







Measurements of the Forrest Ramsey House:

Summer Kitchen 10'4" X 18"7"

Kitchen Porch 7'8" X 12'

Kitchen 14' 4" X 14' 3"

Pantry 7' 9" X 14' 6"

Hall by Bath, Kitchen & Dining Room 4' X 8' 4"

Bath 6'9" X 8' 8"

Dining Room 17' X 14'

Living Room 15' 7" X 14' 10"

Foyer (two areas) 11' X 3' 8" & 5' X 6' 10"

Downstairs Bedroom 15' 5" X 14' 6"

Upstairs Bedroom # 1 15' 11" X 15'

Upstairs Bedroom # 2 15' 10" X 14' 10" Closets have been added to these rooms

Upstairs Hall 16' 2" X 3' 5" & 7' X 6'6"

Bedroom # 3 14' 2" X 14' 2"

Bedroom # 4 11' 4" X 11' Closet added

Front Porch 36' X 7'

McCarl, a sister of Mrs. George K. Maclaskey, and she died in Kansas. Andrew Maclaskey was a bachelor, a railroad engineer, and he died in Denver, Colorado, at the age of sixty-two. Ira is a railroad man living in Kansas City, Kansas, Ida married Dr. David Rice of Colorado Springs, who was an executor of the great Stratton estate.

George K. Maclaskey lived at home with his parents until his marriage October 20, 1875, when Mary E. McCarl became his wife. Her mother was a sister to Judge McCarl's mother, therefore Mrs. Maclaskey and the Judge are double cousins. Mrs. Maclaskey was born in Richfield Township, November 13, 1852, and grew up on a farm. She was the third in a family of six children. Her sister Bethana, who died at Barry, Illinois, at the age of sixty-two, married Will B. Myers, formerly a farmer of Richfield Township but now living with his son Harvey L. at Barry. Sarah married James Maclaskey, as already noted, and she died in Kansas at the age of fifty-one. Mrs. Maclaskey's brother Alexander is a Standard Oil Company employe at Portland, Oregon. Isaiah was a farmer in Richfield Township until his wife's death, but has since lived with his sister Mrs. Maclaskey. Calvin is an employe of the Williamson Oil Company at Quincy.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Maclaskey were one year in Southwestern Missouri. He then bought a farm of 115 acres, a mile south of Richfield Village and improved it with new buildings. That was their home when their two children, both daughters, Effie and Bessie, were taken away by the dread disease of diphtheria within two weeks of each other, Effie being sixteen and Bessie thirteen. This was a great sorrow for Mr. and Mrs. Maclaskey, and they were unable to endure life on the old farm longer and moved to Plainville, where they lived seven years. During that time Mr. Maclaskey filled several local offices in the village. Later he returned to the farm, improved it with new buildings, and finally sold it in 1909. They then returned to the village of Plainville and bought the present home, a commodious residence where Mrs. Maclaskey still lives. Mr. Maclaskey was one of the original stockholders in the Plainville Bank. He was never interested in politics for the sake of an office and only accepted such positions as school director and road boss in order to give efficiency to those local institutions. He was a democrat, for twenty-five years was active in the Methodist Episcopal church, a member of Plainville Lodge of Masons and was buried under the auspices of that order. He possessed a striking physique, was tall, straight and enjoyed perfect health until the last few weeks of his life. In later years he took much pleasure in the use and management of his car.

**JOHN SPECKHART, SR.** There are many reasons why the name Speckhart is spoken with such respect and esteem in Fall Creek Township. A large part of the population of Adams County during the past eighty years have been of German born or German parentage. John Speckhart, Sr., was the first German to locate in Fall Creek Township. He was a prominent settler there about seven years before he was joined by other fellow countrymen. He lived a long and useful life, and his sturdy character was transmitted to his sons and daughters. The family is now a numerous one, and some special tribute should be paid here to its founder in Adams County.

John Speckhart, Sr., was born at Dieburg in Hesse-Darmstadt June 14, 1812. He married Maria Furniff, who was born in Niederkindbach in the same Province of Germany April 23, 1816. It was in the winter of 1839 that John Speckhart set out for America. A sailing vessel brought him to New Orleans, where he landed February 22, 1840. A companion on the same vessel was coming to America for the purpose of settling in Iowa, and John Speckhart planned to make the same state his home. However, on reaching Quincy, having become separated from his traveling companions at St. Louis, he decided to remain in Adams County, and in the spring of 1840 bought land now included in the Speckhart estate in Fall Creek Township. In Germany John Speckhart had

learned the brick making trade and was also a roofer. He was a diligent workman, and though paid very meager wages according to present standards, he managed to accumulate some \$900 before coming to this country. He was possessed of perhaps more capital than most of the early Germans.

His first purchase of land consisted of 120 acres, included now in the farm of his son Adam. For seven years he lived in that English speaking community, without a single German neighbor. Later his brother-in-law, George Kiel, Sr., and a nephew, George Treats, joined him in Fall Creek Township. The first home of John Speckhart was a shanty covered with clapboards. It was roughly put together and both rain and snow came in, but it is significant that the family never had any sickness while living in that old house. Later he built a log structure and about sixty years ago put up the substantial brick house which is still standing and still offers all the comforts of a home. In building this home he utilized his knowledge of brick making, and burned the brick of his own farm.

Out of the trials and adversities of the early years he extended his possessions until he had 1,100 acres of good farm land. He was unable to speak English when he arrived, and gradually picked up a knowledge of the language by contact with his neighbors. He frequently hauled wood to Quincy, selling a load for 75 cents and taking it out in trade. He did much of his plowing with oxen, used the old fashioned cradle to garner his grain, and of him it could be truly said that he earned his bread by the sweat of his brow. The results he obtained showed what determined purpose and unremitting diligence would accomplish. He was a democrat in politics and both he and his wife were members of the Lutheran Church. He was never a seeker for any public office, and for the last fifteen years of his life he lived retired. He always wrote the language of his fatherland, and the family records in his own hand in the family Bible are all in the German script, and were written when he was quite old.

John Speckhart, Sr., died March 16, 1894, and his wife on June 25, 1884. They were laid to rest in the Bluff Hall Cemetery. He and his wife had ten children. Those to reach mature years were John, William, Allen, Frederick, Lena, Elizabeth and Margaret.

JOHN SPECKHART, JR., is son of John Speckhart, the pioneer German settler of Fall Creek Township, and has his home eight miles southeast of Quincy, in section 8 of Fall Creek Township. He has long been one of the prominent farmers and citizens of this locality.

His residence stands on the brow of a bluff some 200 feet above the extensive bottom lands along the Mississippi. From the home a view up and down the river is afforded for miles. The home farm proper is on the uplands, but includes also a liberal stretch of the rich and fertile bottoms. Mr. Speckhart has 850 acres, the greater part cultivated, and includes some of the best wheat and corn land in the entire county. The old house still stands, and one room of it was the place where John Speckhart, Sr., began housekeeping. John Speckhart, Jr., erected his present home about thirty-four years ago. He also has all the necessary outbuildings, and his improvements are of the very best character. His three sons now operate the farm in partnership.

Mr. Speckhart was born July 4, 1848, in Fall Creek Township, and as a boy received very limited schooling. He had every opportunity and encouragement to work, train his muscles and his native intelligence. He has performed the duties that lay nearest him, and in so doing has accomplished his greatest public service and contributed most to the development of the community. Once when he was a young man he was offered the office of road supervisor. Appreciating the honor as coming from neighbors and friends he entered upon its duties, and even left his own work to attend that of the public. An important improvement needed to be made, and he set about it, exercising all the judgment he possessed. He experienced what every public servant experiences, criticisms

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