

BAIR, EDWARD M

Edward M. BAIR, one of Jay county's best known farmers and stockmen and proprietor of a well-kept farm at the edge of the pleasant village of New Mt. Pleasant, in Jefferson township, rural mail route No. 5 out of Portland, is a native son of this county and has lived here all his life. Mr. BAIR was born at New Mt. Pleasant November 25, 1860, and is a son and the last born of the thirteen children born to Samuel T. and Catherine (BLOOM) BAIR, both members of pioneer families in this county. Of these thirteen children, six are still living, the subject of this sketch having three brothers, Samuel, George Albert and Charles BAIR and two sisters, Louisa and Sarah. Those deceased were John F., Susanna, Eliza J., William H., Louisa, Sarah K., Joe and David E. Samuel T. BAIR, the father, was born near Hanover, [York Co.] Pa., and grew to manhood there. After his marriage he moved to Eaton, [Preble Co.] Ohio, and in 1853 came to Jay county, the family settling at New Mt. Pleasant, where he established his home and for years was a merchant there, proprietor of a general store and also the proprietor of the village hotel, one of the best known citizens in this part of the state during this period of his business activity, for in the days before the railroads came in and passed New Mt. Pleasant by on the other side, that village was one of the busiest places in the county. In addition to his commercial activities Samuel T. BAIR also was the owner of a good farm in Jefferson township and with the aid of his sons carried on farming on a pretty extensive scale. Edward M. BAIR grew up on that farm and from the days of his boyhood was an active assistant in the labors of the same. He received his schooling in the New Mt. Pleasant schools and remained on the home place until his marriage at the age of twenty-five years, after which he bought a tract of seventy acres in Jefferson township and there made his home. About five years later, in 1890, he moved to a farm west of that place and there continued farming until 1901, in which year he moved to the place on which he is now living, at the edge of the village of New Mt. Pleasant, where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Mr. BAIR is the owner of 164 acres and in addition to his general farming gives considerable attention to the raising of mules, cattle and hogs and is also widely known hereabout as a trader in livestock. He is a Democrat and a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Ridgeville and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Edward M. BAIR has been twice married. In 1885 he was united in marriage to Elizabeth McCARTNEY, who also was born in this county, and who died leaving one child, a son, Clyde R. BAIR, who married Vera REESER and has one child, a son, John Edward. On March 22, 1890,

Mr. BAIR married Leuttie ELLWOOD, who also was born in Jay county, at New Mt. Pleasant, daughter and only child of Jacob W. and Isabel (IRONS) ELLWOOD, and to this union one child was born, Ethel, born on December 27, 1890. Ethel BAIR completed her schooling at Earlham College and at a school of music in Marion, Ind. and on February 13, 1914, married Guy L. BLACKBURN, of Buckland, [Auglaize Co.] Ohio. She was drowned while picnicking on June 12, of that same year. SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.433-434. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.