

DARST, JOSEPH V

Joseph V. DARST, an honored veteran of the Civil war and a former well known and substantial farmer and land owner of Jay county, who died at his home in Madison township in 1912, left a good memory at his passing, and it is but fitting that some modest tribute here be paid to that memory. Mr. DARST was a native of the state of Ohio, but had been a resident of Indiana since the days of his boyhood. He was born in Gallia County, Ohio, January 21, 1846, and was a son of William and Barbara (HALFHILL) DARST, who later became residents of Jay County and whose last days were spent here. It was in 1855 that William DARST came over here from Ohio with his family. He bought an "eighty" in Madison Township and on that unimproved farm established his home. As his affairs prospered he added to his holdings until he was the owner of 200 acres and was accounted one of the substantial men of that community. Joseph V. DARST was but nine years of age when he came to this county with his parents in 1855 and he received his schooling in the old Liberty school house in Madison Township. Though he was but fifteen years of age when the Civil war broke out he got into the service of the Union army long before the war closed and served for more than two years as a member of Company E, 2nd Ohio Heavy Artillery, enlisting on June 16, 1863, and receiving his discharge on August 23, 1865. Upon the completion of his military service he returned to his home in Madison Township and resumed his place on the farm, aiding his father in the operations of the home farm until his marriage to Sarah DAVIDSON. After his marriage Mr. DARST began farming on his own account, renting a place from his father, a tract of eighty acres, and continued thus engaged for six years, at the end of which time he bought an "eighty" in Greene Township and moved there. Eight years later he traded that farm for a tract of fifty acres in Madison township and presently bought an adjoining eighty acres, the place on which his widow still is living, and in that township continued farming the remainder of his life, his death occurring on December 21, 1912. Mr. DARST was a Republican and was one of the active members of Henry McLaughlin post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Salamonina. He was a member of Pleasant Hill Christian church, as is his widow, and was always helpful in good works in the community in which he resided. To Joseph V. DARST and wife four children were born, two of whom Frederick A. and Ethel are deceased, the others being Joseph W. DARST, who is now farming in the vicinity of Muncie, Ind.[Delaware Co.], and Edith, wife of William R. SORBRAY, a well-known and progressive farmer of Madison township. Mr. and Mrs. SORBRAY have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 3 out of Ft. Recovery, [Mercer Co.] Ohio, and

take an interested part in the general social activities of the community. They have four interesting children, Naomi, George, Sarah and Roberta, the two eldest of who are attending school. Mr. and Mrs. SORBRAY are Republicans and Mrs. SORBRAY is a member of the Pleasant Hill Christian church. SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.432-433.

Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut