

Biographical and Historical Record - Adams and Wells Co. Indiana Lewis Publishing Co. Chicago, IL 1887

SYLVESTER SPANGLER, contractor and builder, and an active and enterprising citizen of Decatur, is a native of Crawford County, Ohio, born near Massillon, February 19, 1842, a son of Michael and Dorothy (Keese) Spangler. When an infant, in 1843, his parents came to Adams County, Indiana, and here he was reared to the avocation of a farmer on his father's farm. On reaching manhood he learned the carpenter's trade at Fort Wayne. In the fall of 1863 he enlisted in the Union Army as a private in Company I, Fifty-first Indiana Infantry, to serve one year. He served his country thirteen months, when he was discharged at New Orleans. He participated in engagements at Franklin and Nashville beside several skirmishes, and during his term of service was not off duty a day on account of sickness or wounds. After his discharge he returned to Adams County and worked at carpentering at Decatur and vicinity. He was married at Decatur in 1865, to Julia Gillig, daughter of Francis J. and Theresa (Spuler) Gillig. She was born, reared and educated at Decatur, and before her marriage taught school in Adams County. Mr. and Mrs. Spangler are the parents of two children - Ella and Della, both of whom are students at the Decatur High School. In 1868 Mr. Spangler engaged in contracting and building, which he has since followed, and has erected many of the brick business blocks on Main street, beside many of the substantial residences at Decatur. In politics Mr. Spangler is a Democrat. He served four years as village trustee of Decatur, and since its organization as a city he has been councilman five years. He is a comrade of Sam Henry Post, No.63, G. A. R. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Decatur.

Michael Spangler, the father of our subject, was a native of Ohio, born January 12, 1812, and was of German descent. He was a farmer by avocation, and on coming to Adams County he settled on a tract of wild land in Preble Township, which he improved and lived on about twenty-four years. He then sold his land in Preble Township and removed to a farm in Allen County near Williamsport, where he died September 8, 1877. The mother of our subject was born in Stuttgart, Germany, February 16, 1811. When twelve years of age she was brought by her parents to America, they locating at Liverpool, Ohio, where she lived till her marriage. She died on the farm near Williamsport, Allen County, October 3, 1869. She was a member of the Evangelical church. Mr. Spangler was a member of the United Brethren church. Eight of the ten children born to them grew to maturity, of whom seven are yet living, one living in Nebraska, and the remaining six being residents of Indiana.