

JAMES BROWN GRAHAM, of Buffington township, Indiana county, was born there May 12, 1847, son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Brown) Graham, and is a great-grandson of John Graham, the pioneer of the family in this region, who was an early settler in what is now Buffington township, locating on a tract of 200 acres upon which he made the first improvements, and which has since been occupied by his descendants. Here he married Ann Henry, daughter of John Henry, and they had children as follows: James; Samuel, who married Mary Marshall; John; Jane (Jennie), who married William Duncan; Ann, who married John Duncan; Mary, who married Maj. James Stewart; Margaret, who married John Lemon; William; and Sarah, who married Joseph (or Samuel) Duncan.

John Graham, son of John and Ann (Henry) Graham, married Rebecca Stephens, and they had a family of nine children, namely: Samuel; Ann, who married Robert Woodsides and (second) John Sadler; Rebecca, deceased, who married Mark McFeaters and resided in Brushvalley; James (died in Green township, this county), who married Ada Lyde and had children, Lucy (wife of Calvin Leasure), Miriam (wife of Shed Connor), Exie (married David R. Williams), Mary (married Mathew Streams) and Gibson (married); Joseph, who died young; Benjamin, who died young; Miriam, who married Hugh Cameron; John, who died at the age of twenty-two years; and Jane, who married James C. Dick, and had children, Maggie, Annie and John. All this family were born in the house of hewed logs built by the father, John Graham, on the farm he developed. He cleared considerable land and followed farming all his life.

Samuel Graham, son of John and Rebecca (Stephens) Graham, was born Oct. 22, 1817, in Buffington township, and what education he acquired was obtained in the subscription schools there. He became very well-to-do, becoming the owner of a farm of 400 acres, followed farming and stock raising rather extensively, and also ran a sawmill and did considerable lumbering. During his residence in Buffington he was one of the most active citizens, in regard to both business and public matters, serving as justice of the peace (fifteen years), tax collector, auditor and supervisor, he was also a leading member of the M. E. Church there, and held the offices of steward and trustee. In the fall of 1872 he went west to Cozad, Nebr., and bought a farm of 640 acres upon which he carried on farming on a large scale, also becoming extensively interested in stock raising. There he passed the remainder of his life. He married Elizabeth Brown, who was born Jan. 4, 1819, daughter of Jacob and Magdalena (Bowers) Brown, and they died at their home in Nebraska in 1897, Mrs. Graham in April and Mr. Graham in August. They were buried at Cozad. Mr. and Mrs. Graham were the parents of seven children: Mary M., born April 7, 1841, died unmarried. Rebecca, born Feb. 19, 1843, married William Sides and resides in Pine township, this county; they have children, Loie, Maggie and Lowney. Amos, born June 14, 1845, married Marinda Dick and resides in Johnstown, Pa., where he is employed by the Cambria Steel Company. James B. is mentioned below. Susan, born Sept. 5, 1850, married Abner Griffitt, and died in 1906. Watson Thompson, born July 30, 1858, is now engaged in fruit growing in the Wenatchee valley, in Washington; he is married. One child died in infancy.

James Brown Graham obtained his education in the local public schools, but his advantages in that line were none too liberal. He learned the trade of carpenter with William Keys, of Janesville, with whom he remained one year, after which he was engaged as a journeyman, being in the employ of Gering & Miller for a time. He then returned to the home place, and settled there permanently when his father moved to the West, buying this property in 1873. Altogether he had six hundred acres in Buffington township and 180 acres in Cambria county (the latter purchased from the J. W. Duncan heirs), where he ran a sawmill and engaged to a considerable extent in lumbering, the Red Mill belonging to this property. He carried on milling in connection with his general farming and stock raising operations. In his earlier years Mr. Graham also did contracting and building. He was energetic and enterprising, and may justly be called a self-made man, for he advanced entirely through his own efforts, leading an industrious and honorable life. He is now enjoying his ease, only occasionally taking an active part in affairs, and well deserves the respite from hard work he is having. A number of years ago he met with a serious accident, cutting himself with an ax, which incapacitated him for three years, during which time his wife proved herself a capable and loyal helpmate, looking after affairs until he was able to resume work. His reliability has been given substantial recognition by his fellow citizens, who have chosen him to various local positions, and he has given satisfactory service as justice of the peace (which office he held fifteen years), notary public (twelve years), tax collector, township auditor and member of the election board. Politically he is a Republican. In 1864, when seventeen years old, Mr. Graham enlisted in Company I, 206th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and served to the close of the war, receiving his discharge June 27, 1865.

On Dec. 27, 1871, Mr. Graham was married to Elizabeth Jane Gibson, who was born Jan. 14, 1845, in Cherryhill township, Indiana Co., pa., daughter of Joseph and Ann (Dunwoodie) Gibson, and died June 20, 1911. She was laid to rest in pineland cemetery at Strong town, in Pine township, this county. Mrs. Graham was a devoted wife and mother, beloved by all who knew her, whether in or outside of the family circle, and many friends in Buffington township mourned her demise. She was a devout member of the M. E. Church. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Graham, namely: (1) Wilbert Earl, born June 6, 1873, is engaged in the lumber business in association with Bruce Wagner in Buffington township. (2) Florence Pearl, born Sept. 14, 1876, taught school for a time, married F. C. Laney, and resides in Homer City, this county. (3) Ann Elizabeth, born May 17, 1879, now keeps house for her father and runs the dairy business on the farm, also raising a large number of chickens. She makes two trips a week to Vintondale with her butter and eggs, and is also agent in the district for a New York cloak house and the Larkin Soap Company, having made a decided success of this venture as well as of everything else she has undertaken. She is ambitious and enterprising, and has proved herself a thoroughly capable business woman. (4) Victor Tyron, born Nov. 30, 1881, is a farmer of Buffington township. He married Bertha Carney, of Pine township. (5) Aubry Leland, born Feb. 24, 1884, married Elsie Lingenfeld, and they reside at

Homer City, this county. (6) Chalmers Dick, born July 12, 1886, died July 13, 1887. (7) One child died in infancy.