

History of Bureau County, Illinois, H. C., Bradsby, Editor – Illustrated – Chicago, World Publishing Company, 1885

**Jacob L. Sweet**, Concord, was born in Richland County, Ohio, October 10, 1818. He is the son of **Barton** and **Sarah (Van Wormer) Sweet**. The father was born in Rutland, Vt., but the mother was a native of New York State. They both died in Ohio, to which State they had removed in 1816. They were the parents of ten children, only four of whom yet survive. The eldest, **Nathan Sweet**, was born in 1797, and is now an active old man, living in this county. The others now living, are **Jacob L.**, **Cyrus**, and **Mrs. Elizabeth Welsh**, who now lives in Atlantic, Iowa. The three brothers are all in Bureau County. Our subject was reared in Ohio, and in early manhood learned the carpenter's and joiner's trade, and followed it for many years. April 23, 1842, he landed in Bureau County, having traveled the distance from his old home on horseback, and most of the time alone, and when there was but one house between Urbana, Ill., and Leroy, near Bloomington, Ill. In 1843 he returned to Ohio, and remained there till the spring of 1844, when, in company with his brother **Cyrus**, he again came to Bureau County. He first settled in Macon Township, on Section 5, when there was but one other family living in the township, that of **Thomas Motherell**.

**Mr. Sweet** remained in Macon till 1848, when he removed to Section 32, in Concord Township, and in 1864 to his present farm in Section 33, which was first settled by **Joseph Foster**, who kept what is known as the French Grove Hotel. For many years after coming to this county **Mr. Sweet** hired men to work the farm, and he gave his attention to carpenter work, and he finished the work on the first frame house ever built in Toulon, Ill. **Mr. Sweet** has experienced the hardships of a pioneer, but his labors have not been without their reward. He now owns in Concord and Macon Townships about 600 acres of land besides lands elsewhere. In political views he is Republican, but in early life was a Whig. For several years he was Supervisor of Concord Township, and now holds his sixth commission as Justice of the Peace. He and wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. June 25, 1844, he was united in marriage in this county to **Florenda T. Stevens**, who was born in Massachusetts, and was a daughter of **Benjamin Stevens**, one of the early settlers in this county. She was the mother of four children, viz.: **Sarah M.**, born September 19, 1845, died in Iowa, November 8, 1866—she was the wife of **Wesley D. Barnes**; **Arvilla A.**, born March 7, 1848, wife of **Charles W. Ellis**, of Dallas County, Iowa; **Henry L. Sweet**, born May 3, 1849, now of Kent, Loup Co., Neb.; **John B. Sweet**, born May 17, 1851, resides at Aurora, Neb. **Mrs. Sweet**, died in 1853.

**Mr. Sweet** was married April 10, 1854, in this county, to **Emiline Newbaker**, who was born in Perry County, Penn., September 21, 1828. She is the daughter of **George W.** and **Ann (Buchanan) Newbaker**, both natives of Pennsylvania. The father died in Pennsylvania, but the mother came to Bureau County and died here. She was the mother of two children now living, viz.: **Amos B. Newbaker**, on Section 16, Concord Township, and **Mrs. Sweet**. **Mrs. Sweet** is the mother of the following named children: **Orrie E.**, born May 24, 1858, wife of **Frank D. White**, of Sioux Rapids, Iowa; **Alfred G.**, born May 17, 1862, and **Effie A.**, born February 14, 1871. The two younger live in this county.