

BARTLY BURK.

One day in the early decades of the last century a wagon laden with the household effects of a pioneer family made its dusty way across the northeastern boundary of what is now the state of Indiana and toiled onward in the new state, finally coming to the end of its tiresome and hazardous journey in Wabash township, Jay county. The wagon was driven by Bartly Burk, who with his wife and several children had left their former home in Ohio to seek a new one in Indiana. The father was a native of Ohio and was born in that state in the year 1818; the mother, also a native of Ohio, was born two years later than her husband. Reaching this state, the elder Burk purchased one hundred acres of land and began to reduce it to cultivation. There followed days of the hardest kind of labor, but the spirit of the men who made the new west was in him and he conquered all difficulties. Before he had finished clearing his entire purchase he disposed of twenty acres. The remaining eighty acres he soon had improved and all under cultivation. He lived on his Indiana farm until his death. He was a strong personality. He took much interest in state and national politics and was a staunch Whig until the organization of the Republican party, after which event he voted the Republican ticket whenever called upon to exercise his right of franchise.

Bartly Burk, the son of this rugged pioneer, was born on the old farm in Wabash township, October 11, 1858. He was a member of a family of nine children, eight of whom are still living. His early life was spent on his father's farm, where he worked and learned to develop the qualities that make for strong manhood. His education would be considered meager when measured with the educational standards of today, but for the time and environment was the best to be had. He profited by it and got out of his "schooling" all that it was possible for him to do. In 1881 Mr. Burk was married to Miss Christiana Kelly, the daughter of Jonathan and Esther (Champer) Kelly. Her parents were originally from Carroll county, Ohio, where her father was born, February 14, 1823. Her mother was born January 23, 1823. In 1850 her parents moved to Jefferson township, Adams county, Indiana, where her father settled eighty acres of timber land. This he cleared and finally brought to a high stage of cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. Burk are the parents of four children, all of whom are living. These children are: Otis, a teacher; Lola May, Minnie Pearl and Vilas.

Mr. Burk is the owner of a fine farm and one that is producing a steady income for its owner. His land is rich and his crops are owner. His land is rich and his crops are large and remunerative. The buildings on his farm are ample and modern. He is in every way a respected citizen and a man of whose judgment is deferred to in events of more than ordinary importance. He is a Republican in politics and is one of the strong men of his party in the section of the state in which he lives.

Snow's History of Adams County, Indiana, John Fletcher Snow, B. F. Bowen, Indianapolis, IN, 1907, p. 393 (image 805).