

Fernando H. Lacey, an enterprising citizen of Jay County, engaged in farming and dealing in stock in Jefferson Township, is a native of Indiana, born in Wayne County, January 9, 1846, a son of John and Ann Eliza (Pennick) Lacey. John Lacey, the father of our subject, was a son of one of the earliest settlers of Wayne County, and in that county he was reared and married to Ann Eliza Pennick, a native of Jay County, Indiana. Her parents were among the early pioneers of Jay County, and helped clear the ground where Portland now stands. John Lacey died in Wayne County in 1848, and his widow subsequently married William Pearson. In 1854, the family came to Jay County and settled on a tract of eight acres in Jefferson Township which had been bought by Mr. Pearson in the year previous, the land at that time being nearly all covered with timber. Mr. Pearson is yet a resident of Jefferson Township.

Fernando H. Lacey was but eight years old when the family came to Jay County and here he grew to manhood. He commenced working for himself when seventeen years old, farming a part of his stepfather's land, receiving a third of the crop. He was thus employed until reaching the age of twenty-one years, after which he was variously employed until about twenty-five years of age, working out by the month or whatever he could find to do. During the last year he was also engaged in buying and trading in village lots in connection with his other work, and at the end of this time he had saved enough to buy a tract of 120 acres of land on section 27, Jefferson Township. His land was heavily covered with timber, and the first year he spent clearing it, he lived with his stepfather. He was then married, November 30, 1872, to Miss Sarah Bost, a daughter of William Bost of Jay County. Immediately after his marriage, he moved to his land and here he lived until the death of his wife in June 1875, when he returned to the home of his stepfather. About two years later, he was married to Miss Nancy Ann Whaley, a native of Jay County and a daughter of Levi Whaley, of Jay County, her mother being deceased. Two children were born to this union - Luella and Laura. Mr. Lacey had two children by his first marriage of whom one died in infancy. A son, Oliver E., is still living. After his second marriage, Mr. Lacey again returned to his farm, where he lived until settling on his present farm on section 22, Jefferson Township in December, 1881.

Mr. Lacey is classed among the self-made men of the county, having begun life a poor boy and by his indomitable energy and good management, became one of the leading property holders of Jay County. He is now the owner of 160 acres where he resides, another farm of 174 acres, a farm of 109 acres north of Mount Pleasant, a third interest in a tract of eighty acres, the above located in Jefferson Township and forty acres in Green Township, making in all 510 acres, besides which he has town property in Geneva.

Politically Mr. Lacey is a Republican. He is a member of Sugar Grove United Brethren Church and is class leader in the congregation.