1826, and is the son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Hoffman) Jordon, who came originally from Pennsylvania. He has traveled around a good deal, having eaten, drank and slept in twenty-seven states. During the war he enlisted in the 57th Ind. Vols., and was engaged at the battles of Franklin, Nashville and Spring Hill. September 27, 1849, he was married in Warren county, Ohio, to Miss Martha J. Smarty, of Virginia, and they have a family of ten children. He came to this county twenty-seven years ago, settling in Pierson township, at which time that part of the county was entirely unimproved, but by his industry, good management and energy he has now one of the finest farms in the county, with a large, handsome residence and substantial farm buildings. He does a large business in the neighborhood with his threshing machine and steam engine.

George W. Bowne, farmer, Pimento, was born in Butler county, Ohio, July 10, 1831, and came to this county in 1853, settling in Pierson township. He has been employed during the greater portion of his life in farming, and has also done a good deal of carpenter work, having built numerous houses and farm buildings in this township. By strict attention to business, thrift and good judgment, he has worked himself into a comfortable position. On April 12, 1855, he married Miss Henrietta Woodward, and they have a family of two daughters. His farm of 184 acres is well improved, all under fence and cultivation, with a handsome residence and substantial farm buildings. Mr. Bowne is candidate for county clerk of this county before the democratic convention, and has every prospect of success.

John Harris, farmer and stock dealer, Riley, is the son of Thomas and Lucinda (Witham) Harris, and was born in Owen county, Indiana, October 4, 1830, and has lived in this neighborhood all his life. His grandfather was one of the first settlers in Clay county, and filled several offices of trust and honor, including several terms as probate judge, and was generally known as the "father of Clay county." His father helped to build the first court-house erected at Terre Haute, and was one of the earliest settlers in Vigo county. Mr. Harris was married in Bowling Green, Clay county, March 29, 1854, and has a family of seven children, four boys and three girls. He engages largely in stock raising, and has the largest and most complete barn in the township, it being 40 x 70 feet, sixteen foot posts, and thirty-three feet from floor to ridge pole. In politics he is a republican, and is very popular in the township, having only missed being elected trustee by a few votes. He is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, and is one of the charter members of Vigo Lodge, No. 29, which meets at Centreville.

Jesse S. Harrold, lawyer, Lewis, one of the most enterprising and
energetic business men in the township, was born in Morgan county, Indiana, May 25, 1839. He settled in Owen county for some time, and there married Miss Mary J. Biddle, August 27, 1865, and they have a family of four children, all living. In 1861 Mr. Harrold enlisted in the 14th Ind. Vols. at Terre Haute, and engaged in a number of the most important battles during the war. He has been wounded on three occasions: first, at the battle of Winchester, March 23, 1862; again at the battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862. He received four balls, and was shot in the bowels at the battle of Chancellorsville, May 3, 1863. That he recovered from the latter wound was almost a miracle, there only being one other case on record where a man shot in that part ever recovered. Mr. Harrold is one of six brothers, all of whom served in the Union army, the total amount of their united service amounting to twenty-one years. He is a prominent member of the Masonic brotherhood, one of the leaders in getting up Vigo Lodge, No. 29, at Centreville. He is one of its charter members, and acted as W.M. for six years. During the most of his life he has been employed in blacksmithing, and now, in partnership with Mr. L. L. Reynolds, owns a large saw-mill with a capacity for cutting 5,000 feet a day, and gives constant employment to five hands.

Francis M. Pickins, physician, Lewis, the son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Baldwin) Pickins, was born in Owen county, Indiana, October 8, 1842, and received the early part of his education at a literary school in Franklin. In September, 1861, he enlisted in the 31st Ind. reg., serving as second lieutenant, and finally captain, commanding Co. B. He served three years in the army, leaving after the evacuation of Atlanta, and then attended two classes at Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1864–5 and 1865–6, graduating in 1870 from the Rush Medical College. September 8, 1868, he married Miss Martha E. Smider, and they have one child, a daughter. The doctor has a very large practice, is one of the most enterprising men in this part of the county, and is a leader in everything that tends to elevate and benefit the community.

Robert J. Payne, cabinet-maker, Lewis, is the son of Woodford and Annie T. (Twyman) Payne, and was born in Lawrenceville, Kentucky, in 1834. His advantages for obtaining an education were limited, not going beyond a few terms at a subscription school. He served an apprenticeship with his father to the cabinet-making business, and eventually commenced business on his own account. He was located in Farmersburg, this state, for some time, having moved there from Kentucky, and in 1878 he commenced business in the village of Centreville, in Pierson township, where he is now located, carrying on a large business in furniture, coffins, and general cabinet-making. He
has branches of his business established at Jasonville, Greene county, and Pittsburg, Sullivan county. His stock is large and complete, and as he pays close attention to business he is well patronized. He has about $3,500 invested in his stock. Mr. Payne has been married three times, the third time to Miss Sutherland, in 1878, and they have a family of four children, three sons and one daughter. He owns two town lots in the village, also one lot 46×60 feet, on which his handsome show-rooms and work-shops are built.

LINTON TOWNSHIP.

Linton township is situated in the south center of the county, and is composed of what was formerly part of Pierson and Prairie Creek townships. Its boundaries are, on the north, Honey Creek township, south, Sullivan county, east, Pierson township, and west, Prairie Creek township. It was organized in 1841, receiving its name from one of the early settlers, and contains thirty-six sections of some of the finest farming land in the state, and produces large crops of wheat and corn. Prairie creek and its tributaries flow through the northwestern portion, and several other small streams in the south and east, furnishing plenty of water for cattle, sheep and hogs, large numbers of which are raised. The most of the early settlers came from Kentucky, the first being Moses Evans, who arrived in 1812, and settled on the prairie now bearing his name. About the same time Thomas and William Pound and Hamilton Reed came in, also James French, who was a bell-maker and did a large business, trading bells to the Indians, who at that time were numerous in this vicinity. Shortly after his arrival he was driven off by them, but returned again when Fort Harrison was erected. David Goble came among the first, giving his name to the prairie on which he located. Elijah Pound, Ephraim and Joel Kester, the Frakes, William McGlone, R. Beauchamp, David, William and Arthur Boyll, Ephraim, Herman and Smith Sparks, John Carr, John Gunn and John Foxworthy, who was the first school trustee of the township, were among those who arrived at an early day. John Gunn put up the first mill, which was a simple affair run by horse-power, and a little later Bright Thomas, a colored man, an early settler and natural mechanic, erected a water-power mill, to which the pioneers from far and near used to come to have their corn ground.

The first school was held in a log building situated in the south of the township, furnished in the usual primitive fashion with puncheon floor, split poles for seats, the light being admitted through greased paper,
which was pasted over an aperture running along one side of the building. The fire-place was a huge affair, which occupied the whole end of the house. Benjamin Kerehival was the first pedagogue.

Here, as in most of the townships, we find that the Baptists were the first religious denomination in the field, the first church organized being what is known as Second Prairie Creek Baptist church, which was constituted August 1, 1828, by a council of the Baptist Association, the Rev. William Stancil being moderator. Shortly afterward a log church was built which was used for worship until 1852, when the present structure, 35×60 feet, was erected on Sec. 17 at a cost of $1,500. Asa Frakes, William Eldridge and other pioneer preachers filled the pulpit occasionally until 1829, when Absalom Stark was called and regularly installed as the pastor, which position he occupied until his death, which happened in 1837. The church has made steady and permanent growth, and now numbers 110 members, and is the only church outside the village in the township.

The only town in this township was formerly known as Hartford, but the name has been recently changed to Pimento. It is located on Sec. 11 on the Evansville, Terre Haute & Chicago railroad, which runs through the eastern half of the township. The town was laid out in 1852 on land owned by Israel French, the first man to locate in it being Thomas French, who erected a store and dwelling house, and a year later Harvey Weeks arrived and went into partnership with him in general merchandising. In March, 1865, N. B. Kennet began business in the drug and general grocery line, and also attends to the post-office. The large flouring-mill erected in 1877 has assisted in encouraging the trade done. Messrs. Leinberger & Co., dry-goods and grocery store, which was opened in the present year, and one or two other small stores, with a blacksmith shop and T. Halberstadt’s tavern, complete the list of business establishments.

The building known as the Town House was erected in 1858 by subscription, and is 30×60 feet, two stories high. The under story was occupied as a school-house for some time, but is now used for religious meetings. The trustees of the building are E. P. French, Joseph Liston, and Richard Sparks.

The upper floor of the Town House is used by Pimento Lodge, No. 292, A. F. and A. M., as a lodge-room. The lodge was instituted December 14, 1861, and the charter granted May 27, 1863, the first officers and organizers being: W.M., John Willey; S.W., William Brown; J.W., James Foreman; secretary, Joseph McGrew; treasurer, M. S. Gunn; G. T. Bailey, H. Boyll, W. O. Collins, G. F. Hampton, James G. Kester, C. W. Russell, E. Gaskins, J. French, O. P. Boyll, G. F.
Dougherty, and R. Bennett. This is one of the leading lodges of the fraternity in the county, having assisted in organizing and building up the lodges at Lockport, Shelburn, Centreville and Fairbanks, and at present numbers over forty members. Their hall is large and comfortably furnished. The present officers are: W.M., J. W. Russell; S.W., W. M. Martin; J.W., E. W. Lloyd; treasurer, John A. McGee; secretary, P. Bledsoe.

The Christian (Disciples) congregation, which occupies the lower story of the Town House, was instituted March 17, 1867, at the Union school-house, with twenty-three members, Robert Allen, one of the pioneer preachers of the denomination, being the elder, and worshiped there until January 13, 1872, when they removed to Pimento, uniting with several brethren east of town. They now have a membership of thirty-six, with Elder Wilson as preacher.

The Pimento Baptist congregation meets once a month in the Town House, having been organized in 1876. The present membership is forty, and along with the Christians and Old Baptist denomination, assist in conducting a union Sabbath-school during the summer. Thirty-five is the average attendance.

The Regular Baptist meeting-house, 40×60, in Pimento, was built in 1869, at a cost of $1,600. The present pastor, Rev. James Thompson, has held the position since 1861, the congregation having been organized some years earlier.

In the spring of 1880 the Odd-Fellows erected a large two-story building, 40×60, which cost $1,400, the upper story containing the lodge and ante-rooms of Linton Lodge, No. 485, while the lower one is occupied by Leinberger & Co. as a store-room. Linton Lodge, No. 485, is one of the best in the county, numbering now sixty-one members. It was instituted April 10, 1875, the first officers and charter members being: N.G., N. Bledsoe; V.G., V. S. Carr; secretary, J. S. Bryon. J. R. McGrew, A. Eldridge, Thos. Sparks, J. Sparks, J. F. Bowler, T. Stout, W. Carr, and W. G. Boston. The present officers are: N.G., W. N. Kester; V.G., L. P. Boyll; permanent secretary, John Randolph; treasurer, D. Boyll, and secretary, A. K. Hedges.

A large hay-press, run by the Cults Brothers, is afeature of considerable importance in the business of the town.

There are nine school districts in the township and ten school-houses, two being situated in Pimento, one as a primary and the other as a high school. J. W. Moore is the present trustee.

A coal shaft was sunk about half a mile south of town a few years ago by a stock company, at a cost of over $5,000, but was only operated two years, when, owing to the water breaking into it, making the