

Bio: Jacob Shoemaker

from History of Hall County Nebraska

Jacob Shoemaker - When the early settlers of Hall County, who have passed away are called to mind, there is great reason to remember Jacob Shoemaker. He came here almost a half century ago when all this beautiful country was practically a prairie. Although at that time already a man of middle life, such was his industry that he succeeded in accumulating a large property and he became also one of the county's most useful and respected citizens. His honest name is perpetuated by a large family of children, almost all of whom belong and add to the fine citizenship of Nebraska.

Jacob Shoemaker was born in Preble County, Ohio, May 20, 1818, and died in Hall County, Nebraska, December 11, 1895. His parents were Daniel and Margaret (Witt) Shoemaker, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania. Jacob Shoemaker obtained his education in the subscription schools, and being strong and sturdy in his youth, his father urged him to learn the carpenter trade, which at that time included much heavy work that is now done by the allied trades. He continued carpenter work until he came as far west as Iowa, after which, until the close of his active life, he was interested in farming. In 1871 he came as a homesteader to Hall County, and years of uninterrupted industry followed during which he acquired five hundred and twenty acres of land. He neglected no opportunity to improve his home property and when he built his house it was reputed to be the most commodious in the county and for years was a landmark, showing for miles across the treeless prairie. Without any of the scientific knowledge that has so greatly assisted the modern farmer, he perseveringly carried on his operations with the practical good sense and agricultural knowledge that experience had brought him, and was considered one of the most successful farmers in Center township.

October 28, 1849 Jacob Shoemaker and Sarah Ann Brunt were united in marriage. She was born December 6, 1832, a native of Rush, Madison County, Indiana. To them were born children as follows: William B., who lives at Chapman, Nebraska; Clara, the wife of Cyrus Kellogg, of Chapman; Albert E., who lives at Burwell, Nebraska; Belle, who resides on the old homestead; Jesse, who lives at Oconto, Nebraska; Samuel M., who resides on the homestead; George, a farmer near Burwell; Eva, the wife of F. M. Cavender, of Ainsworth, Nebraska; Anna, the wife of Henry Rathmann, of Holdrege, Nebraska; and Edna, the wife of Harry Lenon, and they live in Arizona. Mr. Shoemaker was a Republican in his political views. He was reared in a Quaker community and attended their meetings in his youth, but in later life became a member of the Christian church and the family assisted in its support in Hall County.

[source] History of Hall County, Nebraska: A Narrative of the Past with Special Emphasis Upon the Pioneer Period . . . August F. Buechler, Robert J. Barr, 1920.

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Bio of Jacob Shoemaker compiled by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for the Family Stories website; 2019.