

PLACE, ALLEN T

Allen T. PLACE, a veteran of the Civil war, who died at his home in Pennville on January 21, 1921, had been for years engaged in business at that PLACE, for the last ten years of his life engaged in the insurance business, and there were few men in this county who had a wider acquaintance than he. Mr. PLACE was a native son of Jay county, a member of one of the pioneer families of Knox township, and practically all his life was spent here. He was born on a pioneer farm in Knox township on November 4, 1845, and was a son of William and Esther (THAYER) PLACE, both of whom were born in Rhode Island, but who became residents of Ohio where they were married. Not long after their marriage they came over into Indiana and settled on a tract of land which William PLACE had entered from the Government in Knox township, this county, established their home there and there spent the remainder of their lives, useful and influential pioneers of that section. William PLACE and his wife were the parents of eight children.

Allen T. PLACE grew to manhood on the home farm in Knox township, completing his schooling in old Liber College. At the age of eighteen years he enlisted for service in the Union army and went to the front as a member of Company G of the 138th regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, with which command he served for five months, or until the end of the war, when he received his honorable discharge and returned home, resuming his PLACE on the farm. He was married in the spring of 1868 and for three years thereafter continued farming on the home PLACE. He then moved to the village of Keystone, up in the adjacent county of Wells and bought a general store there, continuing in business there for seven years, at the 'end of which time he disposed of his interests at that PLACE and returned to Jay county, locating at Pennville, where he bought a grocery store and meat market. The rest of Mr. PLACE's life was spent in business at Pennville, the last ten years of this time being given over to the direction of the considerable fire insurance business he had developed there and throughout this and adjacent counties.

It was on March 29, 1868, that Allen T. PLACE was united in marriage to Jane WHITEMAN, who survives him and who continues to make her home at Pennville, where she is very comfortably situated. Mrs. PLACE was born in this county, and is a member of one of the real pioneer families of the county, her parents, the Rev. George C. and Mary (SPAHR) WHITEMAN, having been among the early and most influential factors in bringing about proper social conditions hereabout in the days of the settlement of this region. The Rev. George C. WHITEMAN, who was born in Ohio and who was a clergyman of the Methodist church, was here at the time Jay county was

organized as a separate civic entity, and was widely known among the settlers throughout this section of Indiana. He entered a tract of land in Greene township, this county, about the time the county was organized and on this place he established his home. His wife was of the pioneer SPAHR family in Greene county, in Ohio, several representatives of which became pioneers of Jay county. The Rev. George C.

WHITEMAN took earnest part in general civic affairs and for thirteen years (1839-52) served as judge of the probate court. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom three are living, Mrs. PLACE having a brother, James WHITEMAN, and a sister, Mary E.

To Alien T. and Jane (WHITEMAN) PLACE were born six children, namely: Nellie, who married Wilbur H. CHANDLER and has one son, Earl CHANDLER, who is a graduate of DePauw University; Eva, who married John W. HOLMES, of Portland, and has three children, Howard, Paul and Herbert; Lottie, who married the Rev. W. A. GRIEST and has four children, Helen M., Leah E., Robert Allen and Elizabeth J.; Dr. W. D. PLACE, who married Mary SINCLAIR and has three children, Walter Edwin, Robert Allen and Ila Pauline; Olive, who spent one year as a teaching missionary in Japan and is now a teacher in the Portland public schools, and Pauline, who for five years or more was stationed at Nagasaki, Japan, as a missionary of the Methodist Episcopal church and is now attending Boston University. Mrs. PLACE is a member of the Methodist church, as was her husband, and is a Republican, as also was he. He was a member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.202-204. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.