

The Biographical Record of DeWitt County, Illinois, Illustrated.  
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FREDERICK HOFFMAN. (Volume 1, Page 311)

Frederick Hoffman, of section 27, Texas township, DeWitt county, Illinois, was born on June 22, 1849, at Hesse Darmstadt, Germany. He is a son of Nicholas and Margaret (Hines) Hoffman.

Nicholas Hoffman came to the United States in 1853 with his family. They sailed from Bremen and had a very long and stormy passage, being on the water nearly three months. At the end of this journey they landed in New York and came at once to Illinois, locating at Peoria. Here they remained the first winter and the father worked with his brother-in-law. In the spring he engaged in farming for himself, renting a farm near Peoria and there continued for eight years. At the expiration of that time he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild prairie land in Peoria county, called Pottstown, and this he improved and put under cultivation, creating a good and substantial home and erected a comfortable house. Here he continued until his death, which occurred when he was sixty-eight years of age.

His wife Anna died when she was ninety years of age, in 1899, in Macon county, Illinois. Frederick was one of six children born to his parents and the fifth in order of birth. Five of these children are still living. Nicholas Hoffman was a Democrat in politics and both parents were members of the Catholic church.

The education of Frederick and his siblings was obtained in the schools of Peoria county. The tiny log school house, with walls filled with mud and floored with rough slabs of wood filled with "slivers" for tender feet, would be poorly heated by the open fireplace situated in one end of the room. The backless seats were made of pieces of wood unplanned and rough, with pegs for legs, and a hole in the wall gave a little light and fresh air. Aside from the "speller" and a tattered book or two, generally the property of the "teacher," the only fund from which information could be drawn was the Bible, so that small wonder was it that in the early days of this country, although Sunday-schools were unknown, for children to be made familiar with Holy Writ from infancy up.