

CANAWLERS AT REST

JACOB WILHELM

b. October 1813

d. May 10, 1887

By Carolyn I. Schmidt

C. Jacob Wilhelm, who went by the name of Jacob, was born in Lorraine, France in October 1813 and came to America with his parents in 1829. He was one of five children born to Karl and Madeline Wilhelm. His father settled on a farm, which he probably had to clear, on Tennis Creek in Dearborn county, Indiana. He later moved near St. Joseph in the same county where he died three weeks before his one hundredth birthday.

Following in his father's footsteps, Jacob was a farmer throughout his entire life. He settled on a farm in York township Dearborn county that was about one-half mile south of New Elsworth. In 1831 he was given the opportunity of acquire forty acres of land where later Finley Market in Cincinnati was located. He refused the offer because he was required to labor for one year to receive the land and he thought the land was not worth it.

Jacob worked on the Whitewater Canal that was being built from Brookville to Lawrenceburg, Indiana in 1836-1838. For his labor he received the small wage of thirty-seven and one-half cents per day. Canal workers usually worked six days a week for a total weekly wage of \$2.25 or about \$10.00 per month.

While a young man Jacob spent his winters in the south where he worked at various occupations. One time he helped clean out the bed of the Red River so that it could be navigated. Another time he worked near Shreveport, Louisiana. His boss was Captain Shreve, who was employed by the government. When the captain entered the land at Shreveport, Jacob cut the first rails there.

Jacob married Caroline Frey on August 14, 1836. This marriage produced seven children. On February 3, 1859 their youngest child, Jacob J. Wilhelm, was born. Jacob J. grew up on the farm and was educated in Dearborn county.

On his farm Jacob, our subject, raised sheep. He carded, spun and had the wool woven into cloth, which he then sold in Cincinnati.

While farming, Jacob also bought and sold farms in Dearborn county. He moved to a farm in Kelso township Dearborn county. There Caroline Frey Wilhelm, Jacob's wife, died in 1860. He then was married to Catharine Wisel Young on February 4, 1862. She was 8 years older being 57 years of age at that time. They had no children. Catharine passed away in 1863.

In 1874 Jacob bought a one hundred and fourteen acre farm in Highland township, Franklin county, Indiana and moved there. The 1880 census shows his daughter, Caroline Wilhelm, living with him.

Jacob Wilhelm died on May 10, 1887 in Franklin county. We do not know where he was buried.

His son, Jacob J., owned a one hundred and fourteen acre farm, that was in Highland township. Whether he inherited Jacob's farm or purchased this land is not known. He lived on this farm for twenty-nine years before selling it and moving to a one hundred and seventy acre farm.

On January 27, 1878, Jacob J. was married to Caroline Meissemer. Caroline was born in Highland township, Franklin county, Indiana to Christian and Elizabeth (Wingerson) Meisemer on May 9, 1855. They had three children: Caroline Clara Wilhelm born in 1879, who married Herbert Haas in Highland township and were the parents of seven children: Harry, Bertha, William, Raymond, May, Margaret and Francis; William Wilhelm, who married Mary Feeler; and Louise Wilhelm, who married Fred Haas in Highland township and were the parents of two children: Beatrice and Talton.

Jacob J. was a member of the Catholic church. He supported the views of the Democratic party. He was greatly tested, as were others, by the disastrous flood of March 25, 1913 that devastated the middle west. He lost everything except his family. Gone were his house, barns, fences, and grain. He did not give up. Before long he had erected five new buildings and made a success of his general farming.

THE HOOSIER PACKET - AUGUST 2014

C. Jacob Wilhelm's Family

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place	Marriage	Place
Charles Karl Wilhelm	10-30-1771	Bining France	9-13-1871	St Leon IN	4-??-1801	France
m. Madeline Berger	1779	France	1836	St Leon IN	4-??-1801	France
Peter Wilhelm	1802		1871			
C. Jacob Wilhelm	10-??-1813	Lorraine, France	5-10-1887	St Leon IN		
m1. Caroline Frey	1820	Ohio	1860		8-14-1836	St Leon IN
<u>Joseph Wilhelm</u>	6-05-1837		1910		4-23-1861	Kelso, Dearborn Co
m. Mary A. Blattner	6-30-1839	Dearborn Co IN			4-23-1861	Kelso, Dearborn Co
Mary A. Wilhelm						
Anna C. Wilhelm						
Philemena L. Wilhelm						
Edward A. Wilhelm						
Anna E. Wilhelm						
Charles J. Wilhelm						
<u>Charles Wilhelm</u>	3-14-1839		1901		11-13-1860	Kelso, Dearborn Co
m. Magdalena Renner	6-20-1842	Dearborn Co IN			11-13-1860	Kelso, Dearborn Co
Henry V. Wilhelm						
Magdalena Wilhelm						
Charles J. Wilhelm						
Elizabeth Wilhelm						
Albanner H. Wilhelm						
Caroline Wilhelm						
<u>Mary Ann Magdalena Wilhelm</u>	1841		1896			
m. Henry Doerflin	7-15-1835	Lancaster Co PA				
Henry J. Doerflin						
Elizabeth Doerflin						
Jacob Doerflin						
Michael Doerflin						
Alfred Doerflin						
Isabelle Doerflin						
John Doerflin						
George Doerflin						
Caroline Doerflin						
Hugo Doerflin						
<u>Catherine Wilhelm</u>	1843		1905			
<u>John Jacob Wilhelm</u>	1853		1902			
<u>Caroline C. Wilhelm</u>	1859		1911			
<u>Jacob John Wilhelm</u>	2-03-1859	St. Leon Dearborn Co IN	10-31-1923		1-27-1879	Franklin Co IN
m. Caroline Miesemer	5-09-1855	Highland twp Franklin Co IN	1932		1-27-1879	Franklin Co IN
Caroline Clara Wilhelm	1879	St. Leon Dearborn Co IN	Prior 1920		8-18-1898	Franklin Co IN
m. Herbert M. Haas					8-18-1898	Franklin Co IN
Harry Haas						
Bertha Haas	1901					
William Haas	1906					
Raymond Haas	1909					
May Haas	1911					
Margaret Haas						
Francis Haas						
William John Wilhelm	1881		1959			
m. Mary Feeler						
Leonard Wilhelm	1883		1883			
Louisa R. Wilhelm	1885		1927			
m. Fred Haas						
Beatrice						
Talton						
m2. Catharine Wissel Young	1806		1863		2-04-1862	
Mary Wilhelm	1815					
Lizzie Wilhelm	1817					
Madeline Wilhelm	1819					

Dates for this chart were found in several public member trees, U.S. Federal Census, Marriage Records on Ancestry.com and in the histories of Dearborn and Franklin counties, Indiana.

THE HOOSIER PACKET - AUGUST 2014

Jacob J. acquired more land over the years. At one time he owned six hundred and forty acres in Washington township, Franklin county, Indiana. It became cumbersome for him, and he sold his extra holdings.

Jacob J. Wilhelm died on October 31, 1923. His wife, Caroline, died in 1932.

Sources:

History of Dearborn and Ohio Counties, Indisana: From Their Earliest Settlement. Chicago, IL: F. E. Weakley & Co., Publishers, 1885.

Indiana marriage records on Ancestry.com

Public member trees on Ancestry.com

Reifel, August J. *History of Franklin County, Indiana.* Indianapolis, IN: B. F. Bowen & Company, Inc., 1915.

U.S. Federal Census 1880