

Martin Allen Gahman

By Ellen Parrish

Martin Allen Gahman

Martin Allen Gahman was the second child born to the proud parents of Nancy and William Gahman on May 30, 1886, in Allen County, Ohio. During his childhood he learned how to farm from his father before him, and was then able to make it his own trade. Also, during his teen years, his family moved to Craigville in Wells County, Indiana. When talking about this migration to his grandchildren, he would always mention the terrible times he and his family had trying to move the hogs from their previous home to this new farm in Indiana.

While living in Wells County, Martin met his future wife Ethel Blanche Warthman. They married on November 29, 1911 in the same county and at a church in Craigville, where Ethel would play the piano. They had four children, named Robert Thornton, Arthur Vernon, Alice Fay, and Vera Ellen. They lived happily together in their farmhouse until the Great Depression hit, and Martin lost his farm. They then were able to come up with enough money to have another farm, but during this time Ethel also lost two children, who were stillborn. After losing the farm just before and now these children, Ethel couldn't take the stress and had a mental breakdown. This was very tough on Martin and they had to move Ethel to Richmond, Virginia to find help. While they did this, Martin and his children then proceeded to move in with his parents, Nancy and William.

Near the end of his life Martin also developed a two-row corn picker, but didn't have the money or resources to patent his invention. This greatly helped Martin with his farming, and further aided him later on with helping his son, Arthur, with his farm. Also in his later years, Martin was extremely active in the Democratic Party and would often encourage others to register and vote. However, he did have a history of smoking and after changing a tractor tire the previous day, Martin died of a heart attack while changing a car tire on February 14, 1966. He was buried in the Oakland Cemetery in

Craigville, Wells County, Indiana, and he shares a headstone with his wife Ethel and two stillborn children, Howard and Willard.

Bibliography

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