

CHRISTIAN BURGHALTER, one of the prosperous agriculturists of Wabash Township, residing on section 19, is a native of Switzerland, born February 5, 1833, a son of Christian and Emily (Wurst) Burghalter. His parents immigrated with their family to America in 1852, first settling in Wayne County, Ohio. They subsequently came to Adams County, Indiana and resided on the farm of our subject till their death, the father dying in May, 1872, and the mother in April, 1875. Both were worthy members of the German Reformed church. They were the parents of four children, two of whom are living.

Christian Burghalter, whose name heads this sketch, was reared and educated in his native country, coming to America when about nineteen years of age. He served an apprenticeship of two and a half years at the carpenter's trade, which he followed till he came to Adams County, in October, 1859. He was united in marriage July 5, 1858, to Miss Mary Hartman, a native of Wayne County, Ohio, born November 30, 1835, and to them have been born eight children - Emma, born May 29, 1859; Emily L., December 19, 1860; Mary A., March 31, 1862; Elias, born July 20, 1865, died February 4, 1869; Daniel, born October 16, 1867; Sarah A. April 5, 1870; Lydia, September 14, 1873, died in February, 1874, and Ida M., born July 27, 1875.

On coming to Adams County, Mr. Burghalter settled on eighty acres of his present farm, which he had previously purchased living in the log cabin, 18 x 20 feet in size, which was on his land until his present fine brick residence was completed in the summer of 1883. Mr. Burghalter sawed the lumber and burned the brick for his house, which was built at a cost of about \$2,500. His out-buildings are large and commodious, and all have been painted, presenting an attractive appearance. He has one barn 36 x 60 feet in size, and another, built in 1881, 45 x 100 feet. He commenced life for himself with but little means, and his success in life is due to his own exertions, his fine farm, which now consists of 404 acres, having been acquired by years of hard work and persevering energy. In connection with his general farming he devotes considerable attention to stock-raising, and was one of the first in his neighborhood to engage in the raising of blooded stock, commencing with short-horn cattle. He is now making a specialty of Holstein cattle. Mr. Burghalter takes an active interest in educational affairs, and is now educating his son, Daniel, who is at present attending a mission house at Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

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## CHRISTIAN BURGHALTER

Tales of the opportunities that awaited young men in the United States came to the ears of Christian Burghalter in his native village in Switzerland and he was inflamed with a desire to go to the new republic and make his fortune. He was born in the Swiss village February 5, 1833, and grew to manhood there. He had little money and was poor, but he made up in determination what he lacked in wealth. He succeeded in borrowing enough money to pay his passage to this country and started out. When he landed in this country his funds were about exhausted, but he had sufficient money to carry him to the Swiss community of Wayne county, Ohio. He was a carpenter by trade and followed this employment in his early days in Ohio. Finally he acquired enough money to purchase some land and started as a farmer. His father and mother, Barnhardt and Emily (Worst) Burghalter, came to this country in 1852.

In the year 1859, Christian Burghalter was married. He chose for his wife Mary Hartman, a daughter of Michael Hartman, of Wayne county, Ohio. During the early days of her husband on his farm Mrs. Burghalter proved an able assistant and a faithful wife. The marriage has been blessed by eight children, six of whom are living. These children are: Emma, Amanda, Millie, Daniel, Sarah and Ida. Eli and Leda E. are dead.

As a farmer Mr. Burghalter has been a successful and progressive man. His original place was not large and was uninviting. However, he cleared it and got it under cultivation and he made his farming profitable. He added from time to time improvements and fenced his place. He laid tiling and ditched the land where draining was necessary and he erected suitable buildings. He was engaged in cheese making for four years, but he devoted the greater portion of his time and energies to his farm work and to the cultivation of the soil. He added other tracts to his original purchase and now owns four hundred acres of good land, three hundred of which are under cultivation. He finds profit in raising stock for the market and has a number of fine Holsteins and some excellent Poland China and Duroc hogs on his place. He employs modern methods in administering the affairs and business of his estate, and in other ways demonstrates the fact that he is a thoroughly wide-awake man. Some years ago he erected a fine brick residence and a large barn. These buildings are among the best and finest in the county. His prosperity today is in strange contrast with his needy condition when he came to Indiana. He delights in telling of his early days and of the time when he hauled his produce forty-eight miles to find a market for it in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Burghalter is a public-spirited man. He takes a keen interest in all matters pertaining to the betterment of the community and has been active in many movements looking toward this end. He is an advocate of good roads and was instrumental in securing the construction of some of the present county pikes. In politics he is a

Democrat, but he is not an aggressive partisan. He has not aspired to public office, but served a number of years as a supervisor. He is a member of the Reformed church and gives [his denomination his support. He and his family are highly esteemed by all who know them, and his home is one of the centers of social interest and activity of the district in which it is situated.

**Snow's History of Adams County, Indiana, John Fletcher Snow, B. F. Bowen, Indianapolis, IN, 1907, (image 565)**