

JOHN W. RINEAR, of Liberty Center; was born in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, March 4, 1842, eldest son of Charles Rinear, who was born in Burlington County, New Jersey, July 7, 1816. His mother, Jane S. (Parker) Rinear, was born in Genesee County, New York, May 16, 1820. Charles was a son of John Rinear, also born in Burlington County, New Jersey, and of French descent. When Charles was five years of age his parents emigrated to Columbiana County, Ohio, settling upon a farm. He remained at home until he reached his majority, and was married December 25, 1840, his wife being a daughter of Silas and Esther (Montgomery) Parker, who were natives of New York and of English ancestry. After his marriage he was engaged in



farming in Cuyahoga County until 1847, then removed to Indiana and settled in Huntington County until 1854, then removed to Wells County, where he located on section 21, Liberty Township. He followed farming until 1886, when failing health compelled him to change his occupation, and he removed to Liberty Center and rented his farm of 120 acres and retired from active business. Mr. Rinear has officiated as deacon of the Baptist church over forty years. His wife is also a member of that church. In politics he is a Republican. Of their six children, five are living—John W., Elias M., Emma S., George F. and Mary J.; Charles died at the age of twenty-four years. Our subject was twelve years old when he came to Wells County. He was educated in the common schools, and remained at home until the breaking out of the civil war, when he enlisted, September 25, 1861, in Company A, Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry. While at the mouth of White River, Arkansas, he received a wound which confined him to the hospital at Memphis, Tennessee, where he contracted chronic diarrhoea, for which he was honorably discharged October 7, 1862. He returned home, and April 2, 1863, was

married to Miss Sarah C. First, who was born in Liberty Township, Wells County, Indiana, February 23, 1843, daughter of Jacob First, who was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, March 5, 1811, and a son of George and Catherine (Smith) First, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and of German parentage, the latter a native of Virginia, whose father was drowned before her birth. George First and his family removed to Wayne County, Ohio, in 1819, where Jacob was reared on a farm and remained until he reached his majority. He was married September 8, 1831, to Miss Hannah Stonebrook, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Frederick Stonebrook, also a native of Pennsylvania, and of German ancestry. After his marriage he settled on a farm in Wayne County, where he lived until September, 1841, then came to Wells County, where he entered 160 acres of land from the Government, on section 29, Liberty Township, where he resided forty years, and still owns the farm. Of their ten children, six are now living — Israel, Solomon, Mary J., Sarah C., Celinda and Thomas E.; the deceased are — George W., Sarah J., Caroline, and one that died in infancy. Mrs. First died July 13, 1860, and June 7, 1861, Mr. First was married to Mrs. Julia A. Campbell, a sister of his first wife, whose first husband was Robert Campbell. She died in 1877. In 1843 Mr. First was elected to the office of township trustee, an office he held many years. In 1856 he was elected justice of the peace, and held the office twelve years. He is a member of the German Baptist church, and in politics, a Democrat. Mr. John W. Rinear, after his marriage, was engaged in farming until 1877, then embarked in the mercantile trade at Liberty Center, a business he followed until 1883, and is now farming. In 1872 he was elected justice of the peace and served twelve years, and in 1877 was appointed postmaster of Liberty Center, holding the office until January 1, 1880. Mr. Rinear is a staunch Democrat. Mr. and Mrs. Rinear have one child — Hannah S., wife of John B. Funk, a druggist at Liberty Center; she was the first white child born in the village. Mr. Rinear has 275 acres of improved land. He belongs to the Odd Fellows fraternity at Bluffton, Lodge 114, also a member of Lew Daily Post, No. 33, G. A. R., of Bluffton, Indiana.

Biographical and historical record of Adams and Wells counties, Indiana. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1887. pp. 896-899.