

SHARDELMAN, HENRY S.

HENRY S. SHARDELMAN, a well-known bachelor farmer and retired timberman of Jay county and proprietor of a well-kept farm in Bearcreek township, making his home on that place on rural mail route No.1 out of Bryant, is a native of the old Buckeye state but has been a resident of Jay county since the days of his boyhood. Mr. SHARDELMAN was born in Darke county, Ohio, December 31, 1850, and is the posthumous son and only survivor of the three children born to Bernard H. and Catherine (SPRECHER) SHARDELMAN, the other children of this family having been John H. and Francis M. SHARDELMAN. The mother of these children was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and after the death of her first husband married Evan ROSER, who in 1860 moved over here from Ohio and became a resident of Jay county. Bernard H. SHARDELMAN was born in Germany and when about thirteen years of age came with his parents to this country. He became a musician of considerable skill but his trade was a shoemaker, following this trade in Darke county, Ohio, where he died in July, 1850, about five months before his son, the subject of this sketch, was born.

Henry S. SHARDELMAN was nine years of age when he came to Jay county with his mother and stepfather, Evan ROSER, in 1860, the family settling in Noble township. He completed his schooling in the schools of that township and remained at home, helpful in the labors of the farm, until he was seventeen years of age, when he began working "on his own" as a farm hand in the neighborhood. Two years later he started in as a contractor, taking jobs of ditching, tiling and clearing, and did much work along this line, continuing thus engaged until 1885, in which year he went into the timber business, buying the standing timber and disposing of the same to the mills and factories at Portland and continued in this business until pretty much all the big timber in this immediate region was got out of the way. In 1887, Mr. SHARDELMAN bought from one of his brothers a tract of twenty acres in Bearcreek township and cleared the same. Three years later he sold the tract back to his brother and in 1890 bought seventy-nine and one-half acres. In 1896 he bought a tract of twenty acres lying across the highway from his old place, where he built his home in 1901, and thus now has ninety-nine and one-half acres. Mr. SHARDELMAN has a well improved farm on which he lives retired, his land having been cared for by a renter for some years past.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.374-375. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.