

GAUNT, JOSEPH

Joseph GAUNT, deceased, was one of Jay County's early pioneers, locating in Knox Township in March, 1837. He was a native of New Jersey, born August 2, 1799, a son of Jacob and Hannah (HOLMES) GAUNT, natives of New Jersey, and a grandson of Joseph GAUNT, who was a native of England. During the war of the Revolution, Jacob GAUNT was sent by his father with a message to General Washington, and was captured by the enemy and beaten with a sword to make him divulge the secret, but as he persistently refused to yield to their demands he was allowed to go home. Jacob GAUNT became a boat builder when he reached manhood, and in his early married life removed to Red Stone, Pennsylvania, and from there in 1805 to Columbiana County, Ohio, being among the early settlers of that county.

There Joseph GAUNT was reared, living there until 1830, when he moved to Delaware County, Ohio, remaining there until February 1837, when he started for Jay County. He located on section 24, Knox Township, entering 160 acres of land on that section and 160 acres on section 26. He first built a log cabin, 16 X 16 feet in dimensions, all the men in his township, three in number, turning out to help him raise the logs. In this log cabin was preached the first sermon in Knox Township, by Elder TISDALE, a Baptist minister.

Mr. GAUNT was married in 1819 to Phoebe Emily SEVERN, who was born in Bordentown, New Jersey, April 15, 1803, a daughter of Isaiah and Alkada SEVERN, her father being one of the first shoe manufacturers of Salem, Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. GAUNT were born four children -- Redden N., Hannah HOLMES, Jacob and Elizabeth Ann. Redden N. enlisted in the war for the Union, a member of Company F, One Hundred and Fortieth Indiana Infantry, and died at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in 1863, in the forty-second year of his age. Mrs. GAUNT died March 13, 1870, and Mr. GAUNT November 8, 1875. He was in politics a staunch Democrat. He and his estimable wife were members of the Baptist church.

SOURCE: "Biographical and Historical Record of Jay County, Indiana," Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1887. Reprinted by Mayhill Publications of Knightstown, Indiana, 1974, p.308. This is the reprinted Jay County section out of the original combined 1887 History of Jay and Blackford counties. by: Betty Creath.