

MITCHELL, JOSEPH H

Joseph H. MITCHELL, a well-known and substantial farmer and landowner of Madison township, is a member of one of Jay county's old families and has lived in this county all his life. Mr. MITCHELL was born on a farm in Madison township on September 2, 1873, and is a son of Amos and Martha J. (KNOWLTON) MITCHELL, both members of pioneer families in that neighborhood. Amos MITCHELL, who is still living in Madison township, is the owner of 100 acres of land there, land that was entered from the Government by his father, John MITCHELL, one of the early settlers of that township. To Amos MITCHELL and wife were born eight children, six of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Sarah, Malinda and Eva, and two brothers, William and Wesley MITCHELL.

Reared on the home farm in Madison township, Joseph H. MITCHELL received his schooling in the Chapel, school district No. 2, and remained at home assisting in the labors of the farm until his marriage at the age of twenty-two, when he rented a farm and began farming on his own account. Two years later he bought from his father-in-law forty acres of the farm on which he is now living in Madison township and has since resided there, he and his family having a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 3 out of Ft. Recovery, Ohio (Mercer Co.) Since taking possession of this place Mr. MITCHELL has enlarged his holding until now he has 133 acres and has improved the farm by the erection of a set of new and lip-to-date buildings, his house being equipped with bath, hot and cold water, electric lights and furnace, and he has one of the best equipped farm plants in the neighborhood. The farm is all cleared save about twenty acres left for a woodlot. Mr. MITCHELL is a Democrat and he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church at Salamonia.

It was on February 26, 1896, that Joseph H. MITCHELL was united in marriage to Emma E. WAGNER, who was born on the place on which she is now living, and to this union have been born six children, Rufus, Lura, Freda, Forrest, Harry and Emma L., two of whom, Rufus and Lura, are married. Rufus MITCHELL, who is now a motor mechanic living at Chillicothe, Ohio, (Ross County) is a veteran of the world war. He enlisted for service at Ft. Wayne and after four months of training in this country was sent to France as a motor mechanic, there rendering eight months of overseas service. He married Olga. JUNOD and has one child, a son, Harold. Lura MITCHELL married John CULL, a farmer of Noble township, this county, and has one child, a son, Robert CULL. Mrs. MITCHELL was reared in Madison township and received her schooling in the Center school. She is a daughter of Lorenz and Mary (LOCKER) WAGNER, the former of whom was born in France and came to this country after the Franco Prussian war, presently locating in Jay county, where he became the owner of an excellent farm in Madison township. He and his wife had two daughters, Mrs. MITCHELL having a sister, Bertha. Both Lorenz WAGNER and his wife had been previously married and the latter, by her marriage to Edward BARTLING, was the mother of seven children, all of whom save one, Anna, are living, these being Henry, Sarah, Elizabeth, Edward, Louise and Sophia BARTLING. By his first marriage to Emily SHUE. Lorenz Wagner was the father of five children, three of whom, Emily, Anna and Fred, are living, the deceased being Charles and one who died in infancy.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.306-307. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.