

Albert N. Steele.

In the course of a long and active career Albert N. Steele handled many business interests and responsibilities in Adams County, and is still to some extent engaged in looking after his private affairs and investments, even though he regards himself as retired. He is well known throughout the length and breadth of Adams County, where he has spent most of his life. He is enjoying the comforts of a well appointed home at 503 West Madison Street.

Mr. Steele is of old Pennsylvania stock. His grandfather, Jacob Steele, was a Pennsylvanian and when his son, Levi, father of Albert, was quite young moved with wagons and teams to Ashland County, Ohio. The grandfather developed a tract of new land, cleared away the forest, and there he and his wife died when they were not yet seventy years of age. They had a large family, the sons being Levi, Adam, John, George, Samuel, Jacob, Jr., and David. Among the daughters were Mrs. Maria Boyd, Sophia Stoler and Mrs. David Stiefers. Of the sons Levi and David Steele were twins and were born February 9, 1818. They grew up in Ashland County, and David became a carpenter while Levi learned the trade of tanner. In Ashland County he worked at his trade and married Sarah Valentine, who was born in Pennsylvania February 15, 1819, but was reared in Ashland County, where her parents spent many years of their lives. After marriage Levi Steele and wife continued to reside in Ashland County, and all their children were born there. In the fall of 1861 they moved to Adams County, Indiana, and located in the woods in Union Township. Levi had charge of a tannery for George Benders, his son-in-law, during the Civil war, and at the same time managed to put in some hard work in clearing up his forty acres of land. Later he bought another place of sixty acres, and lived on that farm until his death in 1885 at the age of sixty-seven. His widow survived him and died at Decatur at the age of seventy-seven. Both were very active and prominent members of the Church of God and did much to sustain that denomination in the county. Levi Steele was a republican in politics.

Albert N. Steele, who was born in Ashland County, Ohio, March 21, 1842, was one of a family three sons and one daughter of which are still living, all in Adams County, and one, Samuel L., died in the army. Mr. Steele was nineteen years of age when the family came to Adams County, and besides the lessons he learned from books and schools in his native locality he acquired a full and thorough proficiency in the tanning trade. He worked as a tanner when all leather was tanned by the old processes, including a liberal use of tanbark. For some years he worked as a tanner for Levi Bartlett, was in business as a partner with him, and learned the butcher's trade. In 1875 he engaged in the butcher business with a shop on Second Street in Decatur, and a year later Mr. Bartlett became his partner. After two years Mr. Steele sold his interests and subsequently engaged in the wind mill and pump business, and still later took in his brother, George E., as a partner. They added a plumbing department, and Mr. Steele was one of the familiar figures of this branch of business in Adams County for fully thirty years. In

1911 he sold his interests to his brother George and then retired to look after his private affairs. Mr. Steele owns five fine residence properties in Decatur. In politics he is a republican. He has been a member of the Church of God since boyhood.

His first wife was Julia Stephens, a member of the Church of God. She was born in Pennsylvania but was reared and educated at Moline, Illinois, where she lived in the home of an uncle, George Stephens. Mrs. Steele died at Decatur in the prime of life at the age of thirty-three. She left no children, and was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. For his second wife Mr. Steele married at Decatur Mrs. Elizabeth Marquart. She was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, February 19, 1842, was educated there, and her first husband was Jacob Marquart. Mrs. Steele died August 15, 1914. By her first marriage she had one daughter, Anna M., who was born in 1872 and was reared and educated in Decatur. She married Samuel Laman of Adams County. Mr. Laman is now deceased, and he left a valuable estate worth more than \$25,000. Mrs. Laman had two children, Neva and Naomi, aged fourteen and eleven years, respectively, and now attending school at Battle Creek, Michigan. Mr. Steele is guardian and trustee for these two girls and also for their property.

Standard History of Adams and Wells Counties, Indiana, Vol. II, John W. Tyndall & Orlo Ervin Lesh; Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co, 1918, p. 657-659.