

farm and where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Fred Gauck died in Ripley county and his widow is still living there.

Mr. and Mrs. Doenges have three children, Flora, Martha and Ahlma. Mrs. Doenges is a member of the Catholic church and takes an earnest interest in parish affairs. Mr. Doenges is a member of the local tribe of the Improved Order of Red Men and takes an active interest in the affairs of the same.

GEORGE D. MESSERSMITH.

George D. Messersmith, one of Columbia township's well-known and substantial farmers and proprietor of a well-improved farm of one hundred and eighty acres a short distance northwest of Nulltown, where he and his family are very comfortably situated, was born in that township and has lived there all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in that township, September 11, 1857, son of Peter and Elizabeth (Ward) Messersmith, well-known residents of that community, both now deceased.

Peter Messersmith also was born in Columbia township and lived there all his life. He was born in 1834, a son of Peter and Mary (Grosslow) Messersmith, who were born and married in Germany and who had one child born to them in the old country, later coming to the United States and proceeding on out to Indiana, locating in this county and becoming early settlers in Columbia township, where they spent the remainder of their lives, industrious farming people. The junior Peter Messersmith was born after his parents came to this county and farmed all his life on the old homestead in Columbia township, where he was born and where he died in 1867. His wife, Elizabeth Ward, was born in Preble county, Ohio, in 1831, and was but a girl when her parents, William and Mary (Smith) Ward came over into Indiana and located on a farm just northwest of Nulltown, in this county, where they remained the rest of their lives. William Ward and his wife were born in Rockingham county, Virginia, and were there married, later moving to Ohio and after a sometime residence in Preble county moved to Cleves, in that same state, whence, in the spring of 1837, they came on up the valley of the Whitewater and settled on a farm near Nulltown, in Columbia township, this county, where William Ward died in the following October, leaving his wife and four small children. The Widow Ward kept her children together and by the exercise of courage and industry maintained her little family until the children were of a self-supporting age, among her

labors having been the keeping of a hotel for boarding the laborers on the canal when the canal was being dug through that part of the country. She lived to a good old age, her death occurring in 1894. Elizabeth Ward early evinced an unusual interest in her studies at school and upon completing her schooling in the local schools became a school teacher and was thus engaged for some years before her marriage to Peter Messersmith. To that union five children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being as follow: Ida May, who died when four years of age; Franklin, who has been dead a number of years; Marietta Geneva, who is living on the old home farm, and George, who is also living on the old home place and farming the same.

George D. Messersmith was ten years of age when his father died and he grew up on the home farm near Nulltown, from boyhood an able assistant to his widowed mother in the labors of maintaining the home place. After his marriage he and his wife established their home on the old Ward homestead in Columbia township and have ever since made that a place of residence. Mr. Messersmith is farming one hundred and eighty acres and is doing very well, in addition to his general farming, giving considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock, with particular reference to Poland China hogs, raising registered stock. He is a member of the local lodges of the Knights of Pythias and of the improved order of Red Men and in the affairs of these organizations takes a warm interest.

In 1901 George D. Messersmith was united in marriage to Stella Holmes, who was born in Fairview township, this county, a daughter of John P. and Ellen (Reese) Holmes, both natives of Indiana, the former born in Franklin county and the latter in this county. John P. Holmes was born on a farm near the village of Andersonville in 1843, a son of William and Elizabeth (Hogue) Holmes, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Virginia parentage, who had lived in the Andersonville neighborhood for some years before their son, John P., was born. When the latter was a boy in his teens they moved to Illinois, where both died about two years later. John P. Holmes then returned to Indiana and located in the neighborhood of Glenwood, where, in 1867, he married Ellen Reese, who was born in this county, in the vicinity of Glenwood, daughter of Lorenzo and Rachel Ann (Moffett) Reese, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Pennsylvania. Lorenzo Reese was born in 1818 and was but a child when his parents, John and Nancy (Barrett) Reese, came over into Indiana from Ohio and settled in the neighborhood of Longwood, in this county. There Lorenzo Reese grew to manhood and there he married Rachel Ann Moffett, who was born in Lan-

caster county, Pennsylvania, and who was but two years of age when her parents, Thomas and Salome Moffett, came to Indiana and settled in the neighborhood of Longwood, in this county. After his marriage Lorenzo Reese located on a farm near Glenwood, where he died in 1846. His widow married Lorenzo Springer and lived in that same neighborhood to old age. After his marriage John P. Holmes established his home on a farm in the Glenwood neighborhood and farmed there until in November, 1888, when he retired from the farm and moved to Connersville, where he spent his last days, his death occurring in 1891. Since his death his widow has spent much of her time in the homes of her children. Stella Holmes was about seventeen years of age when her parents left the farm and moved to Connersville and she was living there at the time of her marriage to Mr. Messersmith. To that union one child has been born, a son, Forrest, born in 1905. Mr. and Mrs. Messersmith are members of the Methodist church and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general good works and social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in advancing all movements designed to advance the common welfare.

JOSEPH A. MOORE.

Joseph A. Moore, one of Jackson township's well-known and substantial farmers and who also for years was engaged as a carpenter and builder at Everton, now living on the farm on which he was born in Jackson township, was born on September 24, 1869, son of Daniel W. and Caroline (Beckett) Moore, both of whom were born in the Everton neighborhood in this county and there spent all their lives, influential residents of the community in which they lived.

Daniel W. Moore was born in Jackson township, this county, January 23, 1840, a son of Anderson and Isabel (Gordon) Moore, both of whom were born in this state, the former in Fayette county and the latter in the neighboring county of Franklin, and who spent all their lives hereabout. Anderson Moore was born on November 20, 1816, a member of one of the first families that settled in Fayette county, and he grew up in this county. He married Isabel Gordon, who was born in Franklin county on March 9, 1820, and who died on November 9, 1859, and their family was reared in this county. On March 14, 1863, Daniel W. Moore was united in marriage to Caroline Ross, who was born in 1839 and who died in 1865. On Sep-