

John KWIS, a well known and substantial farmer and landowner of Jay county, now living practically retired from the active labors of the farm at his pleasant farm home in Greene township, rural mail route No.1 out of Portland, has been a resident of this county for the past thirty years or more and has created for himself a well established place in the community in which he lives. Mr. KWIS was born at Findlay, Ohio, February 7, 1865, and is a son of Frank and Sarah (WALTER) KWIS, the latter of whom also was born in Ohio, in the immediate vicinity of Findlay. Frank KWIS was born in Austria and when fourteen years of age came with his parents to America, the family settling in the state of Wisconsin, where he grew to manhood. He then moved to Ohio and became engaged at Findlay in the brewing business, a vocation he followed for the most part the remainder of his life. He married at Findlay and there established his home. He and his wife were the parents of three children, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Amanda and Mary.

Reared at Findlay, John KWIS received his schooling there and early became engaged in farming and in work in the oil fields, remaining in Ohio until 1891 when he came over into Indiana and bought a tract of sixty acres of farm land in Greene township, this county, the place on which he is now living, and there established his home. Mr. KWIS is a good farmer and it was not long until he found, his affairs prospering and he was able to increase his land holdings until now he is the owner of a fine farm of 272 acres and has an admirable farm plant. In 1917 Mr. KWIS retired from the active labors of the farm and is now content to see the work being carried on by other hands, though he continues to make his home on the place and to keep a supervisory eye on things. He is a Democrat and is a Freemason and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the encampment of the latter order.

John KWIS married Emma JUILLERAT, who also was born in Ohio, and to this union two children were born: Glen, who married Myrtle LINGO and has one child, a daughter, Helen; and Carl, who died on September 16, 1917. Mrs. KWIS was born in Highland county, Ohio, and is a daughter of John and Catherine (PETITORY) JUILLERAT, who years ago became residents of Jay county and of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this volume. John JUILLERAT was born in Switzerland and came to this country with his parents when seven years of age, the family settling in Ohio, where he grew to manhood and was married. In 1884 he came to this county and bought a farm of 120 acres in Greene township, where he established his home, later increasing his holdings to 320 acres. He died on May 1, 1905. He and his wife were the parents of three children, Mrs. KWIS having two brothers, Edward and Clarence JUILLERAT.

Unknown source