

DANIEL WELDY.

In a time that is now recalled and remembered by few men living in Adams county today Daniel Weldy began life in the northeastern part of Indiana. He lives in the same section of the state today, and as he looks back over the flight of years he sees remarkable changes and in each can point to the work he has accomplished in developing his county and community. He is one of the remarkable characters of his section of the state. He is essentially a product of pioneer days. His personality is rugged and wholesome, and his part in life has been played with fearlessness and honesty. He is one of three survivors of a family of twelve children born to his parents. His birth occurred in Fairfield county, Ohio, on October 3. 1822. His parents were Peter and Susanna (Huddle) Weldy. His father was a native of Pennsylvania and his mother of Virginia. His father was a farmer who braved the Ohio wilderness in the days soon after the war for Independence and made a home in the trackless forests. He lived in the state of his adoption until his death in 1877.

Daniel Weldy came to Adams county in 1845. He secured land in Kirkland township when that section of the county was in a wild state. The eighty acres of land he purchased was in the woods and the hand of man had done nothing to make them productive. However, Daniel faced his future without faltering. He hewed logs and built a rude cabin and began to clear the land. At the time wild game abounded in the forests, and many birds and animals fell prey to his unerring rifle. He was a keen sportsman and his skill as a hunter was one of the points of his younger years in the state. Once established in his new home he began to contribute his full share to the development of the county. He was an active, wide-awake man and knew what it meant to form a new country. The necessities of life were obtainable, but something more than the mere necessities were what the pioneer citizens had come for. Education was a necessity and he realized the great advantages that would come to future generations through this medium. As trustee of Kirkland township he erected the first log schoolhouse in that township and in his long and useful life he was foremost in promoting educational facilities. He served his fellow citizens of Adams county and of his own township in a number of public capacities. He was a trusted public servant. He was a trustee of Kirkland township for fifteen years, a justice of the peace in the same township for eleven years, a member of the county commissioners for six years and a supervisor for a long term. During his incumbency of these offices he built school houses, pikes, and in many other ways contributed substantially to the improvement and development of the county. During all of these years he continued to live on his original farm. In all he spent fifty-seven years on his farm, and brought it to the very

acme of fertility. He built comfortable and substantial buildings, drained the land thoroughly and has made of it one of the most valuable farms in the entire county.

Mr. Weldy was married to Miss Elizabeth Beery, a daughter of Joseph and Barbara (Miller) Beery. His wife's parents lived in Fairfield county, Ohio, and died there. Eleven children were bom to Mr. and Mrs. Weldy. These are: Christian, Seth. William, Barbara, Sarah, Mary, Abraham, Rachael, Ellen, Daniel and Eli. In 1900 Mr. Weldy moved to Decatur and built a fine home on First street, where he still resides. He was at one time one of the largest land owners in Adams county, possessing more than eight hundred acres, located in three townships. He sold this land later. As a farmer he was a successful man. He raised much valuable stock, making a specialty of Berkshire and Poland China hogs and general purpose horses. He has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for more than forty years, becoming a member of this fraternity in 1863.

Snow's History of Adams County, Indiana, John Fletcher Snow, B. F. Bowen, Indianapolis, IN, 1907, p. 264 (image 541)