

Jacob Hutzler, farmer and stock raiser, Penn Township, is a native of Ohio, born in Greene County, March 6, 1828, a son of Jacob and Ellen (Davis) Hutzler, the former a native of Virginia, and of German parentage, and the latter of New Jersey, and of Welsh ancestry. They were married in Virginia, and were the parents of thirteen children, eleven of whom grew to maturity, and seven are still living. They were among the early settlers of Ohio, in which State the father followed farming and worked at the cooper's trade until September 1839, when he immigrated with his family to Indiana, and entered 200 acres of land from the Government in Greene Township, Jay County. He cleared and improved his land, and experienced all the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life, going to Newport, Richmond and Muncie to mill, and many other inconveniences. He followed farming the rest of his life, and died at the advanced age of eighty-five years. His widow survived him several years, and died at the age of ninety-one years. They were formerly members of the Methodist Episcopal church, but the time of their deaths were members of the United Brethren church. In politics he was formerly an old-line Whig, but later affiliated with the Republican party.

Jacob Hutzler, the subject of this sketch, was the fourth son and eighth child of his parents, and was a lad of eleven years when brought by them to Jay County. Here he was reared amid pioneer scenes, his youth being spent in assisting his father clear their frontier farm. He was married June 12, 1851, to Miss Mary Thomas, who was born near Piqua, Ohio, a daughter of Elias and Amanda (Milner) Thomas, and of German and Welsh ancestry. Of the seven children born to this union, three are deceased--Amanda, who married Stephen Brown, of Montpelier, Indiana, and after her marriage moved to Lohrville, Iowa, where she died January 28, 1886; Margaret, who accompanied her sister to Iowa, and died there November 8, 1881, and one who died in infancy, unnamed. Those living are--Isaac Newton, of Penn Township, married Laura Thompson, of Greene Township; William Elsworth, of Jefferson County, Nebraska; Patience Louisa, wife of Mark Armitage, of Knox Township; and James Harvey. June 8, 1866, Mrs. Hutzler died, and June 30, 1867, Mr. Hutzler married Elizabeth Thomas, a sister of his first wife, and two children were born to this union--Mary A. and Alonzo G.

After his marriage Mr. Hutzler settled on an unimproved tract of forty acres, which his father had previously entered from the Government, and here he began making a home out of the dense wilderness. He resided on that farm until 1867, when he sold out and moved to Penn Township, and settled on his present farm on section 21, where he had twenty acres of partially cleared land, and again began making a home out of the forest. He has now seventy acres of choice land cleared and under fine cultivation, and well improved, being under laid with 800 rods of tile. During the late war he served in Company B, Eleventh Indiana Infantry, under General Thomas, enlisting in November, 1863. He participated in the battles of Columbia and Nashville, and many others, and received an honorable discharge at the close of the war, September 20, 1865. In politics he affiliates with the Republican party.

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Contributed by David Kennedy