

SAMUEL FETTERS, farmer, Jefferson Township, was born in Stark County, Ohio, May 24, 1847, a son of John W. and Elizabeth (Gross) Fetters. In his third year he was brought by his parents to Adams County, Indiana, where he was reared to manhood on the home farm in Jefferson Township. March 23, 1865, he enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Indiana Infantry, and was discharged at Dover, Delaware, August 24, 1865, when he returned to his home in Adams County. He was united in marriage July 30, 1871, to Miss Lavina Woodward, who was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, March 3, 1855, a daughter of William and Lucinda (Rash) Woodward, who were also natives of the same State. They came to Adams County, Indiana, in 1863, where the father still lives. The mother died in Jefferson Township in February, 1877. They had a family of eleven children, six sons and five daughters. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Fetters - Frank R., Charles M., James F., Harry H. and Emma C. Mr. Fetters has always followed agricultural pursuits, and is a thorough, practical farmer. He settled on his present farm in the fall of 1874, which contains eighty acres of choice land under a fine state of cultivation. In politics Mr. Fetters is a Democrat. He has served eight years as justice of the peace and is now serving his first term as township trustee, having been elected to that office in the spring of 1886. He is a comrade of John P. Porter Post, No. 83, G. A. R. John W. Fetter, the father of our subject, was a native of Stark County, Ohio, born March 14, 1818, a son of Philip Fetters, who was born in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, of German descent, and died in Ohio. John W. Fetters grew to manhood in Stark County, and was there married, in 1840, to Elizabeth Gross, a native of New York City, her parents being natives of Germany. To this union were born seven children, four sons and three daughters. The parents were members of the Lutheran church. The father exchanged eighty acres of land in Stark County for three eighty acre tracts in Adams County, Indiana, locating here in the fall of 1849, and made his home on section 21, Jefferson Township, till his death. He was very successful in his farming operations, and added to his land till he had almost 400 acres. In politics he was a staunch Democrat. He took an active interest in public affairs, and held the office of justice of the peace for a period of twenty-four years, and also served as township clerk during the old township organization, and was a prominent citizen.

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SAMUEL FETTERS.

Samuel Feters, the subject of this sketch, was born in Stark county, Ohio, May 30, 1847, and is of French and German parentage. He emigrated to Indiana and settled on a hundred-and-sixty-acre tract of land in section 21, Jefferson township, Adams county. At that time the country was new and undeveloped, being full of wild game of many kinds. During the winters of 1852 and 1853 he attended his first term of school in a school house situated in the southeast corner of section 28, in Jefferson township, known as the Kinney settlement. The house was built of logs and had a large fireplace at one end and a clapboard roof, which was held in place by weight poles; it had a puncheon floor and benches made of split logs, dressed on one side, with poles for legs. Mr. Feters attended a short winter term of school each year until 1863, when he volunteered as a Union soldier and was assigned to Company E, One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Indiana Regiment Volunteer Infantry. His company was a part of the Ninth Army Corps, third division Army of the Potomac, whose commander was William T. Sherman. The subject had two brothers in the service - Philip Feters, who enlisted in the Eleventh Indiana Battery, at Fort Wayne, known as the "Sundamester" Battery, and at the battle of Chickamauga was wounded and received his discharge in 1864, and William Feters, who enlisted in the Eighty-ninth Indiana Regiment, Company K, which was recruited in Adams county. He was captured at Munfordsville, Kentucky, and paroled, subsequently dying of measles in 1865.

At the close of the war in 1865 Samuel Feters returned to the home farm, which he rented, and on which he labored for several years at chopping wood, making rails and clearing the land of the heavy timber, which was everywhere to be seen. In the fall of 1872 he built a log cabin on the eighty-acre tract he now owns and has since resided there. In 1875 he was elected justice of the peace of the township and so satisfactory did he discharge the duties of this office that he was re-elected for a second term. In 1886 he was nominated by the Democratic party of his township as candidate for township trustee and was elected by a good majority. At the expiration of his term he was re-elected and was considered a man well deserving of the honor bestowed upon him. Mr. Feters' period of office as township trustee marked several important office he was re-elected. During his service as county commissioner he was always careful of the people's money, being certain that it was properly expended and accounted for by those to whom it was intrusted. He was always foremost in the improvement and construction of turnpikes and gravel roads, many miles of which were built during his term of office. In 1899 he was chosen justice of the peace, which office he is now filling with much credit to his constituents. Mr. Feters is perhaps the heaviest man in Adams county today, weighing three hundred and forty pounds.

On July 30, 1871, the subject was united in marriage with Miss Lavina C. Woodward, who was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, on March 3, 1854, and came with her parents to Adams county in 1863. To this union have been born seven children, two of whom are deceased. The five living are named as follows: Frank R., Charles M., James S., Emma C. and Grover E., all of whom reside in Indiana .

Snow's History of Adams County, Indiana, John Fletcher Snow, B. F. Bowen, Indianapolis, IN, 1907, p. 449 (image 917).