

## GRISELL, NATHAN A.

Nathan A. GRISELL, one of Jay county's well known and substantial farmers and landowners, now living practically retired from the active labors of the farm on his well-kept place on rural mail route No. 2 out of Pennville, in Penn township, is a member of the pioneer GRISELL family of which further and somewhat extended mention is made elsewhere in this work, the GRISELL's having been represented in this county since 1834, even before the county had a separate civic organization, it having been a part of Randolph county when Samuel GRISELL, the pioneer, came here with his family from Columbiana county, Ohio, and settled at the point where Pennville presently came into being, the mill which he established at that point having been the nucleus of later settlement in that neighborhood. The pioneer Samuel GRISELL was a Virginian by birth, a son of Thomas and Martha (DINGY) GRISELL, the former of whom also was born in Virginia, of Alsatian stock, and the latter in Delaware. The family later moved to Pennsylvania and thence to Ohio, settling in Columbiana county in the latter state, among the leaders in the colony of Quakers which proved so influential a factor in the development of that section of Ohio. Samuel GRISELL was about sixteen years of age when his parents settled in Columbiana county and there he grew to manhood and married Ann WHITACRE, daughter of Joseph and Jane WILSON WHITACRE, Virginians who had settled in Ohio. He continued to make his home there until 1834, when he came with his family into Indiana and entered a quarter of a section of land in section 34 of Penn township, in what two years later came to be organized as Jay county, and was thus one of the first of the substantial permanent settlers in that part of the county and became a man of large influence in the trying labors of developing the wilderness into a fit habitation and abiding place for those who should come afterward. He added to his holding until he became the possessor of nearly 1,000 acres of land in this county and left his family well provided for at his death in the summer of 1864. His widow survived him for four years, her death occurring in 1869. They were among the leaders in the local Meeting of the Society of Friends in Penn township and their children were reared in that faith. There were twelve of these children, all born in Ohio save Lewis, the last born, who was born in the spring following the family's settlement in this county. The others of these children were Sabina, who married Joseph WILSON; Martha, who married Martin HIATT; Amos, father of the subject of this sketch; Hiram, who died at the age of thirty-six; Maria, who married Peter S. MEREDITH; Sarah, who married Lukens GRIFFITH; Ann, who married James LEFEVRE; Lydia, who married Henry V. WALLING; Nathan, who died at the age of twenty; Albert who became treasurer of Jay county and of whom further mention is made elsewhere, and Mary J., who married W. W. HARTLEY.

Amos GRISELL was about sixteen years of age when he came to Indiana with his parents in 1834 and he grew to manhood on the home place in Penn township. He married Elizabeth LUPTON, who was born in Champaign county, Ohio, and who was a member of one of the pioneer families of Jay county, and after his marriage established

his home on a farm in Penn township, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in the summer of 1876, he then being in his fifty-ninth year. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom but two are now living, the subject of this sketch and his sister, Margaret.

Nathan A. GRISELL, who was born on March 19, 1856, grew up on the home farm in Penn township and received his schooling in the schools of old Camden (now Pennville) and one term at old Liber College. He was twenty years of age when his father died and after his marriage he continued to make his home on the home place for a year or more and then rented a farm in the neighborhood and continued to live there until 1906, when he moved to Oklahoma. There he spent six years, at the end of which time he returned to Jay county, but not long afterward returned West and located in Kansas, where he remained six years, engaged in farming. By this time he had had enough of the West and he returned to Jay county and bought the place of 120 acres on which he is now living in Penn township and expects to remain here the rest of his life. Mr. GRISELL's wife died on June 11, 1920, and he and his sons are keeping up the home.

It was on December 15, 1881, that Nathan A. GRISELL was united in marriage to Jennie SOMERS, who also was born in this county, daughter of Aaron and Margaret (FIELDS) SOMERS, and to this union two sons were born, Raymond and Frank, who are looking after the affairs of the farm for their father. During the time of this country's participation in the World war Raymond GRISELL served with the army for eighteen month and was with a detachment of engineers in France. Frank GRISELL married Eliza McPHEETERS, who died on January 28, 1921, leaving two sons, John and Albert. The GRISELL's are Republicans and are birthright members of the Friends Meeting at Pennville.

**SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp. 206-208. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.**