

GREGG, WARREN CHASE

Warren Chase GREGG, a well-known retired farmer and nurseryman of Penn township, now living at Pennville, long recognized as one of the successful horticulturists in Indiana, is a native son of Jay county and has lived here all his life. He was born at Pennville (then Camden) on June 25, 1858, and is a son of Hiram and Patience (CALDWALLADER) GREGG both members of pioneer families in this county. Hiram GREGG was born in Belmont county, Ohio, and his wife was born in Warren county, same state, both members of Quaker families who afterward came over into Indiana and settled in Penn township, this county. It was about two years after the formal organization of Jay county that the Gregg's came here and settled on a tract of land entered from the Government. Hiram GREGG established his home on that tract after his marriage and later bought more land until he became the owner of a fine farm of 270 acres. He early turned his attention to the cultivation of nursery stock and did much to promote the development of orchards hereabout, having been the proprietor of the first recognized "nursery" in this county. He and his wife were the parents of five children, of whom three are living, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Austin W. GREGG, of Hereford, Tex., and a sister, Rachel C. wife of William G. JONES.

Reared on the home farm in the vicinity of Pennville, Warren C. GREGG received his early schooling in the excellent schools of that village and supplemented this by a course in the Miami Valley College at Springboro, Ohio, later attended two terms at the normal school at Valparaiso, Ind., and also attended the old normal school at Portland. He became qualified as a teacher of writing and taught a term of writing school, then for two terms was engaged as a district school teacher and then went West on a prospecting trip, spending nine months at Cherryville, Kan. and better than a year at Carthage, Mo. at the end of which time he decided that Jay county was good enough for anybody and came back here. For a year thereafter he was engaged as a salesman for the GREGG nursery, which meanwhile was being developed under the direction of his brothers. In the spring of 1883 he married and not long thereafter took up farming, with particular attention to the nursery business, on his own account, and it was not long until he had created a wide demand for the products of his place, these including not only apples, pears, peaches and plums, but raspberries, blackberries, strawberries, gooseberries and grapes, Mr. GREGG discontinued the nursery business in 1908, but continued to make his home on the farm until his retirement in 1918 and removal to Pennville, where he is now living. He still continues to maintain a warm interest in his pomological work, however, and on the farm of eighty-two acres which he has retained has about fifteen acres in orchard, to which he gives his close attention. For years he has been an exhibitor at local fairs and at the Indiana state fair, and last year at the state fair won more prizes than any other exhibitor. Mr. GREGG is an active member of the Pennville Grange and for two years was master of that organization. He is a Republican and a member of the local Meeting of the Society of Friends, while his wife is a member of the Christian church.

It was on April 15, 1883, that Warren Chase GREGG was united in marriage to Lucinda B. TURNER, who was born in Randolph county, Indiana, daughter of William and Margaret (MONKS) TURNER, and to this union have been born five daughters, Leah, Margaret, Susannah, Mary and Florence, all of whom are living. Leah GREGG married Harper J. RANSBURG and has four children, Gregg, Harold, Edwin and Miriam RANSBURG. Susannah GREGG married A. C. OBLINGER and has two children, Frank Clifton and Sarah Jane OBLINGER. Mary GREGG married Fred I. HOOVER and has two children, Graden and Margaret Warine HOOVER. Florence GREGG married Lee R. HARTLEY and has one child, a son, Robert HARTLEY.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp. 185-186. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.