

James Haines, one of the leading agriculturists of Pike Township, where he resides on Section 3, was born in Clinton County, Ohio, December 21, 1833, a son of Granville and Rhoda Haines, who were natives of New Jersey and West Virginia respectively. The father died several years ago and the mother is still living on the old homestead in Westboro, Ohio.

Of their ten children only five are now living – James, who was the third child; Mordechai, living in Clinton County, Ohio; Mrs. Mattie Towl, now living with her mother, Mrs. Nancy J. Page living in Des Moines, Iowa; and Mrs. Louisa Starr, living in Wayne Township, Jay County.

Mr. Haines was reared to manhood in his native county, remaining under the home roof until twenty-one years of age. He then worked for others in Ohio, Illinois and Indiana for a few years. December 23, 1858, he was married to Miss Sarah R. Brown, a native of Clinton County, Ohio, born April 18, 1836, a daughter of James and Mary Brown. Her parents were married in Kentucky and in 1813 settled in Ohio, where they commenced life in a small log-house. Their second residence was a hewed log-house, which in time was replaced by a fine brick residence. They reared a family of twelve children, Mrs. Haines being the youngest of the twelve children, of which only five are now living. The death of the father occurring in the year 1863, was the first death at the family homestead, occupied then fifty-one years.

Mr. and Mrs. Haines are the parents of seven children, all but the eldest living at home. The names of the children are as follows – Fernandas F., married Dona Silvey, daughter of James Silvey, and lives on and farms 160 acres of his father's homestead; Flora M., Amy E., George C., Rhoda L., Ivie E. and Bertha B. Mr. Haines sold his farm in Clinton County, Ohio in 1865, coming with his family to Jay County, Indiana in February of that year, when he bought 120 acres, a part of the fine farm of 820 acres now owned by him. His farm is now one of the best in Jay County, and his fine substantial brick residence, built in 1884, is among the largest and best constructed farm houses in this part of the state. The 75,000 brick used in the construction of the house were made by Mr. Haines, and the front walls of the building are made of white stone and sand from the Gulf of Mexico. Part of the finishing material for the inside work was brought from New York City and Chicago. There are in this residence thirty-seven windows and twenty-four doors.

This fine property has been acquired by the combined industry and prudent management of Mr. and Mrs. Haines, and they are now enjoying the fruits of their work. Their home is pleasantly situated and beautiful with the taste and care for flowers of Mrs. Haines and her daughters, and few finer or more rare collections of plants – among which are twenty-two different varieties of cactus – are found in any farmhouse than are to be seen at their beautiful home.

Mrs. Haines is a member of the Christian or Disciple Church. In politics, Mr. Haines has always cast his suffrage with the Republican Party.