

William Hammons, who resided on section 9, Pike Township, has been identified with the interests of Jay County since 1852, and has become one of the leading men of his township. He was born in Old Virginia, November 23, 1829, a son of Robert M. and Harriet D. (Scott) Hammons, and from his sixth year was reared in the State of Ohio. The parents lived in Ohio until their death, the father dying in the year 1852 and the mother in 1855. In 1856, William Hammons returned to his old home in Jackson County, Ohio, to care for the younger members of his father's family and on his return to Jay County, in 1860, he was accompanied by two sisters, Harriet and Virginia, and his brother, James E. his sisters now being deceased and his brother living in Portland. One sister, Mrs. Susan Anderson, a widow, lives in Ridgeville; another sister, Mrs. Mary Riegle, is a resident of Jackson County, Ohio; his brother, Benjamin W., lives in Young County, Texas; Robert T., another brother, resided in Greene Township, Jay County; one brother, Joseph died in Ohio and a sister, Mrs. Sarah Stiffler died in Missouri.

William Hammons, the subject of this sketch, was united in marriage to Miss Mary J. Broughman, July 2, 1861, who was born in Preble County, Ohio, being reared in Jay County, her parents, George and Delilah Broughman, being early settlers of Pike Township, where they lived until the year 1880, when they moved to Michigan. Of the ten children born to this union, eight still survive - Adella, wife of Ernest Watson of Portland; Winona, wife of John D. McDonald of Blaine, and George W. F., Charles B., Cora E., James S., Ella P. and John L., living at home. Ada L., the eldest child, died in infancy and the youngest, Oscar G., died in his fourth year.

Mr. Hammons was a soldier in the War of the Rebellion, enlisting in August, 1864, in Company F, One Hundred and Fortieth Indiana Infantry. He served in Tennessee in the Twenty-Third Corps under General Schofield and joined Sherman's Army at Goldsboro, North Carolina. He received his discharge in July, 1865, when he returned to his home in Pike Township, where he has since devoted his time to agricultural pursuits, and by industry and good management, he has acquired 229 acres of choice land, 135 acres being cleared and under a high state of cultivation. After coming to Jay County, Mr. Hammons intended to fit himself by good education for life's duties, and commenced attending Liber College, but the death of his mother changed his plans, and his dreams of a scholarship were dismissed by the call to him for help from his young brothers and sisters.

Mrs. Hammons died February 18, 1878, at the age of thirty-eight years and for his second wife, Mr. Hammons wedded Mrs. Clarina (Hudson) Mitchell, a daughter of James and Mary Hudson, now deceased who were formerly residents of Pike Township.

By her former husband, William H. Mitchell, Mrs. Hammons has three daughters - Hattie, Cora and Gertrude, who are yet members of her household.

Politically Mr. Hammons has affiliated with the Republican Party since its organization. He is an active and public spirited citizen, and is always interested in any enterprise for the advancement of his township or county.