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ELISHA V. ELZEY, retired farmer, came to this county October 7, 1836, with his parents, three sisters and three brothers. One sister was married and came with her husband and two children. The family settled on section 31, Root Township, upon the farm now owned by Scott Hughes. The father entered the entire section from the Government, and divided it among his children, keeping 280 acres for himself. He entered the land in May, 1836, then returned and brought his family. They moved with four wagons and nine horses. They also brought several cows with them. The family came from Clinton County, Ohio, where Elisha was born July 26, 1815, and where he was reared. The parents were William and Elizabeth (Nichols) Elzey. The father was born in Delaware in 1783, and was reared in the State of Maryland. He was married in that State, and removed to Cincinnati with wife and one child. They afterward removed to Clinton County, when the country was new. He went to Ohio previous to the war of 1812, but being disabled for military duty on account of a broken collar bone, he was exempt. The mother was born in Maryland, and was some younger than the father. She died in December, 1834, in Clinton County. Elisha was married February 28, 1837 to Miss Elvira Johns, who was born in Clinton County, Ohio, one mile from Cuba, in 1818, where she was reared and educated. Mr. Elzey returned to this county immediately after marriage. Before leaving he had built a log cabin on an eighty-acre lot given him by his father. He lived on this farm with his family until he moved to the city of Decatur in 1880. All his children were reared and married on this farm. Mrs. Elzey died December 28, 1839, leaving one child seven months old - Hiram, now living in Muscatine County, Iowa. April 26, 1840, Mr. Elzey was married to Miss Mary Row, who was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, and came to this county with her mother and brother in 1839, settling on the Reynolds farm. The second wife died the following May, within six weeks of her marriage. He was married the third time March 26, 1842, to Comfort Ann Whitehurst, who was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1820, and came to this county with her mother and two brothers in 1841. She died in February, 1879, leaving six children - Richard S., Jane Rachel, Alfred, Mary, William and Caroline. In October, 1882, Mr. Elzey married Mrs. Rachel Fisher, who was born in Frederick County, Virginia, March 18, 1816, was reared and married in that State to Lewis Fisher, and removed to Clinton County, Ohio, in 1834, and lived there until her family came to this county in 1840, settling on a farm adjoining Mr. Elzey's. They then sold out and removed to French Township, where Mr. Fisher died April 18, 1854. He was born October 26, 1810, in Virginia, where he was reared and married. He died leaving nine children - Elizabeth, William, Thomas, Mary, Clinton, Catherine, Delphey, Ann and Melissa. One child, Samantha, died at the age of thirteen months, previous to the father's death. Of these eight children, four are living, two sons and two daughters. When Mr.

Elzey came to this county with his father to enter the land, there was no house in Decatur. One house was built the following October, and a surveyor by the name of Jacob Hoffer lived in it. The first election held in the county was at the house of John Reynolds when Samuel L. Rugg was clerk. The first letter that he and his wife received through the Decatur postoffice Mr. Rugg brought to them two and a half miles. They used to fan their buckwheat, and sometimes their wheat, with quilts. Mr. Elzey's grandfather, John Elzey, died in Maryland, and his grandmother, Mary Elzey died in Clinton County, Ohio, at a hale old age. His maternal grandparents died in Maryland. Mrs. Elzey's parents were William and Elizabeth (Braning) Williams, who were born and died in Virginia. Her grandfather, Hugh Williams, was born in Wales, and settled in Virginia when a young man, whre he died. Her grandmother, Nancy (Keatch) Williams, was born in England. Her maternal grandfather, John Braning, was born in Ireland, and when eleven years of age ran away from home and came to America, settling in Frederick County, Virginia, where he passed the remainder of his days. His parents found where he was and sent for him to come home, but he was afraid to go, although his father was old and there was a million dollars for him. He married Rebecca Keatch, and their eldest daughter, Elizabeth, married William Williams. The grandmother, Rebecca (Keatch) Braning, was born in Shenandoah County, Virginia, and died in Berkeley County, aged ninety-one years.