

SAMUEL LEHMAN.

Samuel Lehman, who after many years of strenuous and unremitting labor as a successful farmer of this county, is now living a retired life in his comfortable and beautiful home in Berne, was born in Wayne county, Ohio, on the 9th of June, 1841, and is the son of Christian and Magdalena (Giger) Lehman. The father was born in Switzerland on January 15, 1805, and the mother in Canton Berne, Switzerland, on August 2, 1802. They were farmers, living in the mountainous region of that country, and after their marriage came to Wayne county, Ohio, in 1840, settling on a farm which they operated until their deaths, the father dying April 30, 1883, and the mother June 5, 1872. They were the parents of three children: John A., who for many years followed farming at Wooster, Wayne county, Ohio, but is now retired; Christian A., deceased, who also followed farming in Wayne county, Ohio; and the subject of this sketch. The paternal grandfather, Christian Lehman, who was a successful farmer in his native land, never came to the United States.

Samuel Lehman received his early education in a rude log cabin and it is an interesting fact that the cabin in which he learned his first lessons is still standing on the old home farm in Wayne county, Ohio. In 1867 Mr. Lehman came to Adams county, settling in Wabash township, where he remained during the summer, and then purchased a farm in Monroe township. He followed carpentering for two years, subsequently settling on his farm, where he lived for thirty-five years, when on December 22, 1903, he came to Berne and has since here resided. During the last fifteen years, in connection with his farming, he also successfully conducted an undertaking business. He is the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of splendid land, well improved with many permanent and substantial buildings. In Berne Mr. Lehman erected a beautiful and commodious brick house on Lehman street, which thoroughfare was named in honor of his family. He votes independently and though not an aspirant for public office, he has served two terms as supervisor of Monroe township. Religiously he is a member of the Mennonite church. Mr. Lehman has taken an active interest in the local history of the Berne settlement, of which he has a complete and authentic record, containing the births and deaths of six hundred families, the only record of the kind in the community.

The subject has been twice married, the first time in 1865 to Miss Elizabeth Oberly, who was born November 4, 1844, the daughter of Peter and Susana (Von Candle) Oberly, farming folk of Wayne county, Ohio. To this union was born one child: Josephine, who died at the age of three months. Mrs. Elizabeth Lehman died December 10, 1866, and on October 31, 1867, Mr. Lehman married Elizabeth Sprunger, daughter of Abraham B. and Elizabeth (Zuercher) Sprunger, natives of the same locality in Switzerland from whence came the subject's family. The Sprunger family came to America July 6, 1854, settling first in Wayne county, Ohio, but three months later came to Adams county, Indiana, settling, on the 4th of October, on a farm in the woods in Monroe township. Abraham B. Sprunger, who was born October 7, 1819, died August 2, 1896, and his wife, who was born August 12, 1813, died August 16, 1887. To the subject's last union have been born eleven children: William R., a farmer living in Phoenix, Arizona; Caroline R., who is living in Berne; Emma, who resides in Blue Creek township, this county; Daniel J., deceased; Solomon A., of Fort Wayne; Helena M., who is living in Berne; Noah M., of Monroe township; Enos W. and Leonhard, who live in Berne; Matilda E., who resides at home, but is now attending a mission Bible school in Fort Wayne, and Wilbert H., at home.

The subject served for eighteen years as trustee of the Mennonite church. He was appointed in 1879 and served until 1897.

Snow's History of Adams County, Indiana, John Fletcher Snow, B. F. Bowen, Indianapolis, IN, 1907, p. 400 (image 819).