

# John Lansing Pray

Birth: Feb. 17, 1839  
Waterville  
Lucas County  
Ohio, USA

Death: Jun. 26, 1911  
Toledo  
Lucas County  
Ohio, USA

Burial: Wakeman Cemetery  
Waterville, Lucas County, Ohio, USA

Among the more prominent businessmen of Waterville Township for several years past, has been John Lansing Pray, of Whitehouse. He was born February 17, 1839, at the Pray homestead farm, near Waterville. His father was John Lansing Pray, a son of John Pray, the pioneer. His mother was Lucina (Cross) Pray, a daughter of Salmon Cross, a pioneer and prominent citizen of Waterville. She is now the widow of Whitcomb Haskins, one of the first settlers of Waterville. The son was educated at the Waterville Public Schools. During the winter of 1858-59, he taught a School in Illinois, and the following winter in Wood County. He enlisted in Battery H, First Ohio Light Artillery, September 25, 1861, and served until the end of the War. He was appointed Bugler for the Battery, and served as such until February 1864, when he was transferred to the United States Signal Service, where he remained to the close. He gained special recognition in the latter capacity, having been, as Sergeant, placed in charge of the Signal party accompanying the Fifth Army Corps. Since the War, few Soldiers have done more than has he toward cultivating and maintaining among the country's defenders the true spirit of patriotism and social relations. Upon his return from the field of War, he taught School for one year at Waterville, and afterwards engaged in trade at Waterville with Joseph E. Hall. Subsequently the firm decided to develop the valuable Stone deposits near Whitehouse, and for that purpose opened quarries and established a Store, their operations in such connection being referred to elsewhere. Mr. Pray, from early life, has been actively identified with interests concerning his fellow-citizens, and by act and influence has contributed much to their moral and material welfare. He was married with Miss Pamela C. Hall, daughter of J. E. Hall, of Waterville, March 28, 1866. Their children are John Emmons, Mable C., and Pamela D., of Whitehouse. The mother died April 4, 1881. Mr. Pray was married May 21, 1884, with Miss Mary E. Singer, a native of Waterville. They have one child, Carrie Louise.