

## PREMER, SAMUEL F

Samuel F. PREMER, a former member of the board of county commissioners for Jay county, formerly assessor in Greene township and now one of the best known and most substantial farmers and landowners in Noble township, where he resides, he and his family having a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 9 out of Portland, is a native son of Jay county, a member of one of the real pioneer families here, and has resided in this county all his life. Mr. PREMER was born on a farm in Wayne township on April 4, 1864, and is a son of William and Albina (GILBERT) PREMER, the latter of whom was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, but had been a resident of this county since the days of her childhood, her parents having come over here from Ohio in pioneer days.

William PREMER also was born in Ohio, in the vicinity of the city of Wooster, in Wayne county, and was but one year old when his parents, Hiram and Elizabeth (PREMER) PREMER, came over here into Indiana and settled on a quarter section of land in section 9 of Noble township, this county, which his father had entered from the Government. Hiram PREMER was born in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1817, and was a son of Samuel and Mary PREMER, the former of whom was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, in 1796, and was but three years of age when his parents moved to the Ohio frontier and settled in what later came to be organized as Butler county, whence in 1812 they moved to Wayne county.

There Samuel PREMER in turn established his home and remained until he came to Indiana and settled in Jay county. His wife was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, in 1796, and in 1811 moved with her parents to Wayne county, Ohio, the family being compelled during the first few months of their residence there to live in a block house on account of Indian troubles. She died in Jay county in 1861 and is buried in the PREMER cemetery. Hiram PREMER, one of the seven children born to this pioneer couple and grandfather of the subject of this sketch (sic), was married in Wayne county, Ohio, and some years later came over into Indiana with his father and settled in Jay county, as noted above, becoming one of the earliest settlers in Noble township. Indeed, it is related that there were but two other settlers in that township when the PREMER's settled there. He had three children, Sarah, Isaac and William, when he came to this county and seven others were born after he took up his residence here. Of these ten children six are still living namely: Samuel and Solomon PREMER, of Haigler, Neb.; Mrs. Abigail HOUDSHELL, of Hartford City, Ind.; James PREMER, of Ft. Recovery, Ohio; John PREMER, of Hartford City, Ind., and Henry PREMER, of Marion, Ind. William PREMER, third in order of birth of Hiram PREMER's children, was but a babe in arms when his parents came to Jay county and he spent the remainder of his life here, living to be more than seventy-eight years of age. His life was a busy one, his activities extending pretty much over the county as a timberman, carrying on this line, along with sawmilling, in addition to his extensive farming operations, and at one time was the owner of three good farms. His wife (Albina GILBERT) was eighty-three years of age at the time of her death. They had eight children, three of whom died in infancy, the others (besides the subject of this sketch) being Mrs. Ida TEETERS, of Portland; Henry A. PREMER, of Tulsa, Okla.; William A. PREMER, of Bluffton, Ind., and Hiram E. PREMER, of Bluffton. In passing, it may be said that a part of the land entered in this county by the pioneer Samuel PREMER remained in the

family until 1910, when Isaac PREMER, an uncle of Samuel F. PREMER, sold his farm in Noble township.

Samuel F. PREMER was about seventeen years of age when his parents moved from Wayne township to Greene township and settled on a farm where the village of Blaine now is located. He completed his elementary schooling in the school in that neighborhood and supplemented this by a course in the old Portland Normal School, after which he taught school for one term, but this profession did not appeal very strongly to him and he thereafter for five years gave his full attention to the affairs of his father's sawmill. He then was made the local buyer at Blaine for the Jay Grain Company and was thus engaged for thirteen years, at the end of which time he rented a farm in Greene township and entered upon his present vocation as a farmer. Mr. PREMER continued to make his residence in Greene township until 1918 when he bought the place on which he is now living, a well-kept farm of 100 acres in Noble township, and has since resided there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Mr. PREMER is a Republican and has for years been reorganized as one of the leaders of that party in Jay county. He served one term (1901-4) as a member of the board of county commissioners and for five years rendered service as township assessor in Greene township. He is a member of the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen at Portland and he and his wife are members of the United Brethren church at Bellefontaine.

On March 10, 1888, Samuel F. PREMER was united in marriage to Florence A. WRIGHT, who was born and reared in Greene township, and to this union four children have been born, all of whom are living save Ellery, the first born, born on February 13, 1889, who died on May 8, 1906, and is buried in Green Park cemetery at Portland, the other children of this family being Harold A., Perry C. and Inez E., the latter of whom married Robert PHELAN, a Noble township farmer, and has one child, a daughter, Florence M., born on July 26, 1920. Harold A. PREMER married Hazel A. SPAHR and is farming in Greene township. Perry C. PREMER, a veteran of the World war, now employed in the body works manufacturing plant at Union City, Ind., married Gussie M. THORNBURG and has one child, a son, Frederick F., born on December 26, 1919. Perry C. PREMER enlisted for service in the World war in November, 1917, and served overseas as a corporal in Battery F of the 60th Artillery Corps. He sailed for overseas duty with his command in April, 1918, and remained abroad until in January, 1919, during this period of service having been a participant in the historic battles at St. Mihiel and in the Argonne Forest. He received his discharge on February 28, 1919.

**SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.228-230. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.**