

ELI MEYER.

Eli Meyer, the present sheriff of Adams county, is an example of what a man can accomplish through his own efforts by persistency and intelligence. He has risen to an important public office and can look back on a career in business that is wholly untarnished. He is of Swiss descent and possesses those qualities of heart and mind that make for success and are prominent characteristics of those venturesome immigrants from the little Alpine republic. He was born in French township, Adams county, March 8, 1869. He is a son of Abraham and Mary (Klopferstine) Meyer. His paternal grandfather was Peter Meyer, a native of a village near Berne, Switzerland, who came to America with his wife and family in 1835. He settled in French township when Abraham Meyer was but twelve years of age and followed the occupation of a farmer until his death. Abraham Meyer was reared in French township and married in Adams county. He is still living, but his wife died on the family estate in French township in May, 1888. Abraham Meyer continued to live on his French township farm after his wife's death until about the year 1903, when he removed to Decatur.

Of a family of eleven children, consisting of five sons and six daughters, born to Abraham and Mary Meyer, Eli Meyer was the youngest son and the tenth child in order of birth. He was reared on his father's farm and received a good English education in the common schools of his neighborhood. He lived with his father and assisted in the cultivation and management of the family estate until he was twenty-two years of age. He then decided to leave home and went to Vera Cruz, in Wells county, and engaged in the manufacture of hoops. He continued in this business in Vera Cruz for about three years and then sold out his interests in the hoop manufacturing business and went to Messick, Michigan, and engaged in the saw mill business. He remained in Michigan for the following two years and then returned to Adams county. After his return to Indiana he entered the mercantile business at Berne and operated a store for four years. At the expiration of this period he sold out his interests in Berne and removed to Decatur. He connected himself with a livery business after settling in Decatur and conducted this business for the next six years. Still another change was made, and after selling his interests in the livery business he entered the furniture and undertaking business in partnership with two other gentlemen. This firm conducts business in Decatur today and is known under the name of Ball, Meyer & Presdorf. After settling in Decatur Mr. Meyer began to take an active part in politics. He identified himself with the Democratic party of Adams county and became very active in its affairs. In 1906 he was the Democratic nominee for the office of sheriff of Adams county and in November of the same year was elected to the office by a comfortable majority. He is still serving in this capacity to the entire satisfaction of his party and his fellow residents of Adams county.

Mr. Meyer was married in Decatur January 1, 1895, to Miss Florence Wood. His wife is a daughter of Emanuel and Jane (Elzey) Wood. Both parents of Mrs. Meyer are natives of Ohio and settled in Adams county at early dates. Mrs. Meyer is the fourth child in order of birth of her parents' family, which consisted of seven children — two sons and five daughters. She was born on her father's place

March 28, 1864. She spent her girlhood in Decatur and was educated in the public schools of that place, graduating from the Decatur high school.

Mr. and Mrs. Meyer are the parents of three daughters: Gladys, Naomi and Helen. Both Mr. and Mrs. Meyer are numbered among the substantial people of their community. They are active in charitable movements and are consistent and worthy members of their church. Mr. Meyer is a member of the Knights of Pythias and Modern Woodmen. He is a man who is alive to the interests of his city and county and is found allied with the men who are working for the advancement of Decatur and Adams county's commercial, industrial and social advancement.