

STARR, JOHN M.

JOHN M. STARR, a well-known and substantial retired farmer of Greene township, this county, now living at Portland, is a native son of Jay county and has lived here all his life. Mr. STARR was born on a pioneer farm in Greene township, the site now occupied by the village of Blaine, October 20, 1849, and is a son of Jacob and Angelina C. (WRIGHT) STARR, who were among the pioneers of that section of the county, and the latter of whom was born in Greene county, Ohio, April 1, 1824, daughter of Merrick and Nancy (OWENS) WRIGHT, Virginians, the former of whom was a soldier of the War of 1812. Jacob STARR was born in Berkeley county, Virginia (now West Virginia), March 13, 1813, and was reared in the home of an uncle in Greene county, Ohio. He married in this latter county and continued to make his home there- until 1846, when he came over into Indiana and settled on a quarter section of land he had entered from the Government in Greene township, this county, locating there on August 26 of that year, one of the considerable number of Greene county (Ohio) people who settled in that part of Jay county about that time, Greene township being given its name in honor of these settlers who had brought pleasant memories of their old home county with them. On this quarter section Jacob STARR established his home, made a good farm and spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there in November, 1899. He had prospered in his operations and became the owner of 540 acres, a part of which tract now is occupied by the village of Blaine. To Jacob and Angelina (WRIGHT) STARR were born six children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Charles P. STARR, of Portland, and a sister, Sarah, wife of Joel KINSEY.

Reared on the home farm in Greene township, John M. STARR received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and from the days of his boyhood his life has been devoted to farming. He married when twenty-two years of age and for a few years thereafter continued to farm the home acres, or until in November, 1876, when he bought a tract of seventy acres in Greene township and launched out on his own. As his affairs prospered there Mr. STARR bought an adjacent tract of eighty acres, this addition to his holdings giving him 150 acres of excellent land, on which he made his home until his retirement from the farm in 1907 and removal to Portland, where he bought his present residence at 616 West Main street, and has since resided there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Mr. STARR and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Portland and are Republicans.

John M. STARR has been twice married. On August 15, 1872, he was united in marriage to Sarah L. SPAHR, who was born in this county, daughter of Jacob L. and Elizabeth (BOOTS) SPAHR, also Greene county (Ohio) folks, and to this union three children were born, Cora, William J. and Leslie I. Cora STARR married James E. STURGEON, now living at Muncie, Ind., and has three children: Lawrence, who married Wilma HAWKINS and has one child, Betty Marie; Lee, who married Helen MOORE, and Leah. William J. STARR, who now lives in Michigan, married Grace SMITH and has eight

children: Darrell, Freda, Kenneth, Clifford, Helen, Elizabeth, John and Joseph. Leslie I. STARR, who now lives at Los Angeles, Cal., married Mazie WILSON and has one child, Claudia. The mother of these children died on December 14, 1884, and on December 31, 1885, Mr. STARR married Catherine E. ROSENBERRY, who also was born in this county, daughter of David ROSENBERRY and wife, and to this union have been born four children, Forrest C., Iris, Edith M. and Herbert L., all of whom are married save the latter. Forrest C. STARR married Edith BIRD, of this county, and has three children, Thelma, Merritt Warren and Jay; Iris STARR married Charles BIRD and has two children, Mildred and John; and Edith M. STARR married Clyde WEST and has three children, Catherine Jane, Ruth M. and Clyde WEST. Herbert L. STARR served in the navy for thirteen months during the time of America's participation in the World war, attached to the battleship Virginia, and made three round trips to France.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.64-65. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.