

PHILLIPS, GEORGE W

George W. PHILLIPS, who died at his home in Redkey in 1919 and who had for years been there engaged in the livestock business, his extensive breeding stables having been important factors in the promotion of better strains of livestock hereabout, left a good memory at his death and it is but proper that there should be carried in this formal history of the county of which he was a native some fitting tribute to that memory. Mr. PHILLIPS was born on the place at Redkey which he afterward brought to such a high state of development, December 9, 1862, and was a son of Asa F. and Mary T. (GAUNT) PHILLIPS, who were among the early and influential residents of that community. Asa F. PHILLIPS was a good farmer and gave considerable attention to live stock, hence from the days of his boyhood George W. PHILLIPS was trained to the ways of livestock development. He received his schooling in the schools of Redkey and after leaving school remained with his father on the farm. He married before he was twenty years of age and for a couple of years thereafter continued his residence on the home farm, in the meantime giving his particular attention to the livestock end of the farming operations, and in 1884 established at Redkey the breeding stables which for years thereafter exerted so pronounced an influence upon the promotion of better strains of horseflesh hereabout. Mr. PHILLIPS made a specialty of Belgians and Percherons, the draft horse ever having been his hobby, and he imported his breeding stock, making trips to Europe for this purpose and bringing back with him all the way from twenty to 160 pure bred horses at a time, his last trip in this connection having been made just before the war broke out in Europe in 1914, the further export of horses from the other side at that time being forbidden. For years Mr. PHILLIPS operated in this connection in association with the firm of Keiser Bros., who had their main stables at Keota, Iowa, and in 1906 he formed a further association with the Keisers in the sale and development of Texas lands, their first transaction in this line having been the purchase of sixty-eight sections of land in Texas. Mr. PHILLIPS continued this association until 1911, when he dissolved partnership with the Keisers and thereafter gave his whole attention to his horse business at Redkey and so continued until 1914 when he recognized that the gradual trend away from horses had made the cattle industry a more attractive one and he took up the development of Shorthorn cattle and the big type Poland China hogs, still utilizing his Redkey barns, and continued thus quite successfully engaged until his death on January 4, 1919. His body was laid to rest in the cemetery at Winchester, Ind. During the height of his activity as a horseman Mr. PHILLIPS became widely known as a breeder of fast horses and had a number of race horses that attracted much attention, the most notable of these having been "Fay Richmond," 2:01-1/4, the holder of more track records in the United States and Canada than any horse living or dead and who

equaled the world's record of 2:03:-1 / 4 on a half-mile track. Mr. PHILLIPS at one time was the owner of 200 acres of land in this county and for a number of years he also served as vice president of the Bank of Redkey. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Redkey and was a Republican. He was an active Freemason, affiliated with the blue lodge at Redkey and with the chapter, council and commandery at Dunkirk and was also affiliated with the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Redkey.

It was OH April 15, 1882, that George W. PHILLIPS Was united in marriage, at Winchester, Ind., to Mary J. ARNEY, who was born and reared in that city, daughter of William and Nancy (PAGE) ARNEY, the former of whom was a Winchester merchant, and to this union was born one child, a son. Fay L., who was born in Redkey on April 24, 1896, and who is now carrying on the livestock business that had been developed by his father. Fay L. PHILLIPS was graduated from the high school at Redkey in 1916. He had had a previous course in a boys school in France (Remalard College at Oran), a private institution for the instruction of American and English youth in the French language, he having been taken abroad by his father on one of the latter's business trips to Europe for the purpose of getting a year of such training. He is now engaged in farming on his well-equipped place of 120 acres and is also devoting considerable attention to the breeding of fast horses.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.250-251. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.