

SYLVESTER C. TINKHAM.

Sylvester C. Tinkham is a native of Adams county and was born in Blue Creek township, July 12, 1858. He is a son of Dennison and Margaret (Scoles) Tinkham. His father was born in Vermont and came to Ohio with his parents and located near Columbus. His father was a farmer. Mary Tinkham was the daughter of early settlers in Ohio and was born in Knox county. After his marriage in Ohio Dennison Tinkham removed to Indiana with his wife. He settled in Adams county in 1834. The county was almost all wild land at this time and game and Indians were common. The elder Tinkham shot deer, wolves and bears on the site of his present property. The nearest trading point was Fort Wayne, and Dennison Tinkham hauled his produce to this city to find a market. In time he succeeded in clearing his farm and in making it one of the best and most valuable in Blue Creek township. His wife is since dead, but he is still living in Blue Creek township at the advanced age of ninety-three years. Mr. and Mrs. Dennison Tinkham became the parents of ten children, seven of whom are still living. These children are: J. W., Lorenzo, William, Francis, Sylvester C, Rebecca and Elizabeth.

The youth of the subject of this sketch was spent on his father's farm in Blue Creek township. He attended the sessions of the rude schools of the neighborhood and secured as complete an education as was possible under the circumstances. He was an industrious youth and a dutiful son. He learned the wholesome lessons to be learned on a farm and applied these lessons to his profit in his after life. He lived on his father's farm and assisted in its cultivation until he grew to manhood.

Mr. Tinkham was married in 1894 to Miss Phoebe Murray. His wife is a native of Adams county and a daughter of Horatio Murray, who was among the oldest settlers in the northeastern section of Indiana. Her parents lived in St. Mary's township for many years, where they followed the occupation of farming, and then removed to Decatur. Mr. and Mrs. Tinkham are the parents of three children. The eldest of this family, Floyd, died some years ago. Alta G. and Dewitt are still living at home with their parents.

The present farm owned and occupied by Mr. Tinkham is a fine tract of one hundred and fifty-seven acres. He came into possession of it about thirteen years ago and has resided on it continuously since. Of the total acreage one hundred and thirty acres are under cultivation. The land is exceedingly fertile and it has been improved until it is a valuable and profitable property. The land is well drained and substantially fenced and the buildings are attractive and comfortable. A general farming business is carried on by Mr. Tinkham and he raises some good breeds of swine. Mr. Tinkham is a man of much public spirit. He takes a live and intelligent interest in all matters affecting the prosperity and welfare of his home township and is a leader in movements for the advancement of the commercial and industrial growth of the county. He is not affiliated with any fraternal body, but with his wife is an ardent and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is active in the work of this church and contributes generously to its support.