

HENRY S. STRATTON, is one of the oldest settlers of Jay county, having been closely connected with its history nearly fifty years. He was born in Bradford County, Pennsylvania, May 11, 1809, the sixth of ten children of Timothy and Hester (Horton) Stratton, his father a native of Connecticut, and his mother of Delaware. Of this family he and a younger brother, Isaac H., now of Clarke County, Ohio, and a sister, Calista A Budd, of Montgomery, Indiana, are the only ones living. In 1814 the parents moved from Pennsylvania to Cincinnati, Ohio, and six years later moved to Clarke County, Ohio, where they built a home and lived the remainder of their lives. His mother died in 1838, his father surviving her nearly twenty years.

Henry S. Stratton remained at home until twenty-two years of age, at that time commencing life for himself. He was married May 8, 1836, to Rebecca Hedrick, a native of Clarke County, Ohio, born near South Charleston, September 24, 1818. Three years after their marriage they moved to Jay County, reaching the home of Samnel W. Sutton, October 26. From there to his future home, one and a half miles distant, Mr. Stratton chopped a road, and hastily built a log cabin. That cabin with its additions made at different times sheltered the family until 1862, when they moved into their present comfortable house, which is but a few rods from the old cabin. The homestead contains 180 acres all fenced and 120 acres being under cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. Stratton are enjoying a good degree of health, and all the comforts that plenty of means can furnish are theirs. Their friends are legion, their long residence in the county giving them a wide acquaintance. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and their house in the pioneer days was the home of the itinerant. May 8, 1886, they celebrated their golden wedding, and the day was gladdened by the presence of several of their children and a few intimate friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Stratton have had twelve children – David II., Timothy L., William H., Euphemia M (wife of Henry Atkinson), Solon C., John H., Findlay R., Laura L. (wife of Silas Darby), Milton L., Rebecca Jane, (deceased, wife of James Boyd), Florine L. (died aged six years), and Emma F. (died aged ten months). Five of the sons were in the war of the Rebellion – Timothy L., William II., Solon C., John H and Findlay R.. and two gave their lives for their country, William II died in Memphis, March 1st, 1863, and Solon C. died December 2, 1862, at Holly Springs, Mississippi. In early life Mr. Stratton was a Whig, and naturally when the Republican party was formed transferred his allegiance to its principles and was a strong supporter of Lincoln's administration, and since the war has been a firm upholder of his party and its representatives.

Biographical and Historical Record of Jay County, Indiana, Lewis Publishing Co, Chicago, 1887, p. 342.