

## **BIRD, MARY A**

Mary A. BIRD Mary Ann BIRD, daughter of Daniel and Sarah E. (CURRENT ) BIRD, was born December 27, 1853, in Henry county Indiana, where she lived with her parents until they moved to a farm in Jay county in 1861, where little Mary went to school in a log house, one mile north of her father`s home, always walking except when the road was too bad, then her father would take her on a horse behind him, to the school house. When she was ten years old, her parents moved to Redkey (Mt. Vernon) where they had their home for three years. Here Mary went to school in a little frame school house on the ground now occupied by the large high school building. She went to Methodist meetings and Sunday school in the same school house. In one of the meetings she joined the M. E. church when about eleven years old. It was the first time the Lord ever impressed on her heart that she was a sinner and that she needed the cleansing power of Jesus to save her soul, and she then began to pray for a clean heart. It was about three years afterwards that the Lord answered her prayers and spoke peace to her soul, at a meeting held in the new school house that had been built one mile north of her father's farm, for they had again removed to the farm. It was through the influence of praying parents that she was brought to Christ early in life. On January 4, 1872, Mary A. BIRD was united in marriage to Harvey BOWEN, son of William and Rebecca ( EVANS ) BOWEN, of near Dunkirk, Indiana. They lived very happy together in the house with his parents, having bought a part of the old homestead, land entered by Harvey`s father many years before. They lived in the house with his parents as long as the latter lived and the relationship of the two families was always congenial, never having any harsh or unkind words. On October 10, 1899, Harvey, too was taken away and Mary had to give up her husband, the first time that death entered her family circle; Harvey BOWEN was converted in a camp meeting at Albany, Indiana, in the fall of 1871, and lived a very devoted Christian life. He was a class leader in Kingsley M. E. church, when he died. To them were born four sons and one daughter. The father lived to see three eldest sons converted to Christ and when the daughter and youngest son were old enough they gave their hearts to Jesus. In November 1895, Earl the second son, was rabbit hunting and laid his gun against a log to stoop down and look for the rabbit, when he raised up he drew the gun towards him to start in a hurry, the gun went off, shooting his left arm so badly injuring it that it had to be amputated six inches below the shoulder. He entered the high school at Dunkirk in 1896, and graduated in 1900. In 1902, having sold her land in Blackford county,

near Dunkirk, Mary BOWEN bought a farm in Jay county near where two brothers had previously purchased homes for themselves, and they are all comfortably situated close together on the Salamonina river. Though five miles from Pennville and six miles from Portland, the county seat, they have daily communication with the world by the free rural mail delivery and the telephone system. The children are all married now except Ray, the youngest son who is seventeen years old and living with his mother on the farm. The married children have all settled on farms in CURRENT style around the parental home.

Children of Harvey and Mary A. Bowen: Glenn Clifton, born October 21, 1876, died July 29, 1961; Arthur Earl, born March 30, 1880, died September 22, 1955; William Russell, born December 12, 1883, died January 8, 1956; Orilla May, born October 23, 1885, died August 19, 1980; Floyd Raymond, born August 9, 1888, died April 4, 1958