

WILLIAM BECK RICE has spent practically all his life in Green township, Indiana county, having been brought to this section when very young. He was born April 19, 1853, at what is now the borough of Indiana, son of Samuel and Eliza (Beck) Rice and grandson of Philip Rice, who was a pioneer settler in Indiana county, coming hither from eastern Pennsylvania. He settled at the town of Indiana, living on a farm now comprised in the fair grounds, and there lived and died. By occupation he was a farmer and blacksmith.

Samuel rice was born at the town of Indiana, where he grew to manhood, and like his father became a farmer and blacksmith. In 1855 he moved with his family to Green township, locating on the farm now occupied by his son William, which he bought. The place was little improved when it came into his possession, and he continued the work of clearing and putting under profitable cultivation, living there until his death. He married Eliza Beck, who was born near Indiana, daughter of William and Elisabeth (Rowe) Beck, and Mr. and Mrs. Rice, both died in April, 1879, about a week apart, of typhoid fever. They were the parents of nine children, namely: Philip, who is deceased; Mary, widow of Nelson O'Neill, now living near Jacksonville, this county; John, a resident of Marion Center, this county; William Beck;; Dr. Daniel S., a physician of Hastings, Pa.; Augustus, who was accidentally killed when three years old; a daughter that died in infancy; Porter E., a resident of green township; and Frank, who lives at Idamar, this county.

William Beck Rice passed his boyhood and youth in Green township and obtained his education in the local schools. In his early manhood he learned the carpenter's trade and followed it for some time, but he has for the most part been engaged in farming and lumbering. He is an energetic worker, and has prospered by dint of industry and good management, winning a respected place in the community where his days have been passed.

In 1880 Mr. rice was married to Sarah Ellen Donahey, who was born April 2, 1853, in Blacklick township, daughter of William J. and Margaret (David) Donahey, who moved to Green township. Five children have been born to this union, two dying in infancy. The others are: William J., now of Colver, Pa., engaged as a carpenter; Elmer Guy, who lives at home; and Zella May, at home.