

JONATHAN BOWER, one of the substantial farmers of Kirkland Township residing on section 10, is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Berks County February 12, 1827, a son of Simon and Ann (Ramei) Bower, who were also natives of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. They subsequently immigrated to Fairfield County, Ohio, where they followed agricultural pursuits till death. Both were members of the Lutheran church. Their family consisted of fourteen children, four sons and ten daughters.

Jonathan Bower, the subject of this sketch, was reared to the avocation of a farmer, which he had made his life-work. He remained on the home farm till his marriage, January 13, 1850, to Lydia Spade, a native of Pickaway County, Ohio, born December 23, 1831. Her parents, Henry and Rosanna (Alsough) Spade, were natives of Pennsylvania and Fairfield County, Ohio, respectively, the father born in 1800 and the mother in 1807, both being of German origin. In his religious faith the father was a Lutheran, the mother being a member of the German Reformed church. The father was a farmer all his life. He died in April, 1842. He was twice married, having one child by his first marriage. His second wife was Rosanna Alsough, a sister of his first wife, and to this marriage were born eight children, three sons and five daughters. Mrs. Spade is also deceased, her death taking place April 6, 1885.

Mr. and Mrs. Bower have had twelve children born to them - Henry T., Mary A. (deceased), Margaret E. (deceased), Sarah J. (deceased), Laura A., Rosanna, Simon J., Josephine I., Charles W. (deceased), Emma E., Hattie B. (deceased) and George B. After his marriage Mr. Bower engaged in farming for himself. In 1861 he came to Adams County and located on the farm where he now resides, he having purchased the land five years before coming to the county. His farm was then heavily covered with timber, and his first residence in the county was built of logs, as well as his farm buildings. He now has 160 acres of fine land, seventy acres under cultivation, a comfortable and commodious residence, and good out-buildings for the accommodation of his stock. Mr. and Mrs. Bower are members of the Lutheran church. In politics Mr. Bower is a Democrat, and takes an active interest in the politics of his county. He has held the office of assessor, and was township trustee almost five years.

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