

John Myers, a pioneer settler of Maxville township, Buffalo county, where by long and arduous toil he developed a farm from the wilderness, was born in Steuben county, New York, in 1836. He was married in Massachusetts to Bridget McDonough, a native of County Clare, Ireland, and they subsequently located in Fillmore county, Minnesota, when in 1860 they came to Buffalo county with an ox team, Mr. Myers securing 80 acres of wild railroad land in Maxville township, on which he erected a log building. Four years later he and his family removed to Modena valley, taking 300 acres of wild land, 200 of which lay in Canton township and 100 in Modena township. The place was a part of the wilderness with not even a road to indicate its proximity to civilization, and the Myers were the only settlers in the neighborhood. They arrived in the spring of the year, and Mr. Myers soon had a log house constructed and had begun the work of improvement. He had been thus occupied but for a few months, when in November or December, 1864, he was drafted for service in the Civil War and went to the front, taking part in the battle of Petersburg, where he was wounded in the leg. In August, 1865, he was discharged and returned home to resume his agricultural labors. In time he cleared his farm and made a good home, erecting a frame house. As one of the leading citizens of his township he was called upon to serve as justice of the peace and as town assessor, and the G. A. R. post at Coleman numbered him among its members. Mr. Myers died at the age of 70 years while on a visit to one of his daughters in Minnesota. His wife passed away at about the same age. Of their five children John J., subject of another sketch, was the eldest and now owns a part of the old homestead. The others were: William J., Isaac F., Margaret and Mary J., all of whom are still living.

Source: History of Buffalo and Pepin Counties, Wisconsin, Vol 1 and 2, Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, 1919, pp. 526-527.

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