

SHERMAN, AUSTIN J.

Austin J. SHERMAN, a well-known and substantial farmer and landowner of Jay county and proprietor of an excellent farm in Noble township, where he makes his home, is a native son of Jay county and has lived here all his life. Mr. SHERMAN was born on a farm in Wayne township, June 9, 1868, and is a son of Warren S. and Margaret I. (SPADE) SHERMAN, the latter of whom was born in that same township, a member of one of the old families of this county.

The late Warren S. SHERMAN, an honored veteran of the Civil war, was a native of Ohio, born in Licking county, that state, April 21, 1842, and was a son of Lorenzo and Sophia P. (MOULTON) SHERMAN, who were married in Licking county and who were the parents of nine children. Lorenzo SHERMAN was born in the state of Vermont in 1810 and was a son of Shubael and Phebe SHERMAN, who in 1839 moved to Ohio and located in Licking county. In 1865, Lorenzo SHERMAN came with his family to Indiana and settled on a 100 acre farm in Wayne township, where he spent the remainder of his life. Warren S. SHERMAN was nineteen years of age when the Civil war broke out. In that same year, October 9, 1861, he enlisted his services in behalf of the Union and went to the front as a member of Company B, 76th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. The first battle in which he participated was at Ft. Donelson. He also took part in the battle of Shiloh and from that historic field was sent to a hospital, where he was confined for two months, at the end of which time he was furloughed at Camp Denison and returned home. When his leave of absence expired he repaired to Camp Chase and after examination there was discharged on account of physical disability, July 27, 1862. He gradually recovered his health and in the spring of 1863 entered the Ohio National Guard. Early in 1864 he was sent with the company to which he was attached to Martinsburg, Va., for guard duty, Mr. SHERMAN then having the rank of sergeant. At the battle of North Mountain, not far from Martinsburg, this command was compelled to surrender to a superior force of the enemy and was taken to Lynchburg, thence to Danville and thence to the notorious prison pen at Andersonville. Here Mr. SHERMAN was confined until the approach of General SHERMAN's army, when the prisoners were pushed on ahead to Savannah and after SHERMAN had passed they were sent back to Andersonville. At the close of the war Mr. SHERMAN, with other prisoners, was transferred to Jacksonville, Fla., and thence by steamer to Annapolis and from there to Columbus, Ohio, where he received his discharge on June 2, 1865. He was a prisoner for ten months, lacking four days, and for seven months of this time was confined at Andersonville. He at one time made his escape with others from Andersonville hospital, but was captured by hounds when about five miles from the place. His brother, Reuben SHERMAN, was with him in the 135th Ohio National Guard and was taken prisoner at the same time. He died in Andersonville prison on October 9, 1864. Upon the completion of his military service Warren S. SHERMAN returned home and in that same year (1865) came with his parents to Indiana, the family locating in Wayne township, this county. Here Warren S. SHERMAN married Margaret I. SPADE,

daughter of William SPADE, one of the pioneers of Jay county, and established his home on a farm in that township. He was a good farmer and became the owner of 126 acres in Wayne township. To Warren S. and Margaret I. (SPADE) SHERMAN were born ten children, all of whom are living save Lewis, who died in infancy, the others (besides the subject of this sketch) being William B., Janet, Winifred, Celestia, Mary S., John L., Warren E. and Edna.

Reared on the home farm in Wayne township, Austin J. SHERMAN received his early schooling in the local schools, supplementing this by attendance at the old Normal School at Portland and by two summers spent in the Tri-State College at Angola, and for four years was engaged as a teacher in the schools of Jay county, meantime continuing to make his home on the home farm and assisting in the cultivation of the same. He remained on this place until his marriage at the age of thirty-nine years, meanwhile becoming" the owner of a sixty-acre tract of his own, and after his marriage established his home on the place on which he is now living in Noble township and has since resided there. Since taking possession of that place Mr. SHERMAN has enlarged his holding- until now he is the and gives considerable attention to his livestock interests, raising about fifty hogs and seventy-five sheep a year.

It was on March 4, 1908, that Austin J. SHERMAN was united in marriage to Minnie A. SHEWARD, who also was born in Wayne township, and to this union three children have been born, Elizabeth M., Warren S. and John F., who are now attending the Metzner school (district No. 3) in Noble township. Mr. and Mrs. SHERMAN are Republicans and are members of the Pleasant Hill Evangelical church. They have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 9 out of Portland and take an interested part in the community's general social activities. Mrs. SHERMAN is a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (CLAAR) SHEWARD, both of whom were born in Jackson county, Ohio where they were married, later coming to Indiana and locating in Wayne township, this county. Daniel SHEWARD was the owner of a farm of 120 acres in Wayne township and he and his wife were the parents of nine children, all of whom save two Maria and Samuel are living, the others besides Mrs. SHERMAN being Josephine, Asa, Mary, Ada, Jessie and Ella

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.302-304. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.