

FREEMYER, GEORGE S

George S. FREEMYER, a well-known and substantial farmer and landowner of Noble township, now living retired on his well-kept place on rural mail route No. 4 out of Portland, is a "Buckeye" by birth, but has been a resident of Jay county since the days of his infancy and has thus been a witness to and a participant in the amazing development that has marked this region since the days of his boyhood. Mr. FREEMYER was born on his father's farm in Washington county, Ohio, April 23, 1849, and is a son of Joseph L. and Mary (ELDER) FREEMYER, both of whom also were born in that state. Joseph L. FREEMYER, a son of George FREEMYER, one of the pioneers of Washington county, Ohio, grew to manhood in that county and became the owner of an eighty acre farm on which he made his home after his marriage, remaining there until 1850 when he disposed of his holdings there and came with his family to Indiana, driving through to Jay county and establishing his home on a tract of 148 acres which he had bought in Madison township. When he bought that tract but fifteen acres of it had been deadened and his first task was to erect a log cabin and hack through the woods for a mile to make a lane to the highway. He got the place cleared and drained and the most of it under cultivation in time and there he and his wife spent their last days. Joseph L. FREEMYER's farming operations prospered and he increased his land holdings until he became the owner of a half section of land in Madison township and was accounted one of the substantial citizens of that section of the county. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, six of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having five sisters, Nancy, Ann, Leah, Amanda and Harriet. As noted above, George S. FREEMYER was but an infant when he came to this county with his parents in 1850 and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Madison township, thoroughly familiar with the rough work of clearing and draining a forest farm. He received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and remained at home until his marriage at the age of twenty-four years, when he bought a tract of eighty acres, the place on which he is now living in Noble township, and there established his home. This he had to clear and ditch and otherwise improve, but he finally got the job done and made a good farm, gradually increasing his holdings until now he is the owner of 208 acres in Noble and Madison townships, all in excellent state and improved with three sets of buildings. In 1911 Mr. FREEMYER retired from the active labors of the farm and has since rented his fields, though continuing to make his home on the farm, where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Mr. FREEMYER is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs. He has been twice married. His first wife, Elizabeth JONES, daughter of Edward and Mary JONES, was the mother of two children, Flora Myrtle and Charles. Upon the death of the mother of these children Mr. FREEMYER married Johanna PROUTY, who was born in the neighboring county of Wells, daughter of Thomas and Sarah (WILLIAMS) PROUTY, the former of whom was a native of Ohio, who had settled in Wells county, this state, where he was a blacksmith, farmer and landowner. Thomas PROUTY and wife had seven children, of whom four are living, those besides Mrs. FREEMYER being Thomas, Jessie and Clarinda. Mr. FREEMYER's daughter, Flora Myrtle FREEMYER, married Charles GAGLE and has four children, Arthur, Shirley Opal, Harold and Edith GAGLE. Arthur GAGLE married Edith HALTERMAN and has two children, Raymond Imel and George Robert. Shirley Opal GAGLE married Floyd LEEMASTER and has one child, a daughter, Remonda Mondonna LEEMASTER.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.257-258. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut