

## STEPHENSON, R. DOUGLAS

R. Douglas STEPHENSON, who died at his home in this county in the fall of 1914 and who was for years one of the best known farmers and stockmen of Wayne township, father of Robert R. and Thomas H. STEPHENSON, livestock dealers at Portland under the firm name of STEPHENSON Bros., was a native of the old Buckeye state, but had been a resident of Jay county since the days of his childhood and thus felt himself as much a part of this county and its affairs as though one of its native sons. Mr. STEPHENSON was born in Jackson county, Ohio, October 14, 1845, son of Richard and Anna (DEMPSEY) STEPHENSON, and was but a lad when his parents came over into Indiana with their family and located in this county. He completed his schooling here in the old Liber College and for a few years thereafter taught school during the winters, meanwhile continuing farm work during the summers, and after his marriage in 1878 began farming on a forty-acre tract he had bought on the line between Bearcreek and Wayne townships. For about twenty years he made his home on that place and then he sold it and bought a "forty" in Wayne township, where he established his home and spent the remainder of his life, the latter years of which were given over largely to the cattle business in which his sons have continued quite successfully. Mr. STEPHENSON also was the owner of another farm, a quarter section in Wayne township, and was accounted one of the substantial and influential men of his community. He died on March 16, 1914, and at his passing left a good memory. Mr. STEPHENSON was a Republican and was a member of the Portland lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

On September 19, 1876, R. Douglas STEPHENSON was united in marriage to Sarah E. HUEY, who was born in Wayne township, this county, daughter of Robert and Mary A. (KINNEAR) HUEY, and to this union were born three children, Robert R., Thomas H. and Mary A., all of whom are living. Robert R. STEPHENSON, senior member of the firm of STEPHENSON Bros., stock buyers and shippers at Portland, was born on the home farm in Wayne township on October 25, 1877, and received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood. From the days of his boyhood he was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of the farm, always particularly interested in the livestock end of the farm's operations, and in time he and his younger brother began to devote their energies especially to that branch of the farm, presently becoming associated under the firm name of STEPHENSON Bros. in the carrying on of the business which they have since profitably developed, long having been recognized as among- the leading shippers of livestock hereabout. Mr. STEPHENSON is a Republican and he and his wife are members of the Protestant Methodist church.

In 1919 Robert R. STEPHENSON was united in marriage to Maude ILIFF, who was born in the neighboring county of Adams, daughter of Mortimer and Sylvia (MYERS) ILIFF both of whom were born in Jay county and who were the parents of three children. Mrs. Maude STEPHENSON completed her schooling in the schools of Greenfield, Ind., a graduate of the high school at that place. Robert R. and Maude (ILIFF) STEPHENSON have one child, a daughter, Martha, born on April 24, 1921.

Thomas H. STEPHENSON, junior member of the firm of STEPHENSON Bros. and second son of R. Douglas and Sarah E. (HUEY) STEPHENSON, was born on the home farm in Wayne township, June 29, 1879, and the course of his life has been practically parallel to that of his brother, above set out, the brothers having kept closely associated both socially and in business all their lives. On June 29, 1918, Thomas H. STEPHENSON was united in marriage to Dessie HARTZELL, who was born in Noble township, this county, daughter of Emanuel T. and Elizabeth (CODER) HARTZELL, and whose schooling was completed in the Portland high school. Thomas H. STEPHENSON is a Republican and is a member of the local lodges of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Portland.

**SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.249-250. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.**