

JOSIAH CRAWFORD, farmer, section 2, Wabash Township, is one of the pioneers of the township, having lived within a few rods of his present residence since 1839. His first habitation was a log cabin, 16 x 18 feet. He afterward moved into a house, built by a brother, John Crawford, of Decatur, with whom he was in partnership in farming and stock dealing. They were the first to bring stock into the county in large numbers, having brought 140 head from Darke County, Ohio. They brought the first short-horn cattle into this part of the State. They usually sold to drovers. Mr. Crawford made a specialty of stock-raising as long as his health and age permitted. He was born in Waynesburg, Greene County, Pennsylvania, April 21, 1811. His father, William Crawford, was a native of Waynesborough, Lancaster County, same State. His paternal grandparents, Josiah and Margaret (Kincaid) Crawford, were born in Donegal, Ireland, and immigrated to America when young, settling in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where they were married, and afterward removed to Franklin County, where they passed the remainder of their days. He accumulated quite a property, but, owing to the depreciation of Continental currency, lost heavily.

William Crawford was reared in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, and married Jane Alexander, who was born in Maryland, and came with her parents to Pennsylvania. His father, William Crawford, was a native of Pennsylvania, and followed the mercantile business in Waynesburgh, Pennsylvania, from 1803 until 1815. In this business he secured a competency. Mrs. Crawford's mother, Mary (Curswell) Alexander, was born in Wales, and of Scotch parentage. The parents of our subject had six children, of whom he is the second child. The mother died in 1821, and the father afterward married Nancy Hayes, and to this union were born six children. The father died January 21, 1837. The family were good Christian people, having been members of the Presbyterian church. The father was well educated for those days, and held the position of associate judge, besides other offices of trust.

Josiah Crawford received a good common-school education. In 1832 he became his father's partner in the mercantile trade, which he continued a few years, and in October, 1839, he came to Adams County, as previously stated. He had been here the year before and purchased and entered 500 acres of land, in company with his brother. Mr. Crawford was married, March 25, 1841, to Rosanna Abnet, born in Virginia April 10, 1816, and a daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Baker) Abnet, who settled in Jefferson Township in 1839, where they lived until their death.

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford had one child - Mary J., wife of Abram Rawley. She was born January 1, 1842, and died December 10, 1881. Mrs. Crawford died in November, 1884. Mr. Crawford is a Democrat in politics, and cast his first Presidential vote for General Jackson, in 1832. He was elected a member of the board of county commissioners in October, 1856, and held the office eighteen years. He had the honor of shaking hands with General Jackson, and has heard Henry Clay and William Henry Harrison speak; has also seen David Crockett. He has 260 acres of land and a comfortable home. His granddaughter keeps his house for him. Mr. Crawford is one of two, now residing in the township, who voted at the Presidential election in 1840. He was no hunter, although game was very plenty when he settled here. He has always been a popular man, is liberal in all his views and a good converser. He served as justice of the peace five years.