

LYONS, THOMAS H.

Thomas H. LYONS, one of Pike township's best known and most substantial agriculturists and landowners, proprietor of an excellent farm on rural route No. 4 out of Ridgeville, is a native of the old Buckeye state, whence so many of the older residents of Jay county came, but has been a resident of this county since he was four years of age and has thus been a witness to and a participant in the amazing development that has marked this region during the past seventy years. Mr. LYONS was born in Perry county, Ohio, November 11, 1846, and is a son of Elijah and Mary (BAILEY) LYONS, the latter of whom was born in Fulton county, Pennsylvania, January 12, 1820, a daughter of Peter and Margaret (CLINE) BAILEY. Elijah LYONS was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, September 24, 1824, son of Thomas and Eve (APPLE) LYONS, who moved in 1837 from that county to Perry county, same state, where the father died in August of the following year. His widow survived him many years, her death occurring in 1879 in Jay county. Two of their sons, Thomas and Samuel, were soldiers of the Union during the Civil war, the latter holding the rank of captain. Elijah LYONS was fourteen years of age when his father died and he remained with his mother on the home farm until his marriage to Mary BAILEY, January 8, 1846, after which he began farming on his own account in Perry county, where he remained until he came over into Jay county with his family in the fall of 1850 and settled on an unimproved tract in section 26 of Pike township, establishing his home there in a rude log cabin, which was occupied by the family until he was able to erect a substantial and commodious brick residence in 1867. His first land holding there was a tract of something more than a quarter section, but as his affairs prospered he added to this until he became one of the large landowners of that part of the county. Elijah LYONS was a man of force and influence in the community, one of the leaders in the local ranks of the Democratic party, and served for some time as trustee of Pike township and later as a member of the board of county commissioners from his district. On that farm he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. She died on October 4, 1885, and he survived until in January, 1908. They were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first born, the others being William, who died in infancy, John B., Mrs. Sarah A. JELLISON, Stephen S., Mrs. Rebecca Jane WARE, Mary Lavina and Mrs. Susanna DICKES.

As noted above, Thomas H. LYONS was four years of age when he came to Jay county with his parents in the fall of 1850 and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Pike township. He received his early schooling in the Lesh school, supplementing this by a course in Liber College, and as the eldest son was from the days of his boyhood a helpful factor in the labors of developing the home farm. When twenty-six years of age, Mr. LYONS bought an "eighty" of the home place, a part of the farm where he is now living, and has continued to make his home there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. As his farming operations developed he bought additional land and now is the owner of a fine farm of 280 acres and one of the best equipped farm plants in the neighborhood. Mr. LYONS is a Democrat, as was his father, and has ever

given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

On May 15, 1.873, Thomas H. LYONS was united in marriage to Adeline FRICKEL, a daughter of Conrad and Mary FRICKEL, who were among the earlier of the German emigrants who had come over here from Ohio, and to this union have been born five children, all of whom are living save one son, Jesse, the first born, the others being Pearl, Homer. Gay and. Elijah. The two daughters are unmarried and are at home with their parents. Homer LYONS married Alice BROSIUS and has two children, Dale and Rex. Elijah LYONS, who was named in honor of his paternal grandfather, married Minnie MILLER and has three children, Max, Madonna and Robert Elijah.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.421-422. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.