

SIMMONS, JAMES B.

James B. SIMMONS, a well-known and substantial farmer of Jackson township and proprietor of a well-kept farm there, is a native Hoosier and has lived in this state all his life. Mr. SIMMONS was born on a farm in the neighboring county of Randolph on February 19, 1859, and is a son of Joseph and Sarah (WALL) SIMMONS, whose last days were spent in that county. Joseph SIMMONS was born in Jackson township, Randolph county, and his life was devoted to farming- and saw milling. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom four are living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Isabel, and two brothers, Moses and Irvin SIMMONS.

Reared on a farm in Randolph county, James B. SIMMONS received his schooling in the schools in the neighborhood of his home and was married at the age of twenty-two, after which he began farming on his own account, renting a farm. When the oil field hereabout was opened he came up into Jay county and for ten years- was engaged in oil development work. He then returned to farming, renting a small farm, and presently moved up into Adams county, where he bought a farm of thirty-two acres. He farmed that place for three years, at the end of which time he disposed of his interests in Adams county and returned to Jay county, buying the farm of eighty acres in Jackson township on which he since has made his home.

It was on March 3, 1881 that James B. SIMMONS was united in marriage to Lucinda FIELDS, who also was born in Randolph county, daughter of David and Nancy (GREGG) FIELDS, and to this union twelve children have been born, of whom eleven are living, namely: Samuel, James Irvin, Emma, Michael, Frank, Elmer, Jacob, Caleb, John J., Moses and Mary. James Irvin SIMMONS married Inez Jones, of this county and has three children, Carl, Earl and Floyd. Frank SIMMONS married Carrie SAXSON, also of this county, and has three children, Minnie, Mildred and Kenneth. Mr. SIMMONS and his sons are Republicans. Four of these sons are veterans of the World war and another rendered service in the army after the war was over. Michael SIMMONS was in Wyoming when his call came. May 27, 1918, and he spent more than a year overseas, a member of Company I, 18th Infantry Regiment of the First Division, and with this command participated in numerous important engagements, including the second St. Mihiel offensive, the Meuse-Argonne offensive and the Sedan drive, and was discharged at Ft. D.A. Russell in Wyoming, on October 29, 1919. Elmer and Jacob SIMMONS entered the service in Idaho and the latter was stationed at Camp Kearney, Colorado. Elmer SIMMONS rendered service in the Marine Corps and most of his time in service was spent in the Virgin Islands. The youngest son, Moses SIMMONS, enlisted for service in the United States army in January, 1921, and served until in the following June, when he was discharged when the detachment to which he was attached was disbanded. John J. SIMMONS served overseas with Battery B of the Eighth Field Artillery. He enlisted his services on May 3, 1917, less than a month after the United States entered into the World war and was sent to Ft. Thomas, thence to Ft. Monroe, thence to Camp Robinson, Wis., where he remained about three months. He then was sent to Camp Wheeler, Ga., where he remained until June, 1918, when he was sent to Camp McClellan and thence to Camp Merritt, from which point he was dispatched with his command overseas, the outfit first being brigaded at Brest. He was on foreign service for ten months and upon his return to the United States was sent to Camp Mills and thence to Camp Sherman, where he was mustered out. Upon his discharge he re-enlisted for a year and was finally discharged on August 15, 1921.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.273-274. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.