

ABSALOM FUNK was born near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, February 12, 1829, and died at his home in Lancaster Township July 9, 1875. During his residence in Wells County he was one of its most progressive farmers, and an active and public-spirited citizen. He came to Wells County in November, 1866, bringing his family from Wayne County, Ohio. He had quite a capital, and bought a tract of 320 acres of land in Liberty Township, which was almost entirely unimproved, only seven acres being cleared and a log cabin built. This was the first cabin erected in the neighborhood. He lived on his land in Liberty Township six and a half years, and during this time he built a good house and a sawmill, which he successfully operated, clearing and improving about forty acres of his land. In the spring of 1874 he traded his land to James Russell for the homestead on section 34, Lancaster Township, where his widow and part of his family still reside, and there erected one of the finest farm residences in Lancaster Township in 1874, and here he lived till his death. He left 201 acres—one of the finest properties in Wells County. Mr. Funk was a son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Funk, who in 1831 moved to Wayne County, Ohio, the mother dying in that county. The father died at the home of our subject in Liberty Township. Absalom Funk was reared to agricultural pursuits, and made that the avocation of his life. January 8, 1852, he married Miss Ann Margaret Bower, who was born in Stark County, Ohio, December 2, 1825, a daughter of Jacob and Mary Bower, natives of Maryland and Pennsylvania respectively, both of whom were reared in Ohio, and are now living in Wayne County, that State. Mr. and Mrs. Funk made their home in Wayne County, Ohio, until coming to Wells County, and their eight children were born in Ohio, as follows—William Henry, who is married and lives on part of the old homestead, though owning a small farm near by; Mary Elizabeth, who died in Ohio, aged two months and twenty-seven days; Martin L., residing with his mother, and the chief manager of the estate; Benjamin F., living in Salina, Ohio; Jacob, of Rock Creek Township, is married; Susannah M., wife of Frank Garrett, of Liberty Township; John B., married and living in Liberty Township, and Rachel May. The family have added forty acres by purchase to the estate, and made valuable building improvements, having erected one of the largest and best arranged barns in the township. Mr. Funk was a member of the German Reformed church, having united with that church in 1854. Mrs. Funk has been a member of the same church since 1837.

