

## JACOB RICHARD GRABER.

There is, in all probability, no man among the residents of Adams county who can lay any claim more justly for consideration at the hands of his fellow residents of the county than can J. R. Graber. He is a man and citizen who has been before his fellows for many years in public capacities and has won admiration and esteem for his fearlessness of purpose and his honesty of life. He was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, January 6, 1849. He is a son of Jacob R. and Hannah (Richard) Graber. His father was born in France in 1818 and came to the United States with his parents when nine years of age. His parents settled for a time in New York and then removed to Lancaster county. The grandfather of the subject of this sketch was Daniel Graber, who lived in France and who died there when a comparatively young man. His grandfather on his mother's side was Jacob Richard, of Wittenberg-Stukard, Germany. He was a millwright by trade and lived to the unusual age of one hundred and three. His wife was more remarkable as an example of longevity. She lived until she was one hundred and seven years old. His mother's family came to this country in 1800 and settled in Pennsylvania. Later they removed to Stark county, Ohio. When the subject of this sketch was nine years of age his parents left Pennsylvania and removed to Indiana. They settled on a farm bordering the St. Joe river eleven miles north of the present site of the city of Fort Wayne. They secured their land in 1858 and improved it as the years passed. His father followed farming and was a successful man. He was a devout member of the Mennonite church and was a preacher of this denomination for forty-eight years.

J. R. Graber spent his boyhood on his father's farm in Allen county. He received as good an education as was possible in the country schools of the period. He learned the lessons of a farmer's life on his father's homestead and became in time a successful and resourceful tiller of the soil. In 1871 he purchased a tract of land in French township, Adams county, and commenced to till the soil on his own responsibility. He improved his land and under his efficient direction and able management it became one of the finest estates in the county. He improved it and erected suitable and commodious buildings. He lived on this tract until he was selected to manage and conduct the county poor farm. This place he took charge of December 8, 1895. The Adams county poor farm is a large tract containing two hundred and seventy acres. When Mr. Graber became superintendent of the farm he set to work to make it a model establishment of its kind in the state. The building of the house or infirmary cost thirty-three thousand and sixty-six dollars, but is worth much more than this today. Under the able management of Mr. Graber the county farm has been materially improved. He has devoted all of his time and attention to his work and has discharged his obligations to the citizens of Adams county with intelligence and to their entire satisfaction.

The marriage of Mr. Graber and Miss Lydia Schlather was solemnized in 1871. On September 10th of that year he purchased his farm containing one hundred and twenty-

two and one-half acres situated in French township. His wife is a daughter of Joseph and Lizzie (Augsburger) Schlather. Her father was born in France and came as a youth to this country. He first lived in Pennsylvania and later removed to Ohio. He came among the earlier settlers to Indiana. Mrs. Graber was born in Adams county, January 7, 1849. Five children have come to bless this union: Joseph, living in French township; Lucy, the wife of Ephraim Hirschy, a farmer of Beaver county, Oklahoma; Albert, connected with the Schaffer Hardware Company of Decatur, and who taught school for five years before his marriage; Lizzie and John H., both at home with their parents. The mother of Mr. Graber is still living in excellent health in Daviess county, Indiana.

Mr. Graber is in all sense a successful man. He has earned what he has of the world's goods by his own efforts and can look back on a career full of benefit to his fellow men with satisfaction. He is highly esteemed and whether as a citizen or as an official he has always lived an exemplary life. He and his wife are esteemed members of the Mennonite church and contribute generously and heartily to the aims and objectives of this denomination.

**Snow's History of Adams County, Indiana, John Fletcher Snow, B. F. Bowen, Indianapolis, IN, 1907, p. 418 (image 855).**