

RANKIN, CHARLES H

Charles H. RANKIN, who died at his home in Penn township in the spring of 1904 and whose widow is still living there, very comfortably situated in a peasant home on rural mail route No. 4 out of Bryant, was a "Buckeye" by birth but had been a resident of Indiana since the days of his early childhood and of Jay county since the days of his young manhood, he having settled in Penn township after his marriage. Mr. RANKIN was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, December 4, 1852, and was a son of William and Rachel RANKIN, the latter of whom was born at Heathersfield, in that same county, and the former a native of Pennsylvania. When Charles H. RANKIN was two years of age his parents came from Ohio over into Indiana and located in Wells county, where he received his schooling and grew to manhood. As a young man he was engaged in saw milling. but after his marriage bought an eighty acre farm in Penn township, this county, and made his home here, continuing to reside on that place until he bought the "eighty" on which his family now are living in that same township, and there he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in March, 1904. In addition to his general farming Mr. RANKIN had long given considerable attention to the raising of livestock and had done well in his operations. He was a Democrat and ever gave a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs.

Charles H. RANKIN was married in this county to Rebecca GRAY, who was born in this county, a daughter of Thomas and Amy (MENDENHALL) GRAY, members of pioneer families here, and to this union four children were born, Nellie, Delia, William and Garnet, the two latter of whom are unmarried and at home with their mother. Delia RANKIN is living at Dayton, Ohio [Montgomery Co.]. Nellie RANKIN married Allie ELLIOTT and has two children, sons both, John and Hugh. Since the death of her husband Mrs. RANKIN has continued to maintain the farm and is doing well. She has been a resident of Jay county all her life. Her father, Thomas GRAY, was born in Ohio and came to Jay county with his parents when but a boy. He grew to manhood here, reared on a farm, but early became engaged as a carpenter and most of his life was devoted to the building trades, he having been the builder of many of the houses in the northern part of the county. He and his wife were the parents of five children, those besides Mrs. RANKIN being Jennie, Joseph, Leona and Miles

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.351-352. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.