

JAMES N. SHADLE is a native son of Chester Township, Wells County, and for over forty years has applied his energies to the business of farming and stock raising and is easily one of the most substantial business men and citizens of that community. His farm is in section 8 of Chester Township. He was born in that township October 26, 1854, a son of Philip and Margaret (Donnelly) Shadle. Philip Shadle is a remarkable instance of longevity, and despite his hardships and experiences as a pioneer in Wells County is still living at the venerable age of ninety-two. He was born in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, April 14, 1825, son of Philip and Mary (McGlade) Shadle. His father was a native of Center County, Pennsylvania, while Mary McGlade was two years old when her parents came from Ireland. The grandparents married in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, and for twenty-five years made their home in Lebanon County. In 1836 they removed to Wayne County, Ohio, a year later to Holmes County, and in the fall of 1847 traded the Ohio farm for 110 acres of wild land in Wells County, Indiana. Philip Shadle, Sr., was a carpenter by trade and hewed out the logs for his home in Wells County and made the first substantial house of the kind in Chester township. His wife died in Wells County in January, 1855, and he passed away in 1874.

The venerable Philip Shadle was reared and educated in Ohio, and in Wayne County, that state, married August 7, 1845, Miss Margaret Donnelly, a native of Pennsylvania and daughter of John and Fannie (Singer) Donnelly, also natives of Pennsylvania. The Donnelly family moved from Pennsylvania to Wayne County, Ohio, about 1835, and in 1850 went to Holmes County, Ohio. Philip Shadle brought his family to Wells County the year after his father's settlement, and located on a tract of sixty-five acres of the old homestead. He looked after the farm while his father followed his trade as a carpenter, and being a man of great strength and industry he cleared up with the assistance of his children fully 150 acres of the virgin land of Chester Township. He became owner of a fine farm and he kept in close touch with its operation until advanced years. His good wife was born January 14, 1829, and their companionship was one of remarkable length, being terminated after more than seventy years by her death on January 21, 1917. For years they were faithful members and active workers in the United Presbyterian Church. Philip Shadle was a man of affairs in his township and county, was township trustee six years, and as a republican at one time was chairman of the Republican Committee in his home township. He and his wife had a large family of fifteen children, and six sons and two daughters are still living: William A., James N., Lucetta, wife of John Godfrey; Reason, Samuel, John, Eli and Ada, wife of Frank Starr.

As member of such a family, James N. Shadle naturally learned habits of industry and thrift when a boy, and those were perhaps more important to his later life than the formal instruction he acquired in the neighboring district schools. He assisted his father in clearing away some of the land, in getting the farm into cultivation, and was well prepared to assume the serious responsibilities of making a home when he married.

In 1875 Mr. Shadle married Miss Caroline Penrod. They are the parents of three children. Oscar lives near the old home and is married; Mertie is the wife of Lester Clark; and Maude married John Osborn.

The Shadle family are active members of the Christian Church.

Politically Mr. Shadle votes as a republican. He is a public spirited man in his community, and has allied himself with various movements for general advancement in addition to the responsibilities he has long carried as a farmer. Mr. Shadle's farm comprises 220 acres, and he has always used it for breeding and raising of good grades of livestock of all kinds.

"Standard History of Adams and Wells County, Indiana," published 1918

Contributed by Wendy Hendricks,