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ELI ZIMMERMAN, one of the prosperous and enterprising agriculturists of Washington Township, is a native of Adams County, Indiana, born October 23, 1842, a son of Eli and Polly Zimmerman, the father born near Harper's Ferry, Maryland, and the mother a native of Fayette County, Ohio. They were the parents of eight children, and of this number five are living - Nancy, Jane, Polly, Eli and Elizabeth. The father was one of the early pioneers of Washington Township, settling on section 2, where he entered a section of land on which he first erected a log cabin, and the first season raised four acres of corn. Year by year he, by persevering industry, cleared his land until 400 acres had been cleared and improved. He then removed to Decatur, settling on the St. Mary's River when there were but three log houses in Decatur, and here he made his home until his death, which occurred October 29, 1878, his wife dying March 24, 1871. In his death Adams County lost one of her oldest pioneers and a most respected citizen. He had, like all pioneers, to undergo many hardships and privations, but he lived to enjoy the fruits of his years of toil, and by his honorable dealings and strict integrity he gained the confidence of the entire community. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity. In his religious faith he was a Presbyterian.

Eli Zimmerman, whose name heads this sketch, was reared amid pioneer scenes on his father's farm in Washington Township. His educational advantages were very limited, his youth being spent in working on the farm. As a farmer he has met with excellent success, having accumulated his present fine property in Washington Township, which consists of about 935 acres of choice land. January 7, 1867, he was united in marriage to Miss Melinda Drayer, a native of Pennsylvania. Of the three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman two are living - Isaac W. and George W. In his political affiliations Mr. Zimmerman is a Democrat.