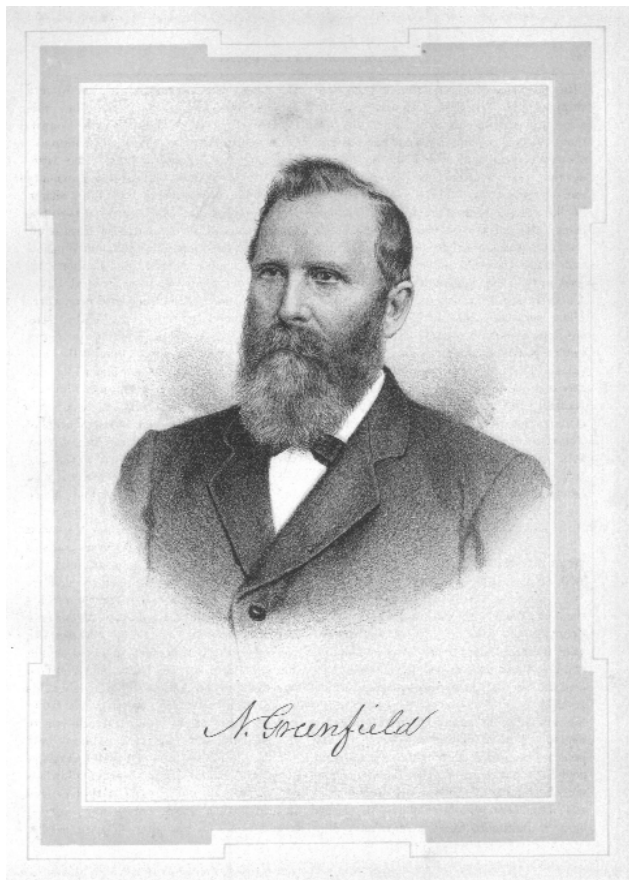


NATHANIEL GREENFIELD, a prominent citizen of Lancaster Township, where he resides on section 28, has been identified with the interests of Wells County since 1852. In the spring of that year he came here from Wayne County, Ohio, and erected a hewed log house on his land, 120 acres of heavily timbered land, which he had purchased in June, 1846. After erecting his house he returned to Ohio, and in September, 1852, moved his family to his pioneer home in Wells County. Mr. Greenfield is a native of Wayne County, Ohio, born September 13, 1824, a son of Zachariah and Jane (Forsyth) Greenfield, his father born in Baltimore County, Maryland, May 15, 1798, and his mother in the County Tyrone, Ireland, June 25, 1792. They were married July 7, 1821, in Wayne County, Ohio, and to them were born two children— Nathaniel and Rebecca Jane. The latter was born in Wayne County, Ohio, January 28, 1828, and was married to John Shafer, November 1, 1848. To them were

born two sons—James N. Greenfield, born August 26, 1849, died September 30, 1865, and Winslow B., born October 3, 1854, died February 18, 1860. John Shafer was born in Stark County, Ohio, July 17, 1826, and died near where he was born December 21, 1879. Mrs. Shafer is still a widow, residing in North Lawrence, Stark County, Ohio, still holding the position of ticket agent for the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad, which position she has held for twenty-five years. The father was one of the pioneers of Wayne County, Ohio, settling in the then wilderness of that county as early as the year 1818. He cleared a farm and erected good buildings and enjoyed a comfortable home in that county until his death March 25, 1876. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church for over fifty years and was a member of the first organization of that church in that part of the country and for one year the only surviving member of that first organization. The mother of our subject died November 15, 1856. She was also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church during her married life. Nathaniel Greenfield was early in life inured to hard labor, his youth being spent in assisting his father with the work of the farm. Muscle was in demand; all manner of work required hard muscle; ground was plowed with primitive plows with wooden mold boards; grain was cut with sickles and threshed with flails, and cleaned with a sheet; horses were used by some farmers for tramping off grain, passing around in a circle on the barn floor. The opportunity for an education was very limited, his longest term of schooling at any one term being sixty-five days, but by persevering industry and private study he secured a fair education, and when twenty-three years of age was qualified to teach, and for a while taught near his old home in Ohio. After coming to Wells County he taught the first winter in his district, the school being held in a log cabin with the desks fastened



to the walls of the house on three sides, scholars facing the walls. The following spring he was elected clerk of the township board of trustees, and through his influence twelve new frame school-houses were erected in his township. The two winters following he taught the school in his district, and the three following winters he was engaged in teaching in the schools in Bluffton, after which he taught in his own district again. Mr. Greenfield was united in marriage in Wayne County, Ohio, October 2, 1845, to Miss Elizabeth Kenagy, and to them was born one daughter, Elizabeth Jane, September 14, 1846. Elizabeth Greenfield died September 15, 1846. Elizabeth Jane was reared by her grandparents until her grandmother Greenfield died; then she came to Wells County, and lived with her father until September 19, 1867, when she was united in marriage to John Wasson. They are now living in Bluffton and have a family of six children. Mr. Greenfield was married to his present wife, Miss Maria Jane Shafer, in Stark County, Ohio, May 8, 1851, who was born in that county March 30, 1832, a daughter of John and Eve Shafer, both of whom died in Stark County, the father in August, 1861, aged seventy-one years, and the mother at the advanced age of eighty-four years July 31, 1876. They were the parents of four sons and four daughters, Mrs. Greenfield being the youngest child. Their daughter Mary resides in Bluffton, and is the wife of Richard S. Bowman, a farmer, who has retired from active business. Mrs. Margret Young, another daughter, resides in Stark County, Ohio, the widow of Cyrus Young. Philip Shafer, the only living son, resides on the home farm. William, Susan, Michael and John are deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Greenfield have been born two children—Eva B., born in Wells County, Indiana, November 80, 1863, was united in marriage to Madison Powell, November 27, 1884, and now lives in Hebron, Thayer County, Nebraska; Anna L., living at home with her parents, was born February 6, 1868, and graduated in the class of 1886, from the Bluffton High School. The first home of our subject after coming to Wells County was replaced by a fine two-story frame residence in 1867. His buildings for the accommodation of his stock were all erected with a view to comfort and convenience and are all in good condition. He devotes some attention to stock raising and is making a specialty of short-horn cattle, also has a few Jerseys. He has always been an industrious citizen and by his persevering energy and good management has acquired his present fine property, he having commenced life in Wells County on a very small capital. In October, 1861, Mr. Greenfield enlisted as a recruit in Company G, Twelfth Indiana Infantry. His regiment was assigned to the Army of the Potomac and was in General Banks' command through Maryland and Virginia. In February, 1865, he re-enlisted in the One Hundred and Fifty-third Indiana Infantry and served as Quartermaster-Sergeant. In early days Mr. Greenfield was a Henry Clay Whig, and naturally was one of the founders of the Republican party in Wells County. He has ever since been prominent in the councils of that political party, and is the acknowledged leader of his party in Lancaster Township. By the suffrages of his friends of both parties he was elected to the office of township trustee for one term, which alone shows his popularity in his township, being then over 100 Democratic majority. He is classed among the active and public spirited citizens of Wells County, and is always ready to aid in any enterprise for the advancement of his township or county, and by his genial manners and strict and honorable dealings he gained the confidence and esteem of the entire community.

Biographical and historical record of Adams and Wells counties, Indiana. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1887. pp. 830-834.