

Gant History from Randolph County Historical records.

Robert Gant married Maria Shaver and settled near his father in Boone County Kentucky. About 1824 Robert and his family floated down the Ohio River in a flat boat with their household goods to Shawneetown, Illinois. Robert walked about 100 miles to the home of his brother-in-law, Rev. Silas Crisler, at what is now New Palestine.

Robert obtained a team and wagon and returned to Shawneetown for his family and their goods. They returned to Rev. Silas Crisler's and settled near him and resided there about three years, then moved near Diamond cross. He being industrious and economical, soon began to accumulate property and was one of the leading landowners of his community.

Robert and Maria, his first wife, as stated by his son Alfred, had a family of 15 children with two by his second wife made a total of 17. Maria Gant died in childbirth, Aug. 22, 1845. She was 48 years old. A midwife was unsuccessful in delivering the baby. When things went badly, Robert rode on horse back 10 miles to Chester, Illinois to bring the Doctor. Maria, realizing she was going to die called her children to her and told them she was going to die, and that when they grew up and married, never to have a midwife. She made her last request. It was her wish to be buried under a large wild cherry tree near her home, so her little children could play over her grave. This wish was fulfilled. This spot was later known as the Gant Family Cemetery. Robert Gant was later buried there also on Aug. 15, 1853. The graves were all moved to the New Palestine Cemetery about 1900. Wesley Gant, son of Robert and Maria had the graves and gravestones moved when Elmer Bean bought part of the farm.
