

IRA CARPENTER, one of the old pioneers of Adams County, was born in Portage County, Ohio, August 12, 1825, a son of Philander and Esther (Beech) Carpenter, and of English and Irish nationality. They were the parents of four sons and two daughters - Aaron, William, Ira, Luther, Esther and Lucinda.

Ira grew to manhood on his father's farm, being reared to the avocation of a farmer. He went to Marion County, Ohio, and from there came to Adams County, Indiana, in 1842, settling in Union Township, on a tract of 160 acres, where he erected a log cabin. This land had been previously entered by his father, who afterward returned to Ohio.

He was united in marriage June 27, 1844, to Martha Ann Teeple. He continued to reside on his farm in Union Township about ten years after his marriage, where he removed to St. Mary's Township, where his wife died November 16, 1861. He was again married May 18, 1862, to Sarah Catherine Debolt, and of the four children born to this union only two are living - Annetta Florence, born August 26, 1866, and Seymour H., born May 17, 1871. Ira McClelland was born July 7, 1863, and died July 18, 1863, and Sarah Catherine, who was born November 17, 1864, died December 5, 1864.

Mrs. Carpenter is a daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth (Poundstone) Debolt, who came to Adams County, Indiana, from Licking County, Ohio, about thirty-three years ago and settled in St. Mary's Township. They were the parents of the following children - John, Marion, Abraham, George, Isaac, David, Amanda and Sarah Catherine.

Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter are comfortably settled on their farm in St. Mary's Township, in a neat and commodious farm dwelling, their farm being one of the best in the township. When Mr. Carpenter first settled on his farm it was entirely unimproved, and heavily covered with timber, but by patient toil he has cleared acre by acre until the forest was changed into a very well improved and productive farm. The nearest voting precinct when he settled in the county was Decatur, but after a few years Union Township was organized and the entire county was laid out into townships. There were no improved roads in the county, and it was a common occurrence for the early settlers to go as far as two or three miles to work out land tax. Mr. Carpenter was elected supervisor, and assisted in opening out two miles of the road to Pleasant Mills, then called the Mill road, and also assisted in opening up a part of what was then called the Decatur road. Wild animals were numerous in that early day, and sheep had to be secured in pens to protect them from the wolves. Flax and wool were manufactured into cloth by the thrifty housewife, which was made into clothes for both male and female. Trading and milling was done at Fort Wayne, twenty-nine miles distant. Salt sold at \$3 a barrel. Hogs, when dressed were sold at the same trading point for 2 cents a pound, which the early settler considered a good price. Mr. Carpenter carried the mail for three months from Fort Wayne to Cold Water, Michigan, a distance of seventy-one miles, receiving for his services \$6 a month. All the harvesting was done by hand, the price paid being 50 cents a day, or if the laborer preferred he could have instead a bushel of wheat for his day's labor.

Many were the hardships and privations experienced by Ira Carpenter and his family, but they have lived to see the country covered with well cultivated fields and thriving villages, and are now enjoying the fruits of their years of toil and industry, surrounded with all the necessary comforts of life, and are well respected among the citizens of the county where they have spent so many years.