

GARDNER, William

William GARDNER, one of Jay county's well known and substantial farmers and landowners, proprietor of an excellent farm on rural mail route No. 2 out of Pennville, in Penn township, has been a resident of this county all his life. He was born on the "Twin Hills" farm in Penn township on June 19, 1866, and is a son of William and Mahalia (HUNT) GARDNER, who came up here from Wayne county in 1850, the year following their marriage, and settled on the "Twin Hills" farm, where they spent the remainder of their lives, useful and influential members of that community, as is set out elsewhere in this work in the biography of Mr. GARDNER's elder brother, Jesse E. GARDNER, now the owner of the famous "Twin Hills," together with further details regarding the GARDNER family in this county.

Reared on the home farm at the "Twin Hills," William GARDNER received his schooling in the neighborhood schools. His father became the owner of a farm of 270 acres and from the days of his boyhood he was a valued assistant in the labors of developing this farm. He married before he had attained his majority and after his marriage established his home on a forty-acre tract he bought in Jackson township and there continued to reside until he moved to his present place in Penn township, where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Mr. GARDNER is the owner of 247 acres in Penn and Jackson townships and in addition to his general farming he has long given considerable attention to the raising of livestock and has done well. He and his family are Republicans and he is a member of the local Grange and of the Pennville lodge of the Knights of Pythias.

It was in 1886 that William GARDNER was united in marriage to Josephine BRUNSON, who also was born in Jay county, a daughter of Albert and Minerva (ROONEY) BRUNSON, and to this union have been born four children, namely: Ben, who married Grace HAINES and died on November 13, 1915, leaving three children, Duane, Doris and Don; Harry, who married Margaret HARTLEY; Mabel, who died in infancy, and Roy, who is unmarried and living at home. Mrs. GARDNER was born on a farm in Jackson township, where her parents began housekeeping after their marriage in 1867 and were in their generation among the leaders in the community life of that section. Albert BRUNSON, father of Mrs. GARDNER, was a veteran of the Civil war having served in Company B of the 138th Indiana Volunteer Infantry and years afterward served for some time as justice of the peace and for Jackson township. He was born in Montgomery county Ohio. in 1845 and was the eldest of the six children born to Timothy and Sarah (JONES) BRUNSON, the former of whom was born in the vicinity of Utica, N. Y., in 1814, and died in Jay county in 1870 having settled in Jackson township, this county, upon coming over here from Montgomery county, Ohio, in 1857. Albert BRUNSON was thus twelve years of age when he became a resident of Jay county, and he grew up here. As noted above, it was not long after the completion of his military service during the Civil war that he married Minerva ROONEY who was born in Clinton county, Ohio, but who had come over into Indiana with her parents, James and Rebecca (MURPHY) ROONEY, when seventeen years of age, the family settling in this county, where her parents spent their last days. Though he started farming on a small tract of un-cleared land, Albert BRUNSON was a good manager and presently became the owner of a well cultivated place of 320 acres, and on this place he spent his last days, his death occurring on July 6, 1920, he then being in his sixty-fifth year. He and his wife were the parents of five children, of whom Mrs. GARDNER was the eldest, the others being Burton, Harry, Essie and Jennie.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, p.323-324. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.