

## **Martin Wirt Biography**

(Excerpt from the History of Mercer County; 1882)

"MARTIN WIRT was born in Ohio in 1820. He was educated in the common schools of his native state. In 1840 he came to Illinois and settled on a farm near the village of Keithsburg, Mercer county, Illinois, and engaged in farming. June 11, 1850, he was married to Miss Esther Groves, a native of London, England, who was born January 24, 1831, and came to America in 1849. They became the parents of eight children, seven of whom are living: Jane, wife of Fred Freter; Ada C., wife of J. Lester; George G.; Emma V., wife of A. L. Emerson; Willie M., Maggie M., Fred N. and Samuel, deceased. In 1868 Mrs. Wirt fulfilled a long cherished desire of her heart in returning to see her parents in the old home in England, where she remained on a visit six months. On August 5, 1879, Mr. Wirt died, leaving his affectionate family a comfortable home."