

ROBERT HUEY, one of the early pioneers of Wayne Township, Jay County, is a native of Montgomery County, Ohio, born near Dayton March 15, 1810. His parents, Albert R and Margaret (Reed) Huey, were natives of Virginia and Pennsylvania, respectively. The removed to Kentucky in early life, and later to Montgomery County, where they were married, living in that county until their death, the father dying at the advanced age of eighty-two years and mother at the age of sixty-eight years. They reared a family of twelve children, of whom six sons and two daughters still survive.

Robert Huey, the subject of this sketch, was the eldest child in his father's family, and was reared to manhood on his father's farm in his native county. He was married April 9, 1835, to Miss Mary Ann Shellabarger, and on the 25th of October, 1836, he started with his wife and one child in a wagon for Jay County, he having shortly before entered the northeast quarter of section 17, Wayne Township. There were at that time but twelve or fourteen families in what is now Wayne Township, and of the old pioneers who were living there at that early day, all are now passed away but the subject of this sketch. When Mr. Huey came to enter his land he made the trip on horseback, and in going from where Portland is now situated to the land office at Fort Wayne he passed but one house before reaching the Wabash River, a distance of fourteen miles, the next house, known as Ball's Tavern, being sixteen miles farther. All the surrounding country was new at that time, and game of all kinds was abundant.

Mr. Huey was bereaved by the death of his wife about six months after settling in the county, her death taking place March 12, 1837. By his first marriage he had two children – John, born January 6, 1836, and Francis Marion, who was born March 2, 1837, and died at the age of ten days. Mr. Huey married a second time December 19, 1840, Miss Mary Ann Kinnear, a native of Darke County, Ohio, born September 10, 1819, and to this union were born eight children, three of whom are living – James Ellet, born January 10, 1843; Samuel M., born July 10, 1845, and Elizabeth, born August 4, 1851, now the wife of Douglass Stevenson. Five [children], Thomas C, David G., Margaret Ann, Noah and Robert, died in childhood.

Mr. Huey has been identified with the growth and advancement of Wayne Township for over fifty years, and has witnessed all the changes that have taken place in the county, transforming it from a wilderness into its present advanced state of culture and influence. He served two successive terms as county sheriff, being the third sheriff in the county, and was subsequently elected to the State Legislature for three terms, and later served two terms in the State Senate. He also held the office of County Commissioner for three years, and in all those official positions he served the best interests of his township of county. Politically he has been a life long Democrat, casting his first vote in Dayton, Ohio, in 1832, for Andrew Jackson, and in 1836 was one of three who voted for Van Buren in his precinct.

Biographical and Historical Record of Jay County, Indiana, Lewis Publishing Co, Chicago, 1887, p. 341-342.