

Chris Stengel is one of the successful business men and most highly respected citizens of Berne. Comparatively speaking, he is a newcomer to his home city and Adams county, but in the years he has been located in Berne he has firmly established himself. He was born in Dannenfels, Rheinphalz , Germany , December 13, 1865. His parents, Henry and Catherine Stengel, were natives of the fatherland and lived in their native village until their deaths. Their son lived with them during his childhood and early manhood and acquired a substantial education in the schools of his village. When he was about twenty-two years of age he was impressed with the greater opportunities offered in the American republic to young men. This thought took firm hold of him and in the end he decided to forsake his fatherland and embark on a venture across the Atlantic. Accordingly, in 1887, he sailed for New York, which city he reached without incident. His first few months in this country were spent in the Atlantic seaboard metropolis. Then he considered that he would still better his fortunes by going westward. This he did, and established himself in Ashland county, Ohio. He lived in Ohio for the succeeding two and one-half years and then came to Indiana. He came directly to the Adams county village of Berne, where he entered the drug business with Mr. J. F. Lachot, who was already established. He continued in the partnership arrangement with Mr. Lachot until 1892, when he severed his connection with him and formed a partnership with James S. Craig. The new firm became known as Stengel & Craig, and in 1894 James S. Craig sold his interest to his son, John W. Craig, and this firm has since conducted the business.

In 1891 Mr. Stengel was married to Miss Millie E. Craig, a daughter of James S. Craig, his first associate in business. As a result of this marriage three children have come to brighten the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stengel. These children are: Auleta, Ernest and Charlotte.

From the inception of his present business venture it has proven highly successful. The store is one of the largest and best equipped in the county and carries between five thousand and six thousand dollars' worth of stock. Mr. Stengel is an able and enterprising business man and the firm's business continues to prosper. He takes a live interest in the affairs of his county and as a Democrat has served his fellow citizens in public offices. He served as a member of the town board for two years and has been city clerk for seven years, his term beginning in 1901. He is an earnest member of the German Reformed church and with the members of his family contributes to the aims and ambitions of this denomination.

Snow's History of Adams County, Indiana, John Fletcher Snow, B. F. Bowen, Indianapolis, IN, 1907, (image 479)