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JOHN C. COWEN was born in St. Mary's Township, Adams County, Indiana, January 6, 1853, a son of Stephen R. and Elizabeth (Miller) Cowen, the father born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in August, 1810, and the mother a native of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, born February 10, 1820. The parents were married in Wayne County, Ohio; about 1837, and to them were born the following children - Hugh Quimby, Ezra H., James W., John C. (our subject), Eddie M., Barton W., Eunice, Mary E. and Lucy C. The parents of our subject came with their family to Adams County, Indiana, in 1840; the grandfather Cowen and wife coming at the same time, and located on farms which were entirely unimproved, but they went to work with the same determined will that characterized the people of that early day, and by patient toil and persevering energy they cleared the forest, and brought their land under fine cultivation. The old log cabin in which the grandparents lived till their death was left standing till within the last few years. The father began life in this county in a rude log cabin with puncheon floor and stick and clay chimney, but after a few years this humble cabin was replaced by a hewed-log house. The father was one of the pioneer school-teachers of Adams County, and was a prominent and respected citizen. He died in St. Mary's Township, October 13, 1872. His parents, John and Edith (Rogers) Cowen, were natives of Ireland, but settled in America in an early day. Mrs. Cowen, the mother of our subject, was a daughter of Jacob and Rebecca (Grimm) Miller, and is of English origin. She is still living at the age of sixty-seven years. She is an earnest member of the Christian church. Mr. Cowen was also a member of the same church until his death. Two of their sons, Hugh Quimby and Ezra H., were soldiers in the war of the Rebellion, both being members of the Eighty-ninth Indiana Infantry, the former being Color Bearer. Hugh was killed at the engagement at Fort Blakely, Alabama, April 9, 1865, and Ezra was captured by the Confederate General Bragg, at Munfordville, Kentucky, but soon after returned to active service, and received an honorable discharge at the close of the war. John C Cowen, whose name heads this sketch, was reared in his native county, where he received a fair common school education, and for ten years he has followed the teacher's profession. He was united in marriage to Miss Amy Daily, who was born March 19, 1851, a daughter of James and Mary (Johnson) Daily. To them have been born four children - James C., born December 28, 1878; Hugh Earl, born April 16, 1880; Harry Blaine, born May 22, 1885, and Wilma Myrtle, born February 22, 1876. Mr. Cowen and his family are comfortably situated on a fine farm of 160 acres lying one mile from the village of Pleasant Mills. He is a thorough, practical farmer, and has 147 acres of his land under excellent cultivation. He is one of the proprietors of the Pleasant Mills Flouring Mills, which in an early day was the largest mill in the Northwest. He is at present serving his second term of township trustee, which office he fills to the satisfaction of his constituents. James Daily, the father of Mrs. Cowen, was born in Virginia in 1815. His parents subsequently settled in Meigs County, Ohio, where they died. Mr. Daily was married in 1840 to Mary Johnson, who was born in Harrison

County, Ohio, in 1822, and to them were born five sons and seven daughters - Nimrod, Davis, Joseph, Isaiah, James, Mary, Amy, Emily, Maggie, Samantha, Rebecca and Almina, the last two being deceased. Mrs. Cowen's grandfather, Joseph Johnson, was an early settler of Ohio, and helped to lay out the town of Van Wert in that State. Her mother was a devout member of the Baptist church, and also held a membership in the grange. Three of her brothers and three sisters followed the teacher's profession. Mr. Daily immigrated from Ohio to Adams County, Indiana, and settled on an eighty acre tract in St. Mary's Township which he had previously purchased, paying for the same by chopping wood. Before his marriage he had made a trip to Washington Township and entered 160 acres of land, but having found that milk sickness was very prevalent in that township he abandoned the idea of making his home there, so on coming to the county he settled in St. Mary's Township, as before mentioned. By untiring industry and good management he added to his eighty acres until he had 640 acres, which he improved and brought under fine cultivation, making his farm one of the best to be found in the township, where he was an honored and respected citizen.