

Standard History of Adams and Wells Counties, Indiana, Vol. II, John W. Tyndall & Orlo Ervin Lesh; Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co, 1918, p. 780-781.

Albert Shell.

Through more than sixty-five years of residence members of the Shell family have accomplished a great deal for the development and improvement of Adams County. Mr. Albert Shell is an honored veteran of the Civil war and for the past half century has been one of the leading farmers of the county. His farm is a well developed place of 129 acres located five and a half miles southeast of Decatur, in St. Mary's Township.

Mr. Shell was born in Wayne County, Ohio, September 25, 1847, a son of John and Nancy (Kariger) Shell. John Shell was a son of Adam and Mary Shell, both born in Germany and accompanying their respective families to the United States. They married and first lived in Pennsylvania and afterwards settled in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, and from there moved to Stark County in that state, where they spent the rest of their days. Adam and Mary Shell had four sons and three daughters: George, Adam, John, Henry, Elizabeth, Mary and Catherine.

John Shell was reared in Ohio, married in that state, and after several years of residence in Stark County moved to Wayne County, and from there came to Indiana in 1852. locating near Pleasant Mills. In this community his sturdy efforts resulted in the building of a home and the clearing of much of the wild land, and he and his wife spent their last years in a comfortable prosperity. They were active members of the United Brethren Church. Of their twelve children seven grew to maturity and two are still living: Cordelia, widow of Hugh Bay, who was a soldier in the Union Army and gave his life to his country in the battle of Nashville; and Albert.

Albert Shell was five years old when the family came to Adams County. While attaining the strength of manhood he worked with his father in clearing and cultivating the land, and attended the public schools. On March 4, 1864, at the age of seventeen he enlisted in the Thirteenth Indiana Cavalry, and saw much hard service during the last year of the war. He was at the battle of Nashville and did not receive his honorable discharge until December, 1865. Returning home from the war he took up farming in Adams County and has continued it steadily to the present time.

March 15, 1873, Mr. Shell married Margaret Koos. Mrs. Shell was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, March 23, 1853, and came with her parents to Adams County. Mr. and Mrs. Shell enjoyed a happy married life of nearly forty-five years. She passed away May 10, 1917. Two years after his marriage Mr. Shell located on the farm that he still owns and occupies. He and his wife had eight children, seven of whom reached maturity: Anna M., wife of Pierce Worklinger; Jacob, of Van Wert County, Ohio; Clara E., wife of James McCullough; Cora, wife of Clarence Broadbeck; Benjamin, a resident of Bobo; Ella, wife of Samuel Finkhouse; and Harvey I., who lives at home with his father, and John, who is deceased. The family are members of the Evangelical Church. Mr. Shell is an honored member of Post No. 63, Grand Army of the Republic, at Decatur. In politics he has always voted the republican ticket.