

**Walter L. Swain**  
**AEHC featured person for the week of Jan. 17, 2021**

Walter L. Swain  
January 18, 1924 – January 17, 2008

Born and died this week (in 1924 and 2008, respectively) – Walter L. Swain is buried in our cemetery's Section 6, Row 18, Lot 108, Space 5.

Brief summary of our research: Mr. Swain lived his entire life in Rush County. He was a farmer, realtor, hobbyist, and known for his storytelling. It was said of him, that he loved a good joke.

Walter Swain's great grandparents, William and Nancy (Parsons) Swain, moved their young family to the area prior to 1860 from North Carolina. Walter Swain's grandfather, John Franklin Swain, was under the age of 10 at the time. William and Nancy are buried in the Blue River Friends Cemetery near Manilla.

John Franklin married Flora Elizabeth (Rigsbee) in 1881. They were well known Rush County farmers. Walter Swain's father, Gernie, was born in 1883. John and Flora lived in western Rush or eastern Shelby Counties throughout their lives. John and Flora are buried in the Blue River Wesleyan Cemetery near Arlington.

Gernie Swain married Mossilene (Hester) in 1911. Her family was from Grant County. They continued the Rush County farming tradition. Raising two sons, Walter and Joseph, into the family business. Gernie died after a farming accident in 1954. Gernie and Mossilene are buried in the Blue River Wesleyan Cemetery near Arlington.

Walter married Mary Elizabeth (Stout) in 1942. They raised their family on their Posey Township farm. Their oldest son, Thomas, was tragically killed along with two young grandsons (David and Michael) in a vehicle accident in 1973.

Walter and Mary were members of Arlington Christian Church for more than 60 years. Walter was a 1942 graduate of Arlington High School. He was a member of Rushville Rotary Club, Free & Accepted Masons and Rushville Elks Lodge. His devotion to his community is acknowledge in the Walk of Honor at our Veterans

and First Responders Honor Park, as he was a Charter Member of the Posey Township Fire Department.

Walter died in 2008 from complications of a vehicle accident 9 days earlier. He was also preceded in death by his parents and his wife (2007). He was survived by another son, daughter, granddaughter, and brother.

Since Walter's death, sadly his daughter, Jan (Swain) Poldervaart, and his brother, Joseph, have passed away. Joseph is buried in Blue River Wesleyan Cemetery near Arlington. The Swain family has continued to grow through grand and great grandchildren.

Walter, Mary, Thomas, Jan, David, and Michael are all interred in Arlington East Hill Cemetery.

(sources: Ancestry.com, Find-a-Grave, Rushville Republican, and an article by Paul W. Barada)

More information about our cemetery and its history can be found at [www.arlingtoneasthillcemetery.com](http://www.arlingtoneasthillcemetery.com)

