

**RICHLAND COUNTY WISCONSIN HISTORY - 1884**

**CHAPTER XXXI TOWN OF ROCKBRIDGE**

**PAGE 1254**

**FRANCIS William and Mary Ann 'Polly' THOMPSON**

**William Francis was an early settler of the town of Sylvan, coming there in 1856. He bought 280 acres of land on section 9, cleared about thirty acres, and lived there until 1860, when he sold out and purchased his present farm, which contains 167 1/2 acres, a part being in the town of Rockbridge, and a part extending over the line into Marshall.**

**He has 145 acres of cleared land, making one of the best farms in the county. In 1883 he built a large frame house. He is a native of York State; was born in Essex county April 24, 1826.**

**When he was five years old his parents moved to Erie Co., Penn. His father purchased timber land in the town of Girard, cleared a farm and made this his home until the time of his death. The subject of this sketch made his home with his parents until eighteen years old.**

**He was married the August following to Mary Thompson, who was born in Swansey, NH. He then located in Fairview, Erie county, and engaged to learn the shoemaker's trade, which having accomplished he went to Lockport, Erie county, opened a shop and carried on the shoe business until 1855, when he moved to Wisconsin, lived in Dane county and worked at his trade in the town of Rutland until 1856.**

**Mr. and Mrs. Francis have had eleven children, ten of whom are now living --- Orren, Saloma, Salina, William Rush, Alice, Ida, Evaline, Charles, Calvin and Prudence. One child, named Millie, died in infancy.**