

John W. Leonhard. From the fatherland of Germany came Philip Leonhard as a boy of fourteen years, and his first home in the United States was in Marion county, Ohio, from whence he removed to Jay county, this state, and there he lived and farmed during the remainder of his life. His death occurred in 1900, aged sixty-seven years. His widow, who bore the maiden name of Christena Theurer, was born in Ohio, and she is now living in Jay county, having reached the sixty-seventh milestone on the journey of life. In their family were eleven children, one of whom died in infancy, while the remainder attained to years of maturity and nine are now living. Mr. Leonhard, the father, supported the men and measures of the Democratic party, and was a member of the Lutheran church, as is also his widow.

John W. Leonhard, one of their nine children, was born in Jay county, Indiana, August 14, 1860, and he attained to manhood's estate on a farm there and received his educational training in its district schools. After his marriage he removed to Marshall county and began farming on rented land in German township, from whence in 1891 he came to his present homestead in section 26, Center township. The nucleus of his present estate was eighty acres, but he has since added forty acres thereto, and his homestead is now one of the valuable ones of the township.

Mr. Leonhard remained in the parental home until twenty-six years of age and was then married to Ella Balsley, a daughter of Jacob C. and Catherine Balsley, of German township, Marshall county, Indiana. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Leonhard, namely: Orlow E., a teacher in the public schools; Clara E., Earl A., Okla May and Blanche C. Mr. Leonhard is a Democrat politically, and both he and his wife are members of the German Reformed church. He also has fraternal relations with the Modern Woodmen of America.

Source: A Twentieth Century History of Marshall County, Indiana, Volume 2; McDonald, Daniel; Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co; 1908.