

WILLIAM HALL, engaged in farming on section 23, Hartford Township, where he has eighty acres of choice land, is a native of Perry County, Ohio, born May 16, 1843, his parents, Samuel and Margaret (Brown) Hall, being natives of the same State, the father born March 10, 1805, and the mother February 16, 1810. They were married in Ohio, April 18, 1828, and to this union were born seven children, four sons and three daughters. They came with their family to Adams County, Indiana, in 1844, and settled on section 15, Hartford Township, where they lived till their death, the father dying January 9, 1845, and the mother April 26, 1862. Both were members of the old school Baptist church. The father was a carpenter, which avocation he followed, in connection with his farming operations, until his death. The Hall family is of English and German descent.

William Hall, the subject of this sketch, was reared to manhood on his father's farm in Adams County, receiving such education as could be obtained in the district schools of that day. During the late war he enlisted in Company M, Twenty-eighth Indiana Infantry, and after serving his country three months was discharged on account of sickness. After leaving the army he went to Illinois, where he spent two years, when he returned to Adams County, Indiana. He was married June 13, 1849, to Mrs. Melissa (French) Hall, widow of Nathan Hall, who was born in French Township, Adams County, Indiana, a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Beach) French, the father born in Maine, March 19, 1794, and the mother born in Maryland, February 14, 1801. Mr. and Mrs. Hall are the parents of three children - Rachel, wife of Benjamin Runion; Sarah B. and Chester F. Mrs. Hall is a member of the Baptist church. Joseph French, her father, was one of the oldest settlers of Adams County, and a prominent citizen of French Township, which was named in his honor. He is a descendant of the French family of Ireand. He served in the war of 1812. In politics he was a Democrat, and was elected on the Democrat ticket sheriff of Adams County. He was married in Ohio to Eliza Beach, and to this union were born ten children, five still living - Philema, Joel, William, John, Minerva, Melissa, Alonzo, Sylvia, Jane and Edgar. Mr. French died in French Township, October 17, 1842, his wife dying in 1858, aged fifty-seven years. In their religious views they were Baptists.

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WILLIAM HALL.

To one who today views the smiling acres of the fine farms that dot Adams county in the northeastern part of Indiana it seems a far cry to the days when this section of the state abounded in wild animals and still wilder men. The contemplation of existing conditions gives no hint of the hardships and the labor endured by the men and women who transformed a forbidding wilderness into a region productive and safe to live in. Still it is a fact that the pioneers did transform a wilderness and many are living on productive farms today whose fathers' axes hewed away the forests and whose rude plowshares first turned the virgin soil. Among the sons of pioneer parents is William Hall, with whose career this sketch is concerned. He was born in 1843 in Perry county, Ohio. He was the son of Samuel and Margaret (Brown) Hall. His father was a native of the Buckeye state and his mother of Maryland. One year after the birth of William his parents journeyed to Indiana and settled in Hartford township, Adams county. The father entered one hundred acres from the government. He was a carpenter by trade and worked at this trade in connection with his farming for one year after coming to Indiana, when he died, leaving a widow and six children, of whom William

was the youngest. The death of her husband brought Mrs. Hall face to face with a serious problem. She was alone with her children, but was determined to keep her little family together. The older children set to work to clear the hundred-acre farm and place it under cultivation. They worked earnestly and with a determination to make every hour count. In the end their efforts were crowned with a large measure of success and they found themselves in possession of a fine farm, well cultivated and improved and substantially appointed. Three of these children are still living. They are: Elizabeth, Margaret and William. The three who are dead were: John, Mary and Nathan. For a time the grandfather of this family, Nathan Hall, lived in Indiana, to which state he came from his home in Ohio. But later he returned to Ohio, where he died at the remarkable age of one hundred and six years.

But the interest in this sketch centers about the youngest member of this plucky family. William was a rugged, sturdy youth who contributed even in his youth to the labor of the farm. He obtained a meager education in the schools of the district and worked as hard as did any of his brothers and sisters. When he grew to manhood he was married in 1869 to Miss Melissa French, a daughter of Joseph and Eliza (Beach) French. His wife's father was a native of New York and her mother of Maryland. They moved to Adams county in 1835 and settled on land that Mr. French's father had entered from the government some time before. This property contained some four hundred acres and was located in French township, which was named after the grandfather of Mrs. Hall, who was the first white settler in that township. Joseph French cleared some of the land he entered before his death and after his death his children completed the work he had left unfinished. The great grandfather of Mrs. Hall was an Englishman who came to the United States at an early day and settled in what subsequently became New York state.

Following his marriage to Melissa French, William Hall purchased eighty acres of land in Hartford township. All of this land was under timber. He built a log cabin which he made his home and proceeded to clear the land. After a few years of the hardest and most attentive sort of labor he cleared his land and had it all under cultivation. The years that followed rewarded his efforts. His crops were generous and he sold the products of his husbandry at a good profit. He built a comfortable house and added modern buildings to his farm's equipment as they became necessary. However, he did not destroy the original log cabin home. This structure he allowed to stand and it is today a relic of the early days on the farm and by contrast a monument to his ingenuity and thrift.

Mr. Hall is a man who is wide awake all of the time. He has taken an active part in the affairs of his county. He has served his fellow men in public office, being elected in 1885 to the important office of township trustee. This office he held for five years and three months. His political convictions are those of the Democratic party. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hall. These are Rachel, Elizabeth and Chester. The son lives with his parents. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hall are highly respected members of their community and are received into the best social circles of their neighborhood. Mrs. Hall and children are members of the Baptist church.

Snow's History of Adams County, Indiana, John Fletcher Snow, B. F. Bowen, Indianapolis, IN, 1907, p. 368 (image 755).