

Thomas W. Simmons, farmer, station, 26, Madison Township, was born in Miami County, Ohio, January 28, 1802, where he lived until coming to Jay County in 1849. His father, Charles Simmons was born March 26, 1799, in Frederick County, Virginia, and in 1802, the family removed to Miami County, Ohio, where they lived a few months, then removed to Montgomery County, same state. He was married February 7, 1831, and died March 16, 1872. He was not a church member, but was a great moral man and a great reader of the Bible.

The mother, Rachel (Wilkinson) Simmons, was born in Harrison County, Virginia, September 10, in 1797, and when 12 years of age removed to Champaign County, Ohio with her parents, located on the farm that had no improvements, but there was an Indian hut, constructed of Cottonwood. In 1816, the family removed to Shelby County, where Mrs. Simmons was married. The parents had six children, five of whom are still living – Thomas W., William D., Isaac, Jacob, Harriet A. By a first marriage, Mr. Simmons had one child – John, who is now living in Douglas County, Kansas. The name of the first wife was Harriet Smith, who died in Miami County in 1829.

Our subject was married December 28, 1856, to Miss Lydia Ann Cline, born in Gallia County, Ohio, August 24, 1836. In 1847, she came to Jay County with her parents, who settled on section 26, Madison Township, on the farm now owned by Robert Fisher's heirs. Both parents, died on the farm. Her father, died August 23, 1853, aged 106 years. The mother died in January, 1863, age 65 years. The father was twice married. By his second marriage were seven children, Susannah, Cynthia A., Alexander H., Jerusha A., Lydia A., Jacob and Charles W.; the sons are deceased. Mr. Simmons entered the Army October 24, 1864, and was assigned to Company I, Fortieth Indiana Infantry. He joined his regiment at Columbia, Tennessee, November 25, the same fall. His first skirmish was at Spring Hill, Tennessee, and his first battle was at Franklin; he was also engaged in the battle of Nashville. His regiment and corps went to Huntsville, Alabama, and then went into winter quarters. In the spring, the regiment was sent to Victoria, Texas, and was discharged at Victoria, Texas, October 22, 1865.

Mr. Simmons grandparents, John and Susannah Simmons were born in Germany. His grandfather was 16 years old when he came to America with his parents, who settled in Pennsylvania. His maternal grandfather, Thomas Wilkinson, was born in Frederick County, Virginia, and died in Shelby County, Ohio, at the age of 69 years. His grandmother, Jane (Anderson) Wilkinson, was born in Harrison County, Virginia, and died in Shelby County, Ohio, at the age of 59 years. The Wilkinson's were Irish, and the Anderson's English.

Her great-grandfather, James Anderson, was born in London, was married in New Jersey, and died a violent death while he was sheriff on the way between Winchester, Virginia and the Blue Ridge Mountains. He was a soldier in the war of the Revolution. Mr. Simmons had three uncles that served in the war of 1812.

Mrs. Simmons paternal grandparents, Conrad and Ann Cline were born in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Simmons had one child, June Rachel, born November 16, 1857, who is the wife of Joseph W. Roush. They have reared a boy, Alexander F. Cline, since he was 12 days old. He is the son of one of Mrs. Simmons brothers, A. H. Cline. Mr. Simmons had an uncle, John Simmons, who was killed at the evacuation of Fort Dearborn, Chicago, during the war of 1812. His family, consisting of wife and two children, were with him, when the attack was made. He and one of his children were killed, while his wife and the other child were taken prisoners and held by the Indians six months before they were released.

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Contributed by Jim Cox