

## THE TOLBERTS

### Early Pioneers Of Clay County.....

The first record we have on the **Tolberts** was of Thomas **Tolbert** and his wife, the former Margaret **Trowbridge**. Both were born in Kentucky and later would move north to Orange County, Indiana, where their son Joseph Odell **Tolbert** was born on June 18, 1843.

Odell, as he became known, was brought up on a farm and, being obliged to work almost all the time at an early age, had but a meager education. This was more the rule than the exception in those times. Children, especially boys, were needed to help on the farm. It was said that Odell went barefooted, both winter and summer until he was at least twelve years of age. This is hard to imagine, especially about the winter part, but this is what we find in the Clay County History book.

Around the age of 18, he signed with the Seventeenth Indiana Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. He took part in many battles which included Hoover's Gap, Chickamauga, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Mission Ridge, Nashville, Columbus, Georgia, Dalton, Kenasaw Mountain, and Green River Ridge. He was captured in the latter battle but was released by exchange. Altogether he was said to have taken part in fifty-six engagements, all of which he passed through without a wound of consequence.

Odell **Tolbert** came to Clay County, Illinois after the war in 1866, and resided in Louisville township the remainder of his life. In 1867, he married Sarah Ann **Corder**,

In the 1870 Clay County Census, we find Thomas **Taulbert**, age 63, and his wife, Margret, age 60, listed with two children, William T. age 20, and John, age 17.

Odell **Taulbert**, 24, and wife Sarah A., 21, are also listed in this 1870 Census. I realize these last names are spelled differently, but feel certain it is the same family. Their Real Estate value was listed as \$100 and his occupation, farming. In 1870, they had one son, James F., 3, who apparently died young as we do not find him listed later.

Odell and his wife were the parents of eight children - six of whom lived to adulthood. Their children were: daughters, Carrie and Dollie; and sons, George, John, Otto, and Thomas.

Odell purchased eighty acres of land south of Louisville, which he farmed until around 1908, when he retired from farming and moved to town. Three of his sons, Thomas, John, and George remained farmers in the neighborhood where their father had settled after the war.

In the 1920 Clay County Census, he find Thomas **Tolbert**, 50, and his wife, the former Sallie Dougherty, 46, listed with four children. They were Odda W. 18, Paul A. 15, Floy 12, and Cloy also 12. Also listed for the same year was John **Tolbert** 41,