

BIO of Richard, Charles, Villroy, George ROBLEY- Greene County, Illinois

By **Gary Griswold** April 30, 2004 at 04:17:27

The following are from the 1885 History of Greene & Jersey County, Illinois. Richard's wife Desire Griswold was a daughter on Adonijah and Mary (Barton) Griswold of Vermont/ White Hall, Illinois.

Gary

BIOGRAPHIES

HISTORY OF GREENE & JERSEY COUNTIES, ILLINOIS - 1885

Springfield, Ill.: Continental Historical Co.

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CAPT. RICHARD ROBLEY came to this township, and made a settlement in the spring of 1821. He had come here the year previous and selected his lands.

Richard Robley, one of the early settlers of this county, was born in New Hampshire, on the 12th of May, 1791, and was a son of Matthew and Mary (Scott) Robley, natives of England. The family consisted of seven children - Elizabeth, Mary, Eunice, Angeline, Matthew, Richard and Henry. On the 11th day of August, 1814, Richard was married to DESIRE GRISWOLD. This marriage was blessed with seven children - Eliza A., married Thomas J. Brown, died Dec. 29, 1834; Henry G., married Caroline Griswold, lives near Carlinville; George B., married Mary Jordan, lives in this county; Charles, whose sketch follows this, lives on the old homestead; Emily, married to Julius Twitchell, dies Sept. 22, 1872; Villroy, married Catharine Spencer, lives in this township; Walter S., died Nov. 6, 1836; Mary, wife of Thaddeus Brace, resides in Carrollton. Mr. Robley came from Vergennes, Vt., to Greene county, Ill., in 1820, when this county was but a wild prairie and selected a location, where he built a log cabin. This was the only move he ever made. In the spring of 1821, he went for his family to St. Louis, having left them in Missouri while he went in search of a good place to settle. He brought them on a flat boat, which he had built for that purpose, landing at the point where the town of Newport is now located. Mr. Robley resided in this township, in which he first located, for more than half a century. He was captain of a militia company during the time of the Black Hawk war. He died on the 3d of January, 1879, at the age of 87 years, having survived his wife over 40 years. She died on the 22d of July, 1836. They are buried in the family burying ground, side by side.

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CHARLES ROBLEY was born on the 6th day of Nov., 1822, on the farm where he has been reared, and where he still resides. On the 15th day of Nov., 1849, he was united in marriage with Lydia A. Day, a daughter of Samuel Day, a native of Vermont. Mr. and Mrs. Robley are the parents of four children - Walter, married Louisa Crane, now residing near Greenfield; Henry S., married Mary Crane, living six miles east of Carrollton; Emily, wife of Geo. Giller, living in Kirksville, Mo., and Arthur, living at home. Mr. Robley is the possessor of 680 acres of land on sections 8, 9, 10 and 15, and 200 acres lying east of Carrollton, and has surrounded himself with all the comforts of a good home. On account of his many good qualities, he commands the respect and esteem of all his acquaintances.

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VILLROY ROBLEY was born in Greene county, Illinois, on the 26th of August, 1827, and is a son of Richard and Desire (Griswold) Robley, whose sketch appears in this work. Villroy was reared to farm life and assisted his parents on the farm until his marriage. Mr. Robley was married April 27, 1854, to Catharine Spencer, a daughter of Stephen and Catherine Spencer, whose sketch also appears in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Robley are the parents of seven children - Edward V., living at home; Charlie A., deceased; Mary E., deceased, aged 11 months; Cora B., wife of Thompson B. Gullet, who died, leaving her with the care of a daughter; Clara E., Lettie A., and Harry A., living at home. Mr. Robley has, by energy, good management, and close attention to business, been enabled to acquire a considerable amount of property, and he is now possessed of 1,365 of land, all of which is in Greene county, except 160 acres in Kansas. It is well improved, and has a substantial residence and outbuildings thereon, making it a very comfortable home. Mr. Robley divides his attention between the raising of stock and grain, and his labor in that direction has met with decided success. He has never aspired to any public office, nor never intends to, unless it would be for the presidency.

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GEORGE B. ROBLEY, son of Richard Robley, one of the pioneers of Greene county, was born in Vergennes, Vt., June 16, 1819. When he was but a year old his parents removed to Illinois and located under the bluff, in Bluffdale township, on Sec. 9, T. 10, R. 13, where his father built what was known as the Buckeye cabin, at a spot where a bear had been killed just previous to the erection of the cabin. Wild animals of almost every description abounded here then, and even Indians were yet numerous, as settlers had not as yet come in sufficient numbers to push them farther back. The location was then, indeed, a wild one, the nearest neighbors to this pioneer family being the families of Gideon Spencer, a man named Brush, J. H. Rogers, Mr. Davenport, Hartwell Hunnicutt, and a few others scattered here and there through the county. The first year of two the family were all sick, and were attended by the pioneer physician, Dr. Potts, who used to come down from near Carrollton to attend them. Among such scenes as might be expected in a new country of this sort, George B. was reared and grew to manhood. He resided with his parents until the time of his marriage, Dec. 31, 1847, to Nancy A. Jordan, a native of Pennsylvania, born near Waynesburg. Her parents were William and Catharine

(Rummell) Jordan, who came to this county in 1845, and located in this township. Her father died at Champaign, May 23, 1870. Her mother is still living in Montgomery county, Ill., in the 89th year of her age. Mr. and Mrs. George Robley were the parents of six children, of whom five are living - Angeline, living at home, married Geo. Chizum, now deceased; Albert, who was killed by lightning in 1880; Eliza, wife of William O. Eldred, living near Wichita, Sedgwick county, Kan.; Alice, at home; Etta, wife of Ward Eldred, living in this township; Mary, wife of William Evans, living at Chatauqua, Kan. The family have lived at their present location, on section 2, in Bluffdale township, since 1857, the farm consisting of 190 acres of well improved land. Mr. Robley is a member of White Hall lodge, No. 80, A.F. & A.M. He has been connected with the schools of his township, as director of district No. 1, and has borne his share of the burdens of local office. The Robley family have been identified with Greene county almost since Illinois was a territory, and many of its representatives are still residents here. What was then a wilderness is now one of the most prosperous sections of the state, and this pioneer family have witnessed all of its developments.