

STEED, WILLIAM W.

William W. STEED, one of the oldest and best known farmers and landowners of Pike township and a member of one of the pioneer families of Jay county, was born in Pike township, October 10, 1845, and is a son of Robert and Leah (KUNTZ) STEED, who had come to this county with their respective parents in pioneer days. Robert STEED was born in Shenandoah county, Virginia, May 7, 1820, and was ten years of age when his parents, John STEED and wife, moved with their family from Virginia to Ohio, the family locating in Warren county, where they remained for seven years, or until 1836, the year in which Jay county was organized, when they came over into Indiana and settled on a tract of eighty acres which John STEED had entered from the Government in Jefferson township, this county. Robert STEED was sixteen years of age when he came to Jay county and after his marriage he made his home on a forty-acre tract which he had bought in Pike township. As his affairs prospered he added to this until he amassed the owner of 337 acres and was accounted one of the well-to-do farmers of that section of the county. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, five of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Rebecca and Emma, and two brothers, James F. and Elmer STEED.

Reared on the farm on which he was born, William W. STEED received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and from the days of his boyhood has given his attention to farming. He married at the age of twenty-one and established his home on the farm of something more than ninety-seven acres on which he is now living in Pike township and has ever since resided there, he and his family now being very comfortably situated. Mr. STEED has done well in his farming operations and has a well-equipped farm plant.

It was on October 28, 1866, that William W. STEED was united in marriage to Mary C. MILLER, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth MILLER, and to this union eight children have been born, all of whom are living save two, Cyrus E. and Ernest A., the others being Leah, Mary, Lucy, Joseph D., William R. and James N. The STEED's have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 12 out of Portland and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the general social activities of that community, a community in which the family has been represented ever since this county became organized as a separate civic unit. Leah STEED married Charles ASHLEY, of Pike township, and has seven children, Neva, Paul, Grace, William, Ellsworth, Leland and Loren ASHLEY. Mary STEED married George BUSH, now deceased, and has seven children, Russell, Mabel, Rollo, Mary, Marion, Alta and Alfred BUSH. Lucy STEED married David GARRINGER and has three children, Fay, Carl and Mary GARRINGER. William R. STEED married Pearl WARREN and has four children, Chalmer, Agnes, Harold and Anna L. James N. STEED married Bertha BYE and has two children, Herbert and Stanley.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., *History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.359-360.* Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.