

WILLIAM HASS. It can not be expected, in a work of this kind, where but brief biographical sketches of prominent citizens of the county are given, that we can do justice to this much esteemed and honored citizen, and yet he has been identified with the county so long, and his name is so familiar to all, that it is only just to dwell upon his career, not as empty words of praise, but as the plain statement of a still plainer truth. Mr. Hass now makes his home in York township, Elkhart county, Ind., but had his nativity in the east, being born in Northumberland county, Penn., December 27, 1816. His parents, John and Catherine (Mayer) Hass, were natives of the Keystone State, born in what is now Snyder county. The natural advantages of the Western States attracted the attention of John Hass at an early date, and in the year 1842 he came to Michigan, locating in St. Joseph, where he made a permanent home. His death occurred on May 10, 1846, at Franklin, Penn., whither he had gone on a visit. Mrs. Hass died in St. Joseph, Mich., on March 4, 1846. The original of this notice was reared on his father's farm in the Keystone State, and after the latter moved to Michigan young Hass took charge of the farm in Pennsylvania. He was married in that State on November 17, 1842, to Miss Rachel Bennage, daughter of George Bennage, and in 1846 the fertile prairies of the West tempted him also to move toward the setting sun. He and wife started with the father of our subject, who died on the way, as before mentioned. Mr. Hass settled on his father's place in Michigan, resided there until the spring of 1865, and then came to the Hoosier State. He located upon his present farm in York township, and here reared their children, three in number, viz.: Samuel B., born August 13, 1843, enlisted in the Union army in 1861, was taken sick and died at Chattanooga on April 5, 1864; John H., born November 15, 1845, enlisted in the army, served until the close, his death occurred on November 7, 1890; George B., born August 23, 1848, also a brave and faithful soldier during the war and served until the close. He is now a resident of the Wolverine State, Branch county. The mother of these children passed away on September 10, 1848, and Mr. Hass selected his second wife in the person of Miss Rebecca F. Gray, their union being celebrated on September 23, 1849. Mrs. Hass was born May 25, 1830, and was the daughter of Daniel and Isabel (Murray) Gray, natives of Pennsylvania, the father dying in Michigan, November 7, 1872, and the mother in her native State on August 11, 1842. Mr. Hass' last union resulted in the birth of these children: Sarah E., Harris M., Daniel S., Almer C., Katie A., Lucy B. and William H., the last four deceased. Mr. Hass has thirty-nine acres of land., and although his farm is small, he has it so well cultivated that he raises almost as much as some of his neighbors who have much larger farms. He has now reached the advanced age of seventy-five years, and although he has nearly lost his eyesight, being able to see out of but one eye, he enjoys comparatively good health. He is a Republican in his political affiliations, and he and Mrs. Hass are worthy members of the Christian Church.

*“Pictorial and Biographical Memoirs of Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties, Indiana
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