

RINES, ELI

Eli RINES, an honored veteran of the Civil war and one of Jay county's best known retired farmers, now living at his pleasant home on rural mail route No. 10 out of Portland, in Wayne township, is a native of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of Jay county since he was five years of age and thus has been a witness to and a participant in the amazing development which has marked this region during the past seventy years and more. Mr. RINES was born on a farm in Carroll county, Ohio, June 26, 1844, and is a son of James and Mary J. (SKYHAWK) RINES, the latter of whom was born in Pennsylvania and had moved to Ohio with her parents when a child, the SKYHAWK's settling in Carroll county. James RINES was born in Virginia and was but a lad when he went to Ohio with his parents, the RINES also settling in Carroll county, where he grew to manhood and was married. In 1849 he disposed of his interests in that state and with his family moved to Indiana and settled in this county, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of nine children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Mrs. Ira LOY and Mrs. James GRIFFIS.

As noted above, Eli RINES was five years of age when he came to Jay county with his parents in 1849 and he grew to manhood on the home farm in this county, and was living there when the Civil war broke out. On August 28, 1862, he then being but eighteen years of age, Mr. RINES enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and went to the front as a member of Company H, 100th regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was a fine, upstanding figure of a young soldier and his comrades honored him by making him the color bearer of their outfit. With this gallant command Mr. RINES served for nearly three years, or until honorably discharged on June 21, 1865, the war then being over. Upon the completion of his military service he returned to the old home and for two years thereafter was engaged in working as a farm hand here. He then rented a farm and operated as a renter until 1870, when he bought a tract of eighty acres in Wayne township, the place now being farmed by his son, Philip S. RINES and there made his home until his retirement in 1914 and removal to Portland, where he had bought a house and lot. Five years later he sold his home in the city and moved to the place on which he is now living on rural mail route No. 10 out of Portland, where he has a plot of ground sufficient for gardening purposes and to give him a motive for proper exercise. Mr. RINES was for years one of the active members of Stephen J. Bailey post, Grand Army of the Republic, and took an earnest interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization during the years of its greatest activity. He is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, and is a member of the Christian church at Salamonia, a deacon of the congregation for thirty-five years and for fifty-four years a teacher in the Sunday school.

Mr. RINES has been thrice married and by his earlier marriages has two sons, Curtis H. and Charles L. RINES. On September 8, 1884, he was united in marriage to Mary POWELL, who was born in Franklin county, Ohio, July 23, 1849, a daughter of William and Mary (HAUGEN) POWELL, and to this union two children have been born, Eva and Philip S., the former of whom married Oliver SMITH, a farmer of Pike township, this county, and has four children, Carl, Clarissa, Dewey and Eunice SMITH. Philip S. RINES married Velva KIRBY and, as noted above, is farming his father's farm in Wayne township. He and his wife have one child, a daughter, Margie J.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.305-306. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.