

WILLIAM MILLER.

William Miller, the subject of this sketch, was born October 10, 1837, in West Penn township, Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania. He is the son of Samuel and Polly (Zimmerman) Miller, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania. Samuel Miller was a carpenter and followed this trade in the east until 1859. In this latter year the Miller family removed from Pennsylvania and settled on a farm in Sandusky county, Ohio. After coming to Ohio Samuel Miller cultivated his farm until his death. He and his wife both lived to the advanced ages of seventy-eight. William Miller was one of a family of eleven children that were born to his parents. His early life was spent on his father's place in Pennsylvania. He received a good English education in the schools of West Penn township and learned the trade of carpentering. He was twenty-two years of age when his parents came to Ohio. He continued to live in Ohio until 1881, when he removed to Indiana and made his home in Decatur, Adams county.

After reaching Decatur he cast about for an investment for the money he had accumulated during his days in Pennsylvania and Ohio. There were numerous opportunities in Indiana and some were attractive propositions. However, decision was reached in the end, and he established a saw mill. At the day he settled in Adams county there was much standing timber in the county. This had to be cut before the land in some sections could be transformed into farms and be made productive for agricultural purposes. From this land and this standing timber he derived the logs that meant business for his mill. From the start of this enterprise it was a financial success and netted a handsome profit to its owner. Mr. Miller continued to run his saw mill and to operate his business in connection with it for about three years. He then disposed of his mill and business to P. W. Smith. He purchased a farm from William Reider consisting of one hundred and twenty-six acres, located in Washington township, and he has devoted his time and careful attention to its development and cultivation. He has one hundred and twelve acres of his tract under cultivation. From time to time he has added improvements to his place and has made of it one of the most profitable and attractive in the township. He has the land well drained and ditched, the fencing is substantial and modern and the buildings are well adapted to the purposes for which they were erected. His crops are large and are of a uniformly high quality. There are sixteen hundred rods of tile on the farm.

The marriage of Mr. Miller and Miss Wilhelmina Gnepper was solemnized in 1863. His wife is a daughter of Frantz and Matilda Wilhelmina (Albright) Gnepper. They were born in Germany and are counted among the old settlers of Adams county. They lived first in Fremont, Ohio, after coming to this country and finally settled in Adams county in 1859. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Miller. Of this number two sons survive: Lewis, living with his parents, and Fred E., a member of the educational department of Chicago. Mr. Miller is a progressive citizen and takes much interest in the affairs of his county and township. In politics he is a Democrat and an earnest worker for his party. He has been chosen commissioner twice and is serving his second term in this office at the present time. He is a successful farmer and one of the best known stock men of the county. He makes a specialty of Poland China swine and shorthorn cattle. He is a member of the Lutheran church and with his family contributes in a hearty manner to all the objects and enterprises of this congregation.