

IRELAND, JACOB

Jacob IRELAND, a well-known and substantial farmer and land owner of Jay county, a veteran of the Civil war, now living practically retired at his home in Jackson, township, is a native "Buckeye," but has been a resident of this county for many years. Mr. IRELAND was born in Allen county, Ohio, August 27, 1839, and is a son of Charles and Catherine (SHOBE) IRELAND, whose last days were spent in that county. Charles IRELAND was born in Maryland, where he remained until in the days of his young manhood, when he came West and entered from the Government a tract of eighty acres of land in Allen county, Ohio, later increasing this to 120 acres, established his home there and there spent the remainder of his life, one of the useful pioneers of that section. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, five of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having four sisters, Christina, Elizabeth, Lucinda and Eliza. Reared on the home farm in Ohio, Jacob IRELAND was living there when the Civil war broke out. In 1861 he enlisted his services as a soldier of the Union and went to the front as a member of Company B of the 81st regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for more than three years. Mr. IRELAND served in the Western army and participated in the battle of Shiloh and was with Sheridan on the march to the sea and during the siege of Atlanta. Upon the completion of his military service he returned home and resumed farming, but presently married and went to Kansas and homesteaded a quarter section of land, on which he made his home for six years, at the end of which time he returned to Ohio. Two years later he came over into Indiana and traded his Kansas homestead tract for an eighty acre farm in Jackson township, this county. On this latter place he made his home for twenty-five years and then sold the place and bought the sixty acre farm in this same township on which he is now living-, retired, in his eighty-third year. He and his wife are members of the Sugar Grove Methodist Episcopal church and are Republicans.

It was in 1865, not long after leaving the army, that Jacob IRELAND was united in marriage to Martha DeCAMP, who also was born in Ohio, daughter of John and Lydia (WILLIAMS) DeCAMP, and to this union five children have been born, Edgar, Albertus, William, Charles and John, all of whom live in Jay county. Edgar IRELAND married Margaret MEREDITH and has eight children, Frederick, Dewey, Lewis, Jacob, Walter, Arthur, Mary and Clara. Mary IRELAND married Floyd SWEENEY and has three children. William IRELAND married Alice CHITTUM and has eight children, Milo, Frank, Ray, Flossie, Nellie, Lena, Lucille and Reva. Milo IRELAND married Muriel LEWIS and has three children, Bernice, Naomi and Ladema. Frank IRELAND married Zorpha PENSINGER and has two children, Willard and Catherine. Flossie IRELAND married Harry HAFFNER and has two children, Dorothy and Floyd. Nellie IRELAND married Leslie PENSINGER and has one child, Maxine, and Lena IRELAND married Ernest SHEWALTER and has one child, Wilma. Charles IRELAND married Alma MALLARD, who died, leaving one child, a daughter, Addie, after which he married Ora MYERS. To this latter union one child was born, a son, Gerald. Addie IRELAND married Grant HARPER and has two children, Margaret and Wilma. John IRELAND married Lavina ULM and has two children, Millard and Harold. It thus will be noted that Mr. and Mrs. IRELAND have twenty grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp. 333-334. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut