

## **Centennial History of Grant County, Indiana 1812 to 1912.**

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### **Eri Rich and Family**

Of the substantial old Quaker stock which has produced such wealth of character and citizenship in Grant county, the Rich family has been among the worthiest representatives. Eri Rich has spent his best years in this county, has prospered in health and lands, has reared a family to do his credit, and has possessed the esteem of all whose lives he has touched in business or social relations. Eri Rich after a long career of farming has in recent years lived in Fairmount, and has made a reputation as a breeder of fine horses, his skill in this direction having made him well known among stock men of northeastern Indiana.

Eri Rich was born in the southern part of Hamilton County, Indiana, near Carmel, October 12, 1840. His father was Joseph Rich, his grandfather Peter Rich, Jr., both natives of Randolph County, North Carolina, while the great-grandfather was Peter Rich, Sr., a native of England. Peter Rich, Sr., was married in his native land, and came to America about the time of or a little before the Revolutionary War. He lived and died in Randolph County, North Carolina, and reached a good old age. His wife was also old at the time of her death. They had a family of children, among whom was Peter, Jr.

**Peter Rich, Jr., was born in Randolph County, North Carolina, about 1776-1777. Growing up in his native locality he learned the trade of wagon making, and was also a farmer. For many years he followed these pursuits in his native county. He married Sarah Sanders.** She was a Quakeress, but her husband held to no church. Born to their marriage in North Carolina were the following children: Aaron, Joseph, Isaac, Jesse, John, David, and three daughters, Mary, Rebecca and Martha.

Joseph Rich, the third in the above named family, and the father of Eri Rich was born in North Carolina, in 1811. In 1830 or 1831, before he was of age, he bought his time from his father and came north to Indiana, locating

near Carmel, in Hamilton County, on eighty acres of government land. His home was in the wilderness, and in a clearing among the woods he put up a log cabin, cutting the timbers from the standing trees. An interesting fact concerning this old pioneer of Hamilton County is that he set out soon after locating there two acres of apples and peach trees, and that orchard grew and flourished, and for many years was one of the best in all that part of Indiana. Some years after his own settlement, his parents and other members of the family came on to Indiana, locating in Grant County, in Fairmount Township, during the latter forties. Thus the latter years of Peter Rich and wife were spent in Grant County, where Peter died at the age of eighty-six years, and his wife at the age of eighty-seven. After getting well started in his new home in Hamilton County, Joseph Rich met and married Miriam Newby. She was born in North Carolina, was a young woman when she accompanied her parents to Hamilton County, and her people spent their lives in that section. The first wife of Joseph Rich died in Hamilton County, August 22, 1851. She was born January 28, 1803. In 1852 Joseph Rich after the death of his wife, brought his family to Grant County, having sold his property in Hamilton County. He bought land in Liberty Township and lived there a number of years finally retiring and making his home at Fairmount where he died about 1896. After coming to Grant County he was three times married, but had no children. His first wife left six children named as follows:

Sarah, who married Abner Halloway, who died in Fairmount, and she now lives in Fairmount Township, having a family, all of whom are married.

Mary, the second child, is the wife of James Marley, of Fairmount, but has no children.

Eri Rich.

Asenath is the wife of John Seale, and Englishman, now living in California, and they have a family of children.

Jessie S. married Angeline Jenkins, now deceased, and he lives in the southeastern part of the State of Kansas near Baxter, and has a family.

Eliza is the wife of Frank Davis, and lives in Fairmount having children.

Eri Rich was about twelve years old when his father moved from Hamilton County to Grant county. He grew up on a farm, received a substantial education in the local schools, and taking up the vocation to which he had been trained, he conducted a place in the country for a number of years. In 1869, he moved to Miami County, Indiana, where he improved the farm of sixty acres. That land was subsequently traded for a place in Grant County, comprising one hundred and sixty-eight acres. In 1897, Mr. Rich moved to Fairmount, retiring from active agriculture, and has since devoted his time to trade and stock breeding. For five years he was a feed merchant at Fairmount. Since then practically all his work has been in the raising of registered stock. He owns several excellent ;horses, including the Belgian horse named Ameer, a fine Percheron named Minstrel, and also a fine Belgian named Edmund. He has made a reputation as a careful breeder, and maintains one of the best stables in Grant County.

Mr. Rich was united in marriage in Grant County in 1861 to Elizabeth A. Davidson. She was born in Randolph County, North Carolina, January 20, 1841, a daughter of Joseph and Rena (White) Davidson, who were Quaker people, farmers, and natives of North Carolina. The family moved to Indiana about 1858, leased a farm in Grant County, and later in the same year the parents moved to Minnesota where they died at a good old age. Mr. and Mrs. Rich became the parents of eleven children, whose names and careers are briefly stated as follows:

Enos died when young.

Rena Ellen is the wife of Ray McHatten, and has three children, Grace, Effie and Fred.

M. Etta is the wife of Micajah Thomas, living in Fairmount, and their children are Everett, who is married, Adelbert, Clarence W., and Cleo F., the youngest being at home and all the children well educated.

Elwood lives in Huntington County, is married and has three sons, Robert, William and Ralph.

John is married, and has a family of one son, Alvie, and two daughters, Lulu and Ethel, and lives in Fairmount.

Lucina is the widow of Lewis Thomas, living in Huntington, Indiana, and has two sons, Eri and Walter.

Milton resides in Fairmount Township, is married and has three sons, Doite, Earl and Glen.

Eliza is the wife of Norman Little, living in Huntington County, and they are the parents of three sons, Orville, Willard and Virgil.

May is the wife of Arthur Marsh, living in California, and they have two sons, Albert and Walter Eri.

Eunice died after her marriage to Alfred Marine, leaving one son, Eri.

The youngest child died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Rich are both birthright members of the Friends Church. Mr. Rich was for a number of years a Republican voter, but latterly has supported the Democratic party.