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JACOB R. GWIN.

POB 647

Nature has been lavish in her gifts to many sections of this great country. In some districts she has provided great forests, permitting of the successful conduct of extensive lumber industries. In other regions her mining resources are extensive and valuable, while in still other sections splendid opportunity is offered to the farmer and stock-raiser. Statistics show that Iowa is one of the greatest agricultural states of the Union, and among those who are actively engaged in farming is Jacob R. Gwin, the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land on section 24, Warren township, Poweshiek county.

His birth occurred in that township on the 13th of August, 1854, his parents being Arnold and Martha (Willhite) Gwin, who were natives of Holmes county, Ohio, and Fountain county, Indiana, respectively, the former born on the 22d of August, 1822, and the latter on the 10th of September, 1837. Arnold Gwin, a gentleman of German and Welsh descent, followed farming throughout his active business career. He came to Iowa in 1848, locating near Dubuque, where for two years he was employed by the month as a farm hand. Returning to Ohio, he there remained for a year and then located in Washington county, Iowa, where he was married in October, 1853. Subsequently he took up his abode in Warren township, Poweshiek county, here devoting his attention to the operation of his farm, having purchased eighty acres of timber land on section 27. On selling that place in 1855, he purchased a tract of eighty acres on section 25, Warren township, but disposed of the property at the end of two years and bought the farm of eighty acres on section 24 which is now in possession of our subject. Thereon he made his home until called to his final rest on the 12th of January, 1895. When fifty years of age he suffered a paralytic stroke which disabled him for further active labor. The demise of his wife occurred on the 18th of February, 1900. In their family were six children, namely: Jacob R., Louisa M., James M., Phoebe A., Samuel D. and Levina F.

Jacob R. Gwin obtained his early education in an old schoolhouse which stood on the state road in section 25 and which was removed thirty years ago. He was reared to the work of the farm and after his father's demise took charge of the homestead property. When his mother passed away he purchased the interest of the other heirs in the home farm and has since retained possession thereof. In 1896 he extended its boundaries by an additional purchase of forty acres, his holdings now aggregating one hundred and twenty acres of as good farm land as can be found in the county. In connection with the tilling of the soil he devotes considerable attention to the raising and feeding of cattle and hogs, selling his stock to shippers. His excellent orchard of three and a half acres contains over three hundred bearing apple trees.

On the 3d of November, 1903, Mr. Gwin was joined in wedlock to Mrs. Mary M. Fry, a daughter of Peter and Barbara (Niswander) Breniman. She lost her father prior to her marriage to our subject, Mr. Breniman meeting his death on the Northwestern Railway. Mrs. Breniman now resides in Carnforth, Warren township, with her two sons, Oscar and Frank, both of whom are railroad employes. Mary M. Breniman first gave her hand in marriage to William Fry, an agriculturist of Warren township, who died of heart trouble in 1901, falling from his wagon. There were two children by that union, Paul R. and Esther M. Fry, who reside with their mother and stepfather and attend the high school at Victor. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gwin have also been born two children, namely: Clarence E., whose natal day was August 2, 1904; and Arnold, whose birth occurred on the 19th of March, 1906.

In politics Mr. Gwin is a democrat and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have called him to several positions of public trust. He has served as assessor of Warren township for ten years, acted as township road supervisor for sixteen years and is now serving in the capacity of township trustee, which position he has held for six years. His wife is a devoted and consistent member of the Congregational church at Carnforth, Iowa. Well known in the county where he has resided from his birth to the present time, he has a wide acquaintance here and has won uniform trust and good will by reason of a life which in all of its places has been straightforward and honorable.