

Lewis BEARD, who died at his farm home in Greene Township, this county, in the spring of 1917, had been a resident of Jay County for many years and at his passing left a good memory. Mr. BEARD was a "Buckeye" by birth, as were so many of the older residents of this county, and was born on October 26, 1850, a son of John and Mary (BIRD) BEARD, both of whom also were born in Ohio. John BEARD spent his last days in Jay County in the home of his son Lewis, having moved here upon his retirement. Lewis BEARD was reared in Ohio and early became a skilled drainage expert. As a young man he came over into Indiana and located at Portland, finding in this section of the state ample opportunity for the exercise of his talents. He established himself as a ditch and drainage contractor at Portland and was thus engaged until 1894, when he bought a small farm of fifty-six and one-half acres in Greene Township and took up farming. On that farm he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there on April 18, 1917, he then being in his sixty-seventh year. On July 4, 1872, Lewis BEARD was united in marriage to Martha POHLM, who was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of John and Susan ( BEAR )POHLM; and to this union four children were born, two of whom Laura A. and Charles W., are deceased, two daughters, Mary and Florence, surviving. Lewis BEARD and his wife were members of the Christian church and their children were reared in that faith. Mr. BEARD was a member of the local lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose at Portland. Mary BEARD married Arland MORRICAL, of this county, and has two children, Sheldon L. and Willard R. MORRICAL; Florence BEARD married Sherman STEED, now living at Redkey, and has one child, a son, Warren O. STEED. The STEED's are an old family in Jay County, having been represented here since pioneer days and further reference to them is made elsewhere in this volume. SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls.1922, Vol. II, p.210. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut