

O. J. Suman.

This is a brief outline of the family and career of a man who has distinctively made good in the agricultural life of Adams County. Mr. Suman lives on his fine farm in St. Mary's Township, on Route No. 1 from Pleasant Mills. His work and his farm speak for themselves as evidence of his good management and ability. Most of his prosperity he has acquired by his own efforts. Mr. Suman has always been an industrious worker and in later years his increased experience and intelligence have brought bigger results with less manual toil.

Mr. Suman was born in Darke County, Ohio, March 27, 1861, son of George and Susanna (Longman) Suman. George Suman was born in Frederick County, Maryland, December 11, 1822, and died July 28, 1893. He married in his native county October 13, 1842, Miss Susanna Longman, who was born in the same locality. In 1853 they came west to Darke County, Ohio, and in the fall of 1886 moved to Indiana, locating near Portland. George Suman and wife became the parents of fourteen children, nine sons and five daughters: Jacob, deceased; Catherine, wife of Jacob Whittaker; Jane, wife of William Reichard; Susan, who died at the age of two years; Emanuel and Josiah, twins, both still living, the former at Portland, Indiana, and the latter at North English, Iowa; George, Jr., who is a graduate of the Northern Indiana University at Valparaiso in both the scientific and classical courses and is now a resident of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Wesley of Chicago; Isaiah and David, both deceased; O. J.; Martha, wife of Charles Brown, both deceased; Florence, widow of Lyman Allen of Kansas City, Kansas; and Dawson of Decatur.

Mr. O. J. Suman grew up on the farm and had only the advantages of the common schools to fit him for his career. He lived at home until twenty-one and on March 27, 1883, married Miss Drusilla Brown. Mrs. Suman was born in Miami County, Ohio, November 21, 1865, daughter of L. D. and Phoebe (Hayworth) Brown. Her father was born in Miami County, October 8, 1839, and married Phoebe Hayworth on October 11, 1857. They settled on a farm in Miami County, but in 1878 moved to Darke County and from there in 1900 came to Pleasant Mills in Adams County, Indiana. L. D. Brown is still a resident of Pleasant Mills and is in the grocery business. For forty years he was a minister of the New Light Church. Politically he is a democrat. Of the eight children born to L. D. Brown and wife three are still living: Mrs. Drusilla Suman; Ollie, wife of George Mann of Darke County; and Ora A., who married Verne Watson of Forty

Wayne, Indiana. Drusilla Brown grew up in Darke County, was educated in the public schools and married there. In 1888 Mr. and Mrs. Suman moved from Darke County to Adams County, Indiana, and has since lived in section 29 of St. Mary's Township. Mr. Suman has a forty-acre farm and is also one of the leading citizens of St. Mary's Township. He was elected and served six years as township trustee.

Mr. and Mrs. Suman had only one child, a daughter, who died February 24, 1892. Without children of their own they have made their home a refuge for a number of young people and in the kindness of their hearts have reared and adopted three children, and at different times have had altogether eleven children under their care and direction. Their three adopted children were named Harry, Zona and Mary Suman, all of whom are graduated from the common schools. Harry Suman married Bessie Drummond of Decatur; Zona became the wife of Floyd Acker of Decatur; and Mary is the wife of Russell Wells of Blue Creek Township. Mr. Suman is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias Lodge at Decatur and in politics is a republican.