

EZRA E. ZIMMERMAN.

Among the men of Adams county who are gaining reputations as breeders of fine stock that of Ezra E. Zimmerman takes a prominent place. He is making a success of this business and combines it profitably with the regular business of farming. He was born in Kirkland township, Adams county, March 23, 1864. His father was Peter Zimmerman, a native of Berks county, Pennsylvania, where he was born in 1836, and his mother was a native of Adams county. As early as 1856 his father came to Adams county and purchased eighty acres of land in Kirkland township. At other times he added to this original purchase until he owned a total of two hundred acres. When purchased almost all of this land was in a wild state and had to be cleared before it could be cultivated. Some time after he reached Adams county he followed his trade of carpentering, varying this work with that of clearing his homestead. In time he had his land cleared and under a good stage of cultivation. He died in 1880, leaving a widow and eight children, of whom Ezra was the eldest. Upon the death of his father much of the responsibilities and operation of the farm fell to this young man. He discharged his obligations faithfully and well, and added many improvements to the place that had not been made during his father's life

When he was twenty-two years of age he decided to branch out for himself. In the fall of the year in which he reached this decision he married Miss Eliza Pierce, a daughter of Reuben and Elizabeth (Showalter) Pierce. His wife's father came to Indiana from New Hampshire by the way of Virginia. He was born in New Hampshire in 1821 and he married in West Virginia Miss Showalter, who was born in 1824. After marriage they moved to Curryville, Indiana, in 1879, where Mr. Pierce was engaged in the mercantile business and in addition operated a saw mill. His death occurred in 1903 and that of his wife in 1900.

The farm that was purchased by Ezra Zimmerman in 1886 was unimproved and covered with heavy timber. He began clearing the land and after some time succeeded in bringing his land under cultivation and removing all of the timber that encumbered it. He fenced his land and drained and ditched it. He erected a comfortable and attractive residence and other buildings and made of the farm one of the neatest and most productive places in the county. To his energy and ingenuity all of his success is directly attributable. What he has accomplished and gained in the matter of the world's wealth he gained through his own unaided efforts and made his competency through excellent management and foresight.

As noted above throughout his career as a farmer he has been an admirer of fine stock. In line with this fancy he has added the raising of stock to his work as a farmer. During the last eight years he has been a feeder of cattle and hogs for the market and his products demand the top price wherever they are exposed for sale. His annual shipments are about three to five cars. In connection with the stock-raising business on

his own estate he owns another farm in the county in partnership with his brother. On this farm the brothers are feeding and shipping stock for the market.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman. These are: James R. and Charles F. James, although but eighteen years of age, has taught two terms in the county schools and is a fine, ambitious youth. Mr. Zimmerman is one of the progressive men of his district. He takes an active part in the advancement of his county and is considered one of the substantial men of the community in which he lives. He votes the Democratic ticket, but is not an aggressive politician, discharging his duties as a citizen, but taking no active part in the work of his political fellows. He and his wife are members of the German Baptist church and are active in the affairs and interests of this denomination. Both are among the most highly esteemed people of the county.

Snow's History of Adams County, Indiana, John Fletcher Snow, B. F. Bowen, Indianapolis, IN, 1907, p. 425 (image 869).