

Jesse A. Ray is industriously engaged in his peaceful and profitable occupation in Kirkland Township, Wells County, where he holds an assured position among the substantial business men of his community. A son of Cyrus W. Ray, he was born, January 1, 1870, in Monroe Township, Adams County, Indiana.

Born September 2, 1837, in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, Cyrus W. Ray grew to manhood on the parental homestead, and there acquired a broad knowledge of the science of agriculture. After farming there for a few years on his own behalf, he migrated with his family to Iowa, where he was engaged as a tiller of the soil for five years. Disappointed in the results of his toil, he came back as far as Indiana, and settled in Adams County, where he carried on general farming successfully until his death, April 22, 1906. He was a man of sterling worth, and one of the more highly respected men of his community. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary J. Hendricks, was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, December 8, 1843, and died in Adams County, Indiana, June 10, 1914. They were the parents of six children, as follows: John M., Lydia E., Thomas F., Jesse A., Josiah B., and Hosea O. Both parents were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and reared their children in the same religious faith.

Acquiring his early education in the schools of Monroe Township, Jesse A. Ray began as a boy to assist his father on the home farm, obtaining a practical knowledge of agriculture that has since been of inestimable value to him in his favorite pursuit. Becoming a farmer from inclination and choice, Mr. Ray has now a half interest in a ninety-five acre farm, pleasantly located three miles southeast of Decatur. This farm is under a good state of culture, and constitutes with its substantial improvements one of the most desirable pieces of property in the neighborhood.

Mr. Ray has been twice married. He married first, April 22, 1892, Lucretia Smith, daughter of Barclay and Amanda Smith. She died in early womanhood, leaving four children, Grover, Loma, Homer P. and Burman C. Mr. Ray married second, March 16, 1908, Edith Beaber, who was born in Huntington Township, Huntington County, Indiana. Her parents, Rev. Thomas and Emma A. Beaber, were natives of Tuscarawas County, Ohio, but spent the larger part of their married life in Indiana, both dying in this state. Beside their daughter, Edith, Rev. Thomas and Mrs. Beaber reared four other children, Ralph V, Elsie L., Grace E., and Milton F. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Ray four children have been born, namely: Charles Doyle, born in 1910, Gerald Albert, born in 1911, Oscar Thomas, born in 1913; and Floyd J., born in 1915. Politically Mr. Ray is a democrat, and religiously he and his wife are members of the United Brethren Church.

**Standard History of Adams and Wells Counties, Indiana, Vol. II, John W. Tyndall & Orlo Ervin Lesh; Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co, 1918, p. 717-718.**