

Peter Best was a farmer at Sec. 16 in Kickapoo He was the son of Jacob and Elizabeth Best, Ebberlay, and was born in Franklin county, Pa., January 9, 1836. In the last days of October, 1843, the family left Pennsylvania to find a home in Illinois, traveling from Chambersburg to Pittsburg in a one-horse wagon. From Pittsburg they came to Peoria by boat, arriving in December. Temporary provision was made at Peoria for the accommodation of the mother and smaller children, and about five o'clock of a cold, stormy day, the father and three of the older children, including Peter, set out on foot for Kickapoo village, which they reached about 11 o'clock, and found a shelter at John Schlenk's old pioneer hotel. A few weeks later the family settled on a tract of land purchased in Rosefield, where the children were raised, and on which the father died, in December, 1874, at the age of eighty. She has eight living children, fifty-eight grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

Peter Best grew to manhood in Rosefield, with such school advantages as the times afforded. On the 21st December, 1858, he married Mary, daughter of Adam and Margaret Eisenhour Geiger, who was born in Baden, Germany, 16th June, 1839. They lived two years on the Best homestead, and remained in the township until 1869, when they came to Kickapoo, and in 1870 to their present place. They owned 505 acres of land, valued at \$35 an acre, besides valuable personal property. Democratic in political sentiment, and Catholic in religious faith. They had nine children—Adam J., born Sept. 27, 1859, educated at Parish's Peoria Business College, and graduated therefrom May 1, 1879; Jacob F., born July 17, 1861, Elizabeth A., August 6, 1863, Joseph V., Sept. 12, 1865, Matilda M., July 2, 1867, Peter M., November 24, 1869, Anna M., April 3, 1872, Mary A., Aug. 20, 1874, Frances B., Jan. 25, 1878