

## STONER, FRANCIS A.

Francis A. STONER, a member of the township advisory board of Madison township and one of the well-known and substantial farmers and landowners of that township, is a native son of Jay county, a member of one of the pioneer families here, and has lived in this county all his life. Mr. STONER was born on a farm in Madison township on November 30, 1873, and is a son of Francis H. and Matilda (BIBLER) STONER, the latter of whom was a member of the BIBLER family which came over here from Ohio in 1851 and settled in Madison township. Francis H. STONER was born in Preble County, Ohio, November 2, 1846 and was a son of Henry and Elizabeth (LOY) STONER, the latter of whom was born in the vicinity of Middletown, in Montgomery county, Ohio, July 8, 1811, a daughter of Peter and Catherine (TEMPLE) LOY, both natives of Maryland, who moved with their family from the West Alexandria neighborhood in Preble county, Ohio, over into Indiana in 1830 and settled on a tract of land in what later came to be organized as Madison township, this county, thus having been among the very earliest settlers of Jay county. Henry STONER was born in Preble county, Ohio, April 19, 1811, and was a son of Benjamin and Keziah (MORRIS) STONER, both of whom were born in Maryland, the former in 1766 and the latter in 1781, who were married in Maryland and in 1804, the year following the admission of Ohio to statehood, moved to Ohio and settled in Preble county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Henry STONER came to Jay county in the '40s and settled in Madison township. He came to be the owner of nearly 250 acres of land in that township and was accounted one of the substantial pioneers of that neighborhood.

His son Francis H. STONER grew to manhood there and after his marriage established his home in that same township, becoming one of the well-to-do farmers of that section of the county, and his son, Francis A. STONER, the subject of this review, followed in his footsteps, becoming a well-established farmer in that township. Francis A. STONER received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and continued farming with his father until his marriage in his twenty-fifth year, after which he began farming on his own account, renting a tract of eighty-five acres from his father, and was thus engaged for fifteen years. In the fall of 1913 Mr. STONER bought the farm of 110 acres on which he is now living in Madison township and in the following year (1914) established his home there. Since taking possession of this place Mr. STONER has made numerous substantial improvements on the same and now has a very well equipped farm plant. In addition to his general farming operations he gives considerable attention to the raising of cattle and hogs and is doing well. He is a Democrat and he and his wife are members of the Pleasant Hill Christian church, over in the neighboring county of Randolph.

It was on November 2, 1898, that Francis A. STONER was united in marriage to Melissa SHEFFER, who was born in Mercer county, Ohio, daughter of Andrew and Sophia (MITCHEL) SHEFFER, the latter of whom was born in Indiana. Andrew SHEFFER was born in Preble county, Ohio, and became a well-to-do farmer in Mercer county. He and

his wife had six children, all of whom are living, Mrs. STONER having one brother, Henry SHEFFER, and four sisters, Elizabeth, Emma, Ella and Arabella.

To Francis A. and Melissa (SHEFFER) STONER three children have been born, namely: Erma R., born on August 5, 1899, who married Henry LINDLEY, a farmer of Randolph county, this state, and has one child, a son, Eldon, born on January 14, 1918; Millard E., born on June 11, 1902, who is now an assistant to his father on the farm, and Harold L., born on September 7, 1907, who also is at home. The STONER's have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of Union City, Ind. and have ever taken an interested part in the community's general social activities. Mr. STONER has for years given his earnest attention to local civic affairs and is now serving the public in the important capacity of member of the Madison township advisory board.

**SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.126-127. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.**