

PRILLAMAN, JOHN R

John R. PRILLAMAN, a well-known and substantial farmer and landowner of Bearcreek township, now living practically retired from the active labors of the farm at his pleasant place on rural mail route No. 9 out of Portland, is a native son of Jay county, a member of one of the pioneer families here, and has resided in this county all his life. Mr. PRILLAMAN was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of where he is now living, along the line between Bearcreek and Wayne townships, a part of the tract that was entered from the Government by his grandfather, and has thus been a witness to and a participant in the development of that section from the days of his childhood, seventy years ago. The date of his birth was March 24, 1850, and he is a son of Jacob and Henrietta (GRIMES) PRILLAMAN, the latter of whom was born in Frederick's county, Maryland, a daughter of John GRIMES and wife, who had come to Indiana with their family in 1839 and settled in Jay county.

Jacob PRILLAMAN was born in Miami county, Ohio, in 1820, and was eighteen years of age when he came to Jay county with his parents, William PRILLAMAN and wife, in 1838, the family settling on a tract of new land aggregating 640 acres eighty of which was in Wayne township, the remainder in Bearcreek township, which William PRILLAMAN, the pioneer, had entered from the Government the year before. Jacob PRILLAMAN took an active part in the development of this timberland farm, and after his marriage to Henrietta GRIMES in 1844 continued to make his home there, receiving a tract of 160 acres from his father. He developed a good farm and spent the remainder of his life there, his death occurring in March, 1879. His wife had preceded him to the grave more than six years, her death having occurred in August, 1872. They were the parents of six children, of whom but two are now living, the subject of this sketch and his sister, Mrs. Mary KIRKPATRICK.

John R. PRILLAMAN was reared on the home farm along the line between Wayne and Bearcreek townships, and his early schooling was received in the Hanlin school house, a hewed-log building in the former township. This course was supplemented by a term of instruction in 1869 in Ridgeville College. He remained at home assisting his father in the development of the farm, and after his marriage, at the age of twenty-one, began to farm on his own account, his father giving him a tract of forty acres of un-cleared land, a part of the place on which he is now living. There he built a house and entered upon the job of clearing the land and making a farm. As his affairs prospered he built new buildings and increased his land holdings until now he is the owner of an excellent farm plant and a fraction more than 134 acres, 113 acres of which lie in Bearcreek township and the remainder over the line in Wayne township. For some years past Mr. PRILLAMAN has been renting his fields and taking things somewhat easier than during the earlier and busier years of his life. He is a Democrat and he and his wife are members of the Belmore Methodist Protestant church.

On October 4, 1871, John R. PRILLAMAN was united in marriage to Emma R. SHERMAN, of this county, and to this union three children have been born, namely: Carrie F., born on November 7, 1872; Estella, April 26, 1876, and Fred H., June 29, 1879. Carrie F. PRILLAMAN married John LEONHARD, of Wabash township, this county, and died on May 23, 1906, leaving three children, Fred H., Fern F. and Erma M. LEONHARD. Fred H. LEONHARD, now living at Minneapolis, [Minnesota] is married and has one child, a daughter, Mary Jane. Fern E. LEONHARD married

William SUTTON, of Yorktown, Ind., [Delaware Co.] now a civil engineer living at Yakima, Wash., and has one child, a daughter, Margaret A. Estella PRILLAMAN married Charles F. HARTMAN, a salesman, now living at Wilmington, Ohio, and has four children, Charles E., Jr., John Dale, Paul and Frederick. Fred H. PRILLAMAN, now a hardware merchant at Upland, Ind., married Mary LOGAN and has three children, John M., James and Carl. On October 4, 1921, Mr. and Mrs. PRILLAMAN celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, the occasion being made one of much felicitation on the part of their friends, more than 100 of whom were guests of the family on that day.

Mrs. Emma R. PRILLAMAN was born in Licking county, Ohio, October 30, 1849, and was sixteen years of age when she came to Jay county with her parents, Lorenzo and Sophia P. (MOULTON) SHERMAN, the family settling in Wayne township, where she was living at the time of her marriage. She began teaching school upon her arrival here, at the age of sixteen, and was for some years thereafter thus engaged in this county, teaching four terms in Bearcreek township, four in Wayne and one in Noble. Both Lorenzo SHERMAN and his wife were born in the state of Vermont, the former on July 28, 1810, and the latter, February 27, 1823. The MOULTON moved to Licking county, Ohio, when Sophia was eleven years of age. Lorenzo SHERMAN was twenty-nine years of age when he became a resident of Licking county. He and Sophia MOULTON were married there in 1840 and they continued to reside in that county until 1865, when they came to Jay county and settled in Wayne township, where Lorenzo SHERMAN bought a farm of 280 acres. On this latter place he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of nine children, five of whom are still living, Mrs. PRILLAMAN having two sisters, Anna L. and Celesta, and two brothers, Charles S. and Leroy H. SHERMAN. The deceased children of this family were Warren S., Reuben, Sarah and Sophia L. Both Warren S. SHERMAN and Reuben SHERMAN served as soldiers of the Union, during the Civil war, the latter enlisting at the age of nineteen years. He was taken prisoner by the enemy and died in Andersonville prison. Warren S. SHERMAN also was a prisoner at Andersonville, but survived the horrors of that dreadful pen.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.364-366. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.