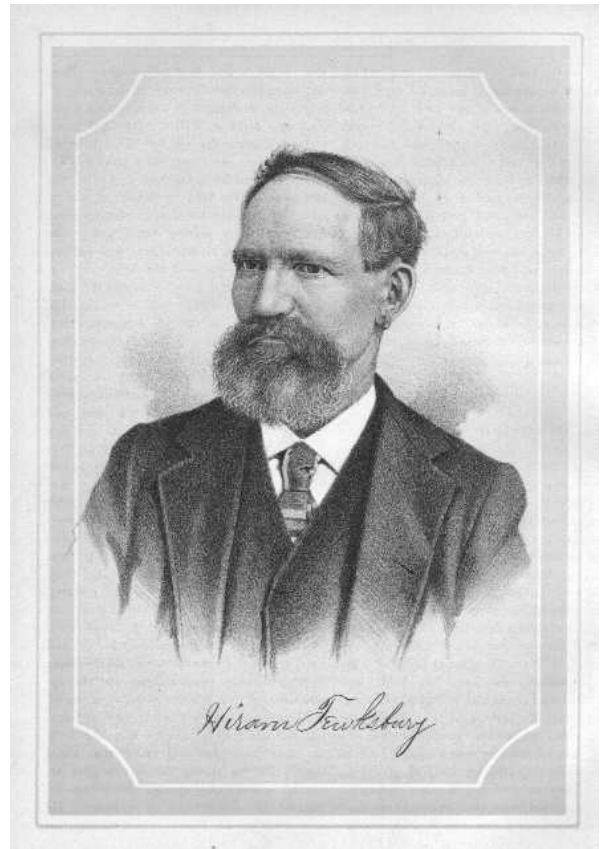


HIRAM TEWKSBURY, farmer, Chester Township, was born in Summit County, Ohio, December 16, 1840, son of Nathaniel and Nancy Tewksbury, natives of Sandwich, New Hampshire, where the family had lived for many generations. John Tewksbury, the first of the family in this country, came to America in the Mayflower, landing at Plymouth Rock in 1620. Some twenty-five years later he left Plymouth for Sandwich, New Hampshire, which has since been the family home, for a period of nearly two and a half centuries. Nathaniel Tewksbury was married in New Hampshire to Miss Nancy Tewksbury, February 24, 1825, and in 1836 they first moved to Summit County, Ohio, where the parents of Mrs. Tewksbury had settled about ten years previous. In 1841 they removed by wagon and ox team to Indiana, leaving Ohio on the 15th of February. They camped out at night, wherever they happened to be, often having to cut their way through the woods, and to ford streams that would almost float their wagon. They arrived in



Blackford County the second day of April, and lived there in a small cabin while Nathaniel came to Wells County and made a clearing, using the logs cut down to erect his log house. In December it was ready for occupancy, and he brought his family to the new home. His land consisted of eighty acres that he had entered from the Government five years before leaving Ohio, and is the land upon which his son Hiram now resides. There was no road near the land; nothing but an Indian trail, which ran from the Godfrey Reserve to within half a mile of his farm, afforded means of communication. The principal occupants of the surrounding country were deer, bears, wolves and other wild animals. During the first winter there was a heavy fall of snow, and the wild turkeys would come in droves clear to the house, and some ten or fifteen were caught in one day by Mr. Tewksbury in traps. When he first came he went to Muncie for his milling, and afterward went to Camden, where there was a corn crusher. A few years later a good mill was put up on the Salamonie River. They hauled their first wheat to Fort Wayne, usually taking about a week for a trip, then received 30 to 50 cents a bushel for it. They would haul hack salt at \$4 or \$5 a barrel. He came here with his household goods, an ox team, one cow, and had \$1.50 in cash. Here he and his wife reared their family, and lived to see vast inroads made into the dense forests, railroads, manufactories and the appearance of the whole country changed. Nathaniel Tewksbury was not fond of hunting, and preferred to take his dog and drive the deer from the field rather than shoot them. He was among the first to give attention to stock-raising, and was always interested in this branch of industry. He died February 11, 1878, his wife having died March 17, 1877. Both are buried in Montpelier cemetery. Hiram was reared amid the scenes of pioneer life, and he has always lived on the old homestead. He is probably the largest individual stock-raiser in Wells County.

He has been twice married. He was first married in April, 1863, to Miss Mary Jane Harris, a native of Jay County, Indiana, and daughter of David and Eliza (Caldwell) Harris. She died September 10, 1877. By this marriage were two children— John M. and Elmer. Mr. Tewksbury was married to his present wife January 22, 1880. She was formerly Miss Cecelia Nowlin, a native of Rochester, New York, and daughter of Addison and Mary (McConaghy) Nowlin. They are the parents of two children—Eva and Joy. Mr. Tewksbury owns 1,078 acres of land in Wells, Blackford and Pulaski counties, Indiana, and Grand Traverse, Michigan. He was engaged in the hardware business with William and John Cloud, at Montpelier, from 1875 to 1877, and in the general mercantile business, in the firm of J. T. Hess & Co., during 1881—'82—'83. He has been a life-long Republican, as was his father after the organization of that party; previous to that time he was a Whig. Mr. Tewksbury was the Republican and people's candidate for recorder at the last election.

Biographical and historical record of Adams and Wells counties, Indiana. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1887. pp. 915-916.