

Thomas S. Shepherd, M.D., one of the oldest members of the medical fraternity in Jay County, is a native of England, born in the city of Selby, Yorkshire, in 1815. When in his seventh year, he was brought by his father to America, the family, settling in Wheeling, Virginia and here our subject was reared, remaining there until after his marriage. He was married April 6, 1837, to Miss Abigail Watson, a native of Ohio, who died in December, 1883, leaving five children – George W., A practicing physician of Redkey, Jay County; William, also a physician practicing at New Carlisle, Ohio; Mrs. Anna L. Gregg, of Kansas; Mary E. Shepherd and Mrs. Etta Elliott, of Portland. Soon after his marriage, our subject came with his wife to Portland, Indiana, and studied medicine with Dr. Milligan, the first physician of Jay County, completing his medical studies with Dr. Latham, and engaged in practice in the county of 40 years.

Between the interval a study of medicine with Dr. Milligan and Dr. Latham, he studied law at Marion, Grant County, with Col. Asbury Steele, and thinking that he would preferred the profession of law to that of medicine, he engaged in the former pursuit which he followed in Kokomo for several years. Finding that the practice of law did not suit his taste, he resumed his medical studies as before mentioned with Dr. Latham, and subsequently engaged in the practice of medicine in Jay County, and has since followed his medical practice in Jay County with the exception the five years spent Bluffton, Wells County. Many years ago, the doctor became connected with the Christian church, and later engaged in the ministry, that it will be seen that he has followed the professions of law, medicine, and theology. He has yet engaged in the practice of medicine, and when occasion requires. He still speaks in the cause of his Master. During the 50 years of his residence in Jay, Howard, and Wells counties, he has witnessed the many wonderful changes that have taken place, changing the County from its wild, uncultivated state into well cultivated fields, and prosperous towns and villages. In his political views, the doctor was a Democrat until he became affiliated with the Republican Party. He has taken an active interest in the political affairs of his county, speaking effectively during presidential campaigns of the past. He is an old and honored pioneer of the County, and is held in high esteem by all who know him.

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Transcribed by Jim Cox