

Morris Hamilton SPAHR, one of the best known and most substantial farmers and landowners of Jay county, proprietor of an excellent farm in Greene township and a delightful home on rural mail route No. 1 out of Portland, was born in that township and has lived there all his life, doing well his part in the general promotion and development of the community interest. Mr. SPAHR was born on January 22, 1857, and is a son of John O. and Experience (HILDRETH) SPAHR, both Virginians by birth, who became pioneers of this county and whose last days were spent here. John O. SPAHR was born in 1818 and was but a child when his parents moved to Greene county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood and married Experience HILDRETH, who was born in 1818. He made his home in Greene county for some years thereafter, or until the new lands over this way began to attract the attention of prospective settlers and he came over here and entered a tract of eighty acres in Greene township, this county, and established his home on that place, having been among the first of the numerous settlers from Greene county who located in this part of Jay county during pioneer days. Not long afterward he sold that original "eighty" and bought a quarter section in the same neighborhood and on this latter tract developed a good farm and spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in the fall of 1892, he then being past seventy-four years of age. His wife had long preceded him to the grave, her death having occurred in the fall of 1862. They were the parents of nine children, those besides the subject of this sketch and his twin sister, Josephine, who married Benjamin BRUBAKER, being Mary, who married Jasper N. HIATT; James E., who went to Iowa years ago; Catherine, who married William LOUCK and moved to Nebraska; Alexander, who also went to Iowa; Sarah E., who married Joseph COLLINS, of this county; Caroline, who married David CATLIN, and William C., who went to Nebraska years ago.

Morris Hamilton SPAHR grew up on the home farm in Greene township and received his schooling in the neighborhood schools. When he attained his majority he began farming on his own account, renting land. He married when twenty-five and made his home on a tract of sixty-seven acres which he had bought in Greene township, a part of his present fine farm of 360 acres, and has since resided there, developing one of the best equipped farm plants in that part of the county. In addition to his general farming Mr. SPAHR has long given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done well in his operations. He is a Republican and he and his wife are members of the Union Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. SPAHR has for years been a member of the board of trustees of this church and is now the president of the board. It was on November 2, 1882, that Morris H. SPAHR was united in marriage to Anna Belle MILLER, who also was born in this county, and to this union five children have been born namely: Oliver, who married Anna RESUR; Alta, who married Jesse WYRICK and

has three children, Ruth, Mary and Morris H.; Emery, who married Helen HUDSON; Willard L., who died at the age of twenty-three years, and Pearl, who died at the age of twenty-one. Mrs. SPAHR was born in Madison township, this county, December 1, 1860, and is a daughter of David T. and Jane (PRATT) MILLER, the latter of whom was born in Greene county, Ohio. David T. MILLER was born in Kosciusko county, Indiana, and early became a resident of Jay county, where he spent the remainder of his life engaged in farming. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, of whom four are still living, Mrs. SPAHR having three brothers, Oscar, Andrew Harlan and Frederick MILLER.

Unknown source