

HOWARD W. THOMPSON, a farmer of Washington Township, was born in Carroll County, Ohio, February 4, 1837, son of Gabriel D. and Elizabeth Thompson, the former a native of Hartford County, Maryland, and the latter of Otsego County, New York. They were pioneers of Carroll County, and had born to them eight children, seven of whom are living - Gilbert, Lydia A., Antoinette, Howard W., Harvey L., Basheba, Sarah A. and Joseph W., the latter being deceased. The mother died in August, 1868. The father survived until March, 1874. Harvey L. served as treasurer of Harrison County, Ohio, six years. Our subject was reared to manhood in his native county, and received a common school education. At the age of sixteen he began to learn the blacksmith's trade, which he followed five years. The greater portion of his life has been spent in farming. He was married April 9, 1865, to Miss Catherine Kirby, born in Carroll County, Ohio, March 21, 1844, and daughter of Ephraim and Elizabeth Kirby, who were natives of Pennsylvania and early settlers of Carroll County. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have had five children - Lizzie M., born May 2, 1867; Frances E., born January 15, 1869; Cranston A., born September 17, 1871; Ida M., born June 27, 1879; and Ephraim K., born December 25, 1881. Mr. Thompson came to Adams County with his family in the spring of 1868, and has since been a resident of Washington Township. He settled upon his present farm on section 34, which was then in its primitive state, and has 100 acres of land. He is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge, and in politics a Democrat. He is a self-made man, and obtained what he has by industry and good management.

Standard History of Adams and Wells Counties, Indiana, Vol. II, John W. Tyndall & Orlo Ervin Lesh; Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co, 1918, p. 742-743.

Howard W. Thompson. During a residence in Washington Township of Adams County more than thirty years, Howard W. Thompson proved his usefulness and capability as a practical farmer and a citizen who could be depended upon in every one of life's relationships. While he came to this county after the Civil war and when much of the pioneer work had been done, his own part was not without many of the experiences and hardships of the earlier settlers. He and his wife lived at first in the midst of the brush and woods, and their joint labors enabled them to make a home and gradually acquire the prosperity which was their portion in his later years and which Mrs. Thompson now enjoys in her comfortable surroundings at Decatur.

Mr. Thompson was born in Carroll County, Ohio, February 4, 1837, a son of Gabriel D. and Elizabeth Thompson. His grandfather was Zachariah Thompson. Both were natives of the eastern states, and Gabriel was born in Hartford County, Maryland, and his wife in Otsego, New York. They married in New York and became pioneers of Carroll County, where Zachariah Thompson and wife also spent their last years. Gabriel Thompson married Elizabeth Allen and they then settled down as farmers in Carroll County, where she died at the age of sixty-two. They were very strict and faithful members of the Disciples Church. Gabriel Thompson married a second wife and both lived in Carroll

County. His first wife died in August, 1868, and her eight children were named Gilbert, Lydia A., Antoinette, Howard W., Harvey L., Bathsheba, Sarah A. and Joseph W.

Howard W. Thompson grew up in his native county, had a common school education, and at the age of sixteen began learning the blacksmith's trade, an occupation he followed about five years, though the greater part of his life was spent as a farmer. On April 9, 1865, in Carroll County he married Miss Catherine Kirby. She was born in that county March 21, 1844, daughter of Ephraim and Elizabeth (Bear) Kirby, both natives of Pennsylvania, and of old Pennsylvania stock. The Kirby family were early settlers in Carroll County, and Ephraim and his wife spent all the years of their married life on one farm and in one house. In this home after more than forty years of companionship they passed away, he at the age of eighty-two and she at seventy-nine. They were active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Ephraim Kirby was a very positive democrat in his political convictions and did much to maintain the party organization in his locality. They had eleven children, three of whom died young, and eight grew up and married. Mrs. Thompson has three living brothers: Van Buren, Capt. Walter and Jacob J., all of whom are married and have children. Capt. Walter Kirby made a splendid record as a soldier of the Union, being captain of a company in the Eightieth Ohio Infantry.

In the spring of 1868 Mr. Thompson brought his wife and their only child to Adams County and from that time forward was a resident of Washington Township. He acquired 100 acres of wild land in section 34, and for several years they lived in a log cabin, surrounded with brush which gradually gave way to cultivated fields, and the improvements were all in place, crops had been gathered regularly every season for many years, and the farm was a valuable property when Mr. Thompson was called away by death on May 21, 1901, at the age of sixty-five. He was a democrat in his political faith and a member of the Christian Church. In every sense he was a progressive man in his community and had the complete esteem and confidence of his neighbors and friends. Eighteen months after his death Mrs. Thompson removed to Decatur, and now enjoys the comforts of a beautiful home at 333 North First Street. One of her daughters lives with her and both are faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Thompson: Elizabeth, born May 2, 1867, now the wife of James Hendricks, mention of whom is made on other pages. Frances E., born January 13, 1869, was a successful teacher for ten years and is now employed as a stenographer in Canada. Cranston A., born September 17, 1871, is a railway conductor living at Aurora, Nebraska, and has a son, Donald. Maude M., born June 27, 1879, is the wife of William Dorwin, a mail carrier at Decatur, and they have three children, M. Catherine, aged twelve; Dean, aged ten; and Helen, aged eight, all of them in school. Ephraim Kirby Thompson, the youngest child, was born December 25, 1881, and is now a railroad operator at Van Wert, Ohio. He is married and his two children are Frances, aged nine, and Richard, aged seven.