

SOMMER, CHARLES C.

Charles C. SOMMER, a well-known farmer and landowner of Jay county and proprietor of a well-kept farm in Madison township, where he makes his home, was born in that township and has lived there all his life. Mr. SOMMER was born on February 26, 1879, and is a son of David and Nancy (OEHLER) SOMMER, the latter of whom was born in Ohio. David SOMMER was born in Germany and was but a child when he came with his parents to America, the family locating at Marion, Ohio, whence, not long afterward, they came over into Indiana and settled on an eighty acre farm in Madison township, this county. On that farm David SOMMER grew to manhood and after his marriage became a farmer on his own account, continuing to make his home in Madison township. He and his wife were the parents of three children, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, Thomas E. and Obe A. SOMMER.

Reared in Madison township, Charles A. SOMMER received his schooling in Lockout school (district No. 3). From the age of nine years he practically had to "look out for himself" and thus early began to work in the neighborhood as a farm hand. He married before he was twenty-one and not long thereafter began to farm for himself, renting a farm. A year or two later he bought a farm of thirty-three acres in Madison township, but about eighteen months later sold that place and again began renting. A year later, however, he bought another tract of forty acres in Madison township and on that place made his home for nine years, or until 1915, in which year he sold it and then bought the place on which he is now living in the vicinity of Salamonia. Mr. SOMMER has a well-kept farm of ninety-eight acres, on which he has made numerous modern improvements since taking possession, now having an excellent farm plant. He is a Republican, is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Salamonia and he and his wife are members of the Reformed church in that village.

On December 28, 1899, Charles A. SOMMER was united in marriage to Ella E. THEURER, who also was born in this county, and to this union have been born six children, namely: Howard A., who is attending the Harrison Law School at Indianapolis; Earl E., who is assisting his father in the operation of the home farm; Clarence A., a student in the Portland high school, and Alva A., Ivan A. and Arlie V., who are attending the Salamonia schools. Mrs. SOMMER was born in Noble township and her schooling was received in the Sycamore Fork; school (district No. 8). She is a daughter of Jacob P. and Christena (GRILE) THEURER, the latter of whom was born at Marion, Ohio, but was reared in Jay county, her parents having moved here when she was a child. Jacob P. THEURER was born in Noble township, this county, a member of one of the pioneer families there, and he became a substantial farmer and landowner in that township. He and his wife were the parents of six children, all of whom are living save Frederick and Emanuel, Mrs. SOMMER having three sisters, Mary, Harriet and Augusta.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.153-154. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.