

James Reynolds Rock Island, Illinois

From Bio Book - Rock Island County Illinois James Reynolds, one of the energetic and progressive farmers of Rock Island County, residing on section 19, Drury Township, is a native of Washington Co., Pa., where he was born Oct. 26, 1800. His father was a farmer by occupation, and James passed his early life on the old homestead, engaged in assisting his father in the maintenance of the family. The county in which he was born being newly settled, the privileges of the common schools were scarce and the education of James was consequently somewhat limited. When four years of age, the parents of Mr. Reynolds removed to Pickaway Co., Ohio, where they resided for about six years, when they removed to what was then the Territory of Indiana, where the senior Reynolds was one of the early settlers. He located in what is now Wayne County, that State. The War of 1812, soon after his location in that Territory, broke out, and for three years he with others were engaged in fighting the Indians. It was there that James was reared, and in such times there were no schools. he lived in what is now Wayne and Morgan Counties, Indiana, for a period of 26 years. In the spring of 1836, he came to Rock Island County, with his wife and five children, and was consequently one of the early pioneers to settle here. He located in Drury Township, section 18, and has lived in this vicinity until the present time. he is at present the proprietor of 323 acres of land, all located in Drury Township. The marriage of Mr. Reynolds occurred in Hendricks, Co., Ind., where he obtained the first license ever issued at Danville, which is the county seat of that county, Nov. 17, 1824, and the lady of his choice was Miss Rachel Demorss, a native of Hamilton Co., Ohio, where she resided until her marriage. The issue of their union was 12 children, namely: Charles, Nancy C., Jane, Ursuly, Elizabeth, William, James D., Anna, Elia, John, Eliza, and Milton. Mrs. R. died in Drury Township, May 6, 1864, and Mr. Reynolds was again married, in that township, in July 1866, to Jane Harper Getchell, widow of Lorenzo Getchell, who was killed in the battle of Corinth, Miss. She died in Drury Township, in June, 1879. Mr. R., although a gentleman never seeking an office, has held some of the minor offices of the township. Politically, he is identified with the Republican Party. His parents, William and Nancy (Griffith) Reynolds, were born in the vicinity of Chesapeake Bay. They afterwards married and settled in Maryland, from whence they removed to Pennsylvania, then to Ohio, and finally to Indiana, where they died. Their family consisted of eight children, Larkin, William, Priscilla, Caleb, Anna, Eli, Charles, and James. The father was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and is reported to have been well acquainted with George Washington.

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