

History of Du Page County, Illinois, by Rufus Blanchard, Illustrated, Chicago, O. L. Baskin and Company, Historical Publishers, Lakeside Building, 1882

William Blank, farmer, P. O. Bartlett. Of the wealthy farmers in the township there are none that are entitled to more credit than **William Blank**. He was born April 12, 1823, in Pennsylvania, near the Lehigh River, son of **William Blank** and **Sarah Hickman**, both of the same State. Our subject started out in life upon his own resources. He had no school advantages; could just read and write his name, but had no knowledge of figures whatever. He worked out by the month, and got means to enable him to come West. Upon his arrival, he had nothing but his hands, but he labored on; he came West in 1845. In 1850, he went the overland route to California, and while on his way had some trying experiences; was sick six months, and was in danger of his life from the Indians, and other difficulties. While he remained in California, he was engaged in teaming and mining. He succeeded in saving some money, and upon his return to the county he settled permanently, and has since remained. He is a self-made man, and what he has accumulated has been by hard labor, having never speculated nor engaged in any commercial business. He has 181 acres, upon which he put all the substantial improvements.

July 1, 1847, he married **Mrs. Eleanor Blank**, born April 12, 1822, in Perry County, Penn., daughter of **Benjamin Dunkelberger**. **Mr. Blank** has four children **Orlinthia**, **Evaline**, **Lydia A.** and **Allison**. **Orlinthia** married **Albert Ellis**; **Evaline**, wife of **Dr. Vanderhoof**. **Mr. Blank's** first purchase was eighty acres, costing \$8 per acre, and after added forty more, for which he paid \$15 per acre. He purchased and located where he now resides in December, 1866; farm cost \$40 per acre.

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