

## John Marvel [61331]

Compiled by Ella (Armstrong) Yeakel [613346(10)]

John Marvel [61331], the oldest child of Prettyman and Lavina (Rogers) Marvel [6133], was born on April 8, 1794 in Sussex County, Delaware. When his parents emigrated to Georgia in 1796, John was between two and three years of age. Some twelve years of his life were passed in the southland. The tide of emigration then set in toward the Northwest, and his parents were among the many who sought new homes in the unsettled regions of the Territory of Indiana. John was at this time a lad of fifteen years of age. Being the oldest son in this pioneer family, he was the mainstay of his father and many arduous tasks fell to his lot.

The first necessity of a pioneer coming into an unsettled region was to provide temporary shelter for his family. Usually a light structure of poles was hastily thrown up, until such time as a substantial log cabin could be erected, which was a laborious task taking much time and the help of several men. When there were other settlers in the locality, their small cabins were always thrown hospitably open to the new comer, although seemingly crowded to capacity by their own families which were usually large. As southwestern Indiana was a heavily timbered country, there were fields to be cleared of undergrowth and trees; crops not only to be planted and tended, but also to be guarded from the depredations of many small rodents that infest a new country. One task, perhaps not so arduous to a pioneer lad of spirit, was that of keeping the family larder supplied with wild game in which the forests abounded.

John Marvel volunteered in the War of 1812, enlisting when he was seventeen years of age. He was stationed at Vincennes to help guard the town. He was married in 1818 to Mary Barr, daughter of John and Nancy (Hamilton) Barr. Three children were born to this union as follows: Nancy, James H., and Laviana. Mary (Barr) Marvel died in 1824, when her youngest child Lavina was but a few months old. John was married a second time to Elizabeth Williams, daughter of John Williams, July 19, 1825. Five children were born to this union, as follows: John, Wesley, Polly, Jackson, and Elizabeth. John Marvels' home was about two and one-half miles northwest of Owensville, in Montgomery Township, Gibson County, Indiana. His wife Elizabeth (Williams) Marvel, born in Nashville, Tennessee, died at her home in Indiana about 1843, and was buried at Mounts' Station. John Marvel left Indiana in 1865, going to Wabash County, Illinois, near Mt. Carmel where he also owned land. He died at that place November 18, 1876; and was interred in the Friendsville Cemetery, Friendsville, Illinois.