH, WILLIAM A.

William A. ROUSH, trustee of Madison township, former township assessor and for years a well-known farmer of that township, proprietor of a well-kept place on rural mail route No. 1 out of Union City, Ind., was born in Madison township and has lived there the greater part of his life. Mr. ROUSH was born on June 5, 1861, and is a son of John and Sarah (DARST) ROUSH, both of whom were born in Gallia county, Ohio, where they were married. In 1850 John ROUSH and his wife came to Jay county and settled in Madison township, where he bought a tract of eighty acres of land and established his home. To that farm he later added an adjoining tract of thirty acres and thus had a farm of 110 acres which he brought to a fine state of cultivation. Mrs. Sarah ROUSH died there on February 7, 1897. John ROUSH survived his wife for more than thirteen years, his death occurring on June 2, 1910. They were the parents of thirteen children, those besides the subject of this sketch (the fourth in order of birth) having been Haskell R., Mrs. Ella VINNING, Mrs. Eudora MARK, Mrs. Delia ARNSBAUGH, Mrs. Anna DUNIFON, James A., Samuel D., Joseph W., Mrs. Lydia SHREEVE, Augustus, who died in infancy, Amanda, who died in infancy, and John A., who died at the age of seven years.

Reared on the home farm in Madison township, William A. ROUSH received his schooling at the College Grove school (district No. 7) and as a lad was a helpful factor in the labors of developing the home place. As a young man he went to Van Wert, Ohio, where he spent a year and then went to Kansas. A year later he returned to Indiana and located at Salem, where he spent a couple of years, at the end of which time he returned to Jay county. He married when twenty-seven years of age and for a year thereafter made his home on his father-in-law's farm in Randolph county. He then became employed in the butter tub factory at Portland and was thus engaged for a year, at the end of which time he moved back to Randolph county and for ten years thereafter was engaged in farming in that county, renting a farm from his father-in-law. At the end of this period Mr. ROUSH returned to Jay county and made his home on a farm of 113 acres which he rented in Madison township. Six years later, in 1906 he bought a tract of thirty acres in that township, a part of the farm on which he is now living, and has since resided there. In 1908 he bought an adjoining tract of ten acres and since then has brought his "forty" out in fine shape, having made numerous substantial improvements on the same. In 1914 Mr. ROUSH turned the management of the farm over to his son, Harmon W. ROUSH, who carried on operations there for three years, since which time the place has been rented by the fields, Mr. ROUSH giving his chief attention to his public and other affairs. Mr. ROUSH is a Democrat and he and his wife are members of the Pleasant Hill Christian church. Mr. ROUSH has long given his earnest attention to civic affairs and during the period 1914-18 served as assessor of Madison township. In the latter year he was elected trustee of Madison township and is now serving in that important public capacity.

It was on March 31, 1889, that William A. ROUSH was united in marriage to Minnie B. KEMP, of the neighboring county of Randolph, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Harmon W., born on January 29, 1890, who is now employed by Morehouse Bros. at Salem in this county. On February 26, 1911, Harmon W. ROUSH was married to Eva Hanks and to this union one child has been born, a son, William W., born on December 31, 1912, who is now attending the Salem school (district No. 8). Mrs. Minnie B. ROUSH was born in Jackson township, in Randolph county, this state, where she was reared, a daughter of Benjamin F. and Maria (ALLEN) KEMP, the latter of whom was born in that same county, a member of one of the pioneer families there. Benjamin KEMP was born at Mansfield, Richland county, Ohio, and was but a child when his parents came over into Indiana with their family and settled in Randolph county. He early qualified himself as a school teacher and was for years engaged as a teacher in the schools of Randolph county. He also was ordained a minister of the Christian church and was for years engaged in preaching in that county; at the same time carrying on his operations as a farmer. He was successful in his operations and at one time was the owner of 355 acres of land in Randolph and Jay counties. The Rev. Benjamin KEMP and wife were the parents of eleven children, all of whom are living save two, Lewis K., who died at the age of twenty-one years, October 14, 1887, and Cora Ellen, who died at the age of five months, April 14, 1883, the others besides Mrs. ROUSH being Mrs. Blanch A. KEITNER, Mrs. Charlotte E. PEDEN, Mrs. Willa R. MILLIGAN, Mrs. Daisy RICKERT, Mrs. Eva CIRCILE, Mrs. Ethel PERRY, the Rev. Alphonso E. KEMP and Roy KEMP.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.147-148. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.