

JACOB FRANTZ, son of John Frantz, is now living retired from the activities of life in Rossmoyne, South Mahoning township, Indiana Co., Pa., enjoying in his declining years the fruits of his earlier labors, and has every reason to be proud of what he has accomplished in his busy career. He has been spared to see his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren grow up about him. Mr. Frantz was born in what was then Union (now Snyder) county, Pa., near Selinsgove, Aug. 20, 1838. Brought up to hard work and thrifty habits, he attended school in his native place as much as possible; but he was only ten years old when the family moved to Jefferson county and thereafter he had no educational opportunities, work being always placed before schooling in those days when the labor of each child was regarded as an asset. The early schools were conducted on the subscription plan, and English and "Dutch" were both taught. When he was only twelve years old he hired out to George Gorley and worked on his farm for two years, receiving four dollars per month for his services, in addition to his board. Returning home, he was put to work at milling, and proved so capable that he continued with his father until he was ready to go into business of himself, meantime acquiring thorough and practical knowledge of milling and millwrighting. In 1859, when he became of age, he began operating his first mill, renting a place at Pine Creek, in Armstrong county, where he remained one year, when he went to Glade Run and conducted the John Sieger mill for over a year. For the next two years he operated the George Howser mill in Brady's Bend township, and from there went to Eddyville, same county, and for eighteen months operated another mill.

During this period of his business activity the Civil war had been declared, and like other loyal Northern men he felt that he must not allow private interests to interfere with his duty to his country, so he enlisted on Aug. 12, 1863, in Company B, 78th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Captain McCanna and Colonel Sirwell commanding. Mr. Frantz was in the 14th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, and participated in the battles of Lookout Mountain, Buzzard's Roost, Resaca, Allatoona, Big Shanty and Kenesaw Mountain. There he was changed to Chattanooga to guard trains, transferred to Company A, 78th Regiment, and served until honorably discharged, Sept. 11, 1865, at Nashville, Tennessee.

Returning home, Mr. Frantz resumed his milling operations, spending three years at the Denny mills in Butler county. Going back to Armstrong county, he located in Valley township, where he commenced farming on a tract of eighty-seven acres. He farmed this property, but preferring milling to agricultural work, traded his land for a mill in Cowanshannock township, known as the Hosie mill. This was the first mill he owned, and he conducted it for four and a half years. Selling this property, he came next to Mahoning township and rented the Samuel Good mill, one that his father had conducted some years before, and ran it for eighteen months. Later Mr. Frantz went to Oliver township, Jefferson county, and one more began farming, this time on fifty-one acres which he bought. However, after two years he rented his farm, and going back to Armstrong county operated a mill at Phoenix, in Wayne township, for three years. Again he rented the Denny mill in Butler county and operated it for four years. Then he went to

Eli Coulter, at Sprankle Mills, In Jefferson county for two years, and then in 1886 came to Indiana county, and locating in South Mahoning township bout the old mill known as the Williamson Mill, then owned by George Langendorfer. Taking his Thomas and later James D. into partnership with him, he developed the business to somewhat extensive proportions, under the name of Jacob Frantz & Sons, until 1892, when the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Frantz retired, his sons continuing the business under the style of Frantz Brothers. During the period that he was at the head of the firm numerous improvements were made in the plant, new machinery being installed and new methods adopted.

For the last twenty-seven years Mr. Frantz has been living at Rossmoyne. Although now advanced in age he is very active in mind and body, in full possession of all his faculties, and takes a deep interest in local affairs, about which he is well informed, as well as those of national character. Until the first Cleveland campaign he was a democrat, but at that time became a Republican, and has since been stanch in the support of the principles and candidates of the party. For years he served capably as township supervisor, but aside from that has not aspired for office, a man of kindly impulses and charitable intent, he has endeavored to govern his life according to the teachings embodied in the Golden Rule. He is a member of Shields Post, No. 38, G.A.R., of Covode, West Mahoning township, this county, and for forty-one years has been an odd Fellow. He is a past grand and member of the grand lodge of the State, and has attended the grand loge four times.

On July 4, 1861, Jacob Frantz was married to Hannah Howser, who was born in Valley township, Armstrong Co., Pa., daughter of George Howser. Mr. and Mrs. Frantz celebrated their golden wedding on July 4, 1911, surrounded by their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The occasion was one likely to be forgotten and was enjoyed by all, especially by the venerable couple who for half a century had lived together in happiness and mutual service, east assisting the other in the duties of life.

Six children have been born to Jacob Frantz and wife: George, who is a millwright and miller in Maryland, married Margaret Warding, and they have had children, Blanch (unmarried), Nellie (wife of S. Davis), Viola, George (Presbyterian minister), Bertha, frank, Jane, Paul, Jacob and a son that died in infancy; Jacob N. died at the age of thirteen; John W., died at the age of ten years; Thomas H. is mentioned at length below; James D, is also mentioned at length below; Nora married F. R. Wingard, of South Mahoning township, and has children, Jacob Frantz, Bertha, Gladys, Clark and Olif.