

WILLIAM WAIKEL, merchant at Banner, was born in Mahoning County, Ohio, in 1841,[Mahoning wasn't a county until 1846 so he was actually born in Trumbull Co.] son of Benjamin and Susan (Bailey) Waikel, who were natives of Pennsylvania. The father was born in Susquehannah County. The Bailey family has a large record in this county. Benjamin and Susan were married in Ohio, and six children were born in that State—William, Mary A. (deceased), Levi, Henry, George and Frank. The family came to Indiana in 1851, settling upon the farm now occupied by the aged father in Union Township. Alice and Sarah were born in that Township. All the children are married and all have families. Levi married Cynthia Jarvis, George married Rachel Wagner, Henry married a lady from Illinois, Frank married Ann Woods, Alice is now Mrs. John Stoffer, Sarah became the wife of Peter Wickliffe, and William, our subject, is the husband of Olive Prough.

In 1861 Mr. Waikel enlisted in Company A, Thirty-fourth Indiana, and at the expiration of his three years' service re-enlisted in the same company and regiment, serving until the close of the war, and receiving an honorable discharge at Brownsville, Texas, January 8, 1866. His regiment was assigned to the Western Army, and participated in the noted battles of Island No. 10, New Madrid, Missouri, Duval's Bluff, Vicksburg, Champion Hill, Jackson, Mississippi, and Baker's Creek. His regiment did garrison duty for eighteen months at New Orleans. From there they were sent to Indianola, where they re-enlisted, and, after a furlough, were sent to Brazos Island. Mr. Waikel was detailed there in the quartermaster's department and continued there during the remainder of his term. His brother Levi was a member of the One Hundred and First Regiment, and served in all the engagements of that regiment.

After his return from the army, Mr. Waikel was married, but not until he was thirty-one years of age. He did not like farm labor, and entered into various occupations until 1882. When the new town of Banner was surveyed he decided to engage in the mercantile trade. He erected the second business house and the second dwelling-house in the village, he sold his farm in 1883, and since that time has devoted his attention wholly to the mercantile trade. The post office was established in 1882, and Mr. Waikel received the appointment of postmaster; he is still holding that position. He is one of the charter members of the Lew Daily Post, No. 33, G. A. R. His father owned the first threshing machine brought to Union Township, and William operated it for many years. During the year 1879 he handled over 42,000 bushels of grain. Mr. and Mrs. Waikel have three children—Alfred G., Zorah M. and Edie. During the seventeen years that Mr Waikel operated his threshing machine he threshed over 700,000 bushels of grain. He takes great pride in this record, as it is not likely to be surpassed.

**Biographical and historical record of Adams and Wells counties, Indiana. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1887. pp. 680-683.**

**Contributed by Sue Allen**