

BENJAMIN F. BUTLER

BENJ. F. BUTLER is a native son of Root Township, has lived in Adams County practically all his life, has prospered through his efforts as a farmer and land owner, and is still capable of doing a full day's work and has no intention just now of going on the retired list.

Mr. Butler was born in Root Township March 27, 1862, son of James and Catherine (Earhart) Butler . His father was born in Wayne County, Indiana, and his mother in Pennsylvania . At the time of their marriage they settled on a farm in Wayne County, Indiana, and later went to what was comparatively a frontier district, buying Government land in Page County , Iowa . They lived there as pioneers and farmers five years and then traded their farm, household goods, farm implements and stock for a home in Adams County , Indiana . They secured 200 acres of land, known as the old Reynolds farm. Only part of the acreage had been cleared and put under cultivation, and the rest of that heavy work was accomplished by Jesse Butler and still later by his son Benj. Jesse Butler was a man of decided popularity and prominence in Adams County for a long period of years. He always considered himself a farmer, though in later years he dealt extensively in livestock. He and his wife were active Methodists and he held nearly all the church offices. The children were Mary, Edna, Albert, Benj. F., William, John, Samuel, Harry, Melvin J. All are living except John and those living reside in Adams County except Albert, whose home is in Fort Wayne.

Benj. F. Butler had the average education of an Adams County farm boy, developed his strength by contact with the plow and other implements of farm industry, and has been in the ranks of productive farmers in this county now for over thirty-five years. On his present farm he located in October, 1902. He sold his portion of the old homestead comprising ninety-five acres. His present farm contains some of the best soil in the county, and is improved with an excellent group of buildings. Mr. Butler is a republican in casting his vote, is a member and has been an active official of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is affiliated with Decatur Tent No. 95 of the Order of the Maccabees.

On May 7, 1881, he married Miss Della Williams, daughter of Jesse and Alice (Ruckman) Williams. Her father was a pioneer of Adams County , locating in Root Township in 1847. He was born in Westmoreland County , Pennsylvania , March 3, 1832, and was only fifteen years of age when his parents moved to Adams County , Indiana . His father of died in Wisconsin in 1872. On March 29, 1857, Jesse Williams married Alice Ruckman, who was born in Columbiana

County , Ohio , June 16, 1838, daughter of Watson and Hannah (Rowler) Ruckman. After their marriage Jesse Williams and wife began housekeeping at Monmouth, and had a very limited equipment of goods and they earned all their subsequent prosperity by hard work and thrifty living. Both were active members of the Methodist Church and Mr. Williams was a republican. They had six children: Watson E., who died in 1871 at the age of fourteen; William W., born February 1, 1862; Delia B., born August 14, 1865; Loretta A., born May 18, 1868; Mary E. who married Victor V. Reed and died in 1880 at the age of twenty years, eleven months, nineteen days; Jessie Dallas, born July 20, 1874.

Mrs. and Mrs. Butler have every reason to be proud and satisfied with the fine family of boys and girls who have grown up in their home. Their children are: Earl, who married May Spuehler and lives at Decatur; Harvey who married Amelia Winters of Washington Township; Dessie, who became the wife of William Evans of Root Township; Vena, the only one deceased; Herbert, who married Frances Russell of Root Township; Kenneth, Brice and Nile, all unmarried. Mr. and Mrs. Butler, also have half a dozen grandchildren. Their son Earl has a daughter, Martha E.; Dessie Evans has two children, Richard and Juanita; Harvey has two, Harold and Hubert; and Herbet is the father of one son, Russell.