

Joseph Freeman ROWLAND, who died at his home in Greene township in the summer of 1921, left a good memory at his passing and it is but fitting that there should be carried in this formal history of the county in which he had spent all his life some modest tribute to that memory. Mr. ROWLAND was born on a farm in Knox township, this county, November 19, 1851, and was a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (GAUNT) ROWLAND, both members of pioneer families in this county and the latter of whom was the daughter of Joseph GAUNT, who was a soldier of the War of 1812. Samuel ROWLAND was born in the state of New York and was a son of Michael ROWLAND, who settled in Jay county in 1838. Samuel ROWLAND, who was a veteran of the Civil war, became a substantial farmer of Jay county and died at his home here in 1885. His wife had preceded him to the grave some four years, her death having occurred in 1881. They were the parents of three children, the subject of this memorial sketch having had a brother, Michael Mellett ROWLAND, and a sister, Mary Emily.

Reared in the farm home in which he was born in Knox township, Joseph F. ROWLAND received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and remained with his father until he attained his majority, after which he began working "on his own." He married at the age of twenty-four and established his home on the place in Greene township on which his widow is now living, renting the place from the latter's father. Upon the death of Mrs. ROWLAND's father she inherited the farm of 160 acres and it ever since has been the ROWLAND family home. In addition to his general farming Mr. ROWLAND for many years operated a threshing rig during the season and in that connection was widely known hereabout. He also gave considerable attention to the raising of pure-bred live stock and in his operations did well. He was a Republican and ever gave a good citizen's attention to civic affairs, but was not a seeker after public office. Mr. ROWLAND died at his home in Greene township on June 3, 1921, he then being in the seventy-first year of his age.

It was on August 5, 1876, that Joseph F. ROWLAND was united, in marriage to Sarah D. PELHAM, who was born on the place on which she is now living, daughter and only child of Benjamin F. and Sarah (SCARF) PELHAM, the latter of whom died four days after the birth of her babe. Benjamin F. PELHAM was born in Greene county, Ohio, a member of one of the pioneer families of that county, and there grew to manhood and was: married, his wife also having been a member of one of the old families of Greene county. After their marriage he and his wife came over into Indiana and settled on a tract of land he had secured by original entry in Greene township, this county. He cleared and drained that tract and created there an excellent farm, gradually adding to his land holdings until at the time of his death he was the owner of 237 acres of land in this county. His last days were spent here, his death occurring on October 28, 1900. To Joseph F. and Sarah D. (PELHAM) ROWLAND were born twelve children, of whom seven are living, namely; Arthur, Calvert, Melvin, Bessie, Russell, Ernest and Doris, the latter of whom married Ira EARHEART and has one child, Densel. Arthur ROWLAND married Elota HARTMAN and has three children, Myron, John and Mary Catherine. Calvert ROWLAND married Dollie EARHEART. Bessie ROWLAND married Edward LANSON and has two children, Theril and Juanita. Russell ROWLAND is married and has two children, James and Helen Elizabeth, and Ernest ROWLAND married Mary CASH. Since the death of her husband Mrs. ROWLAND has continued to make her home on the old home place where she has always lived and where she is very comfortably situated, the operations of the farm being looked after by her sons. The ROWLAND's have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of Pennville.

Unknown source