

RUSSELL, ALBERT

Albert RUSSELL, civil engineer and surveyor, Pennville, is a native of Jackson Township, Jay County, Indiana, born February 10, 1849, a son of Isaac and Rachel (JANNEY) RUSSELL. He was reared on a frontier farm in his native township, receiving his early education in the district schools, completing his studies at Lebanon (Ohio) normal college. While at college he studied civil engineering, which he has followed since 1874. He remained at home with his parents until attaining his majority.

October 1, 1878, he was united in [p. 318] marriage to Miss Ellen ENGLISH, a daughter of Thomas and Cynthia (BOLAND) ENGLISH, who came from Ross County, Ohio, where Mrs. RUSSELL was born in 1855. They are the parents of one son, named William E.

In 1882 Mr. RUSSELL engaged in the drug business at Pennville, which he followed with fair success until 1887, when he disposed of his drugstore. In 1876 he was elected to the office of county surveyor, serving as such two years. In 1884 he was elected township [sic] trustee, re-elected in 1886, and is still serving in that capacity with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. He is a member of the Odd Fellows order, Relief Lodge, No. 145. Politically he is a Republican. He is a member of the Society of Friends.

Isaac RUSSELL, the father of our subject, was born in Adams County, Pennsylvania, August 18, 1810, a son of Jesse RUSSELL, a native of Frederick County, Maryland, and a grandson of John RUSSELL, who was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1736. The latter came to America in 1750, but subsequently returned to his native country, coming again to America in 1764, when he settled in Maryland. He married Rebecca FINCHER, a native of Pennsylvania, whose ancestors came to America with William PENN. Jesse RUSSELL married Content GARRETSON, a native of Pennsylvania. Isaac RUSSELL was married in 1830 to Miss Rachel JANNEY in Warren County, Ohio. She is a daughter of Stephen and Letitia (TAYLOR) JANNEY, natives of Loudoun County, Virginia, her father, a son of Joseph JANNEY, a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and a grandson of John JANNEY, a native of Pennsylvania, whose father Joseph JANNEY came from Yorkshire, England, to America with William PENN in 1684, and settled in Philadelphia. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Isaac RUSSELL located in Vigo County, Indiana, where the father followed carpentering. He remained in Vigo County until 1845, when he came with his family to Jay County, and settled on a heavily timbered farm which had been previously entered from the Government by his father-in-law. He cleared and improved a tract of 160 acres and followed farming until his death, September 7, 1881. He was a consistent member of the Society of Friends. His widow, who still survives, is yet a member of the Society. She is now seventy-one years old and is living with her son, the subject of this sketch. Isaac RUSSELL served Jackson Township as trustee for three years. He and his wife had a family of five children, of whom four still survive -- Francis, living in Nemaha County, Kansas, was a soldier in the war of the Rebellion, being a member of Company G, One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Indiana Infantry; Albert, our subject; James A., a publisher living at Pennville, Indiana, and Mary L., wife of A. C. NORWOOD, of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Jesse J. was a member of Company F., Seventy-fifth Indiana Infantry, and died in the service of his country at Memphis, Tennessee, in February, 1863.

SOURCE: p.317 "Biographical and Historical Record of Jay County, Indiana," Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1887. Reprinted by Mayhill Publications of Knightstown, Indiana, 1974. This is the reprinted Jay County section out of the original combined 1887 History of Jay and Blackford counties.