

DANIEL J. ORNER, a retired farmer of Pine township, Indiana county, was born near Gettysburg, Adams Co., Pa., Dec. 18, 1836, son of Daniel Orner, and grandson of Felix Orner.

Felix Orner, the American founder of the family, was born in Germany, but left his native land, and in company with his brother came to the United States on a sailing vessel. After landing he went direct to Adams county, Pa., and became one of the prosperous men of his locality, dying on the property he had secured. His children were: Jonas, Felix, David, George and Daniel.

Daniel Orner, son of Felix Orner, and father of Daniel j. Orner, was a native of Adams county, and farmed there for many years, but finally left Adams county with his brother George and located in Indiana county, buying a large tract of timberland in what was then Pine township. The brothers continued in partnership for some years, and then Daniel Orner bought another farm, cleared it, and conducted it until he went to Nebraska, where he spent three years with his daughters Phoebe and Nancy. Returning to Indiana county, he joined his son Daniel J. Orner at Strongstown, where he lived in retirement until his death, in his seventieth year, from cancer. He was laid to rest in the Strongstown cemetery.

Daniel Orner married Sarah Fohl, a daughter of George Fohl, and their children were: Sophia married George Holby, and both are now deceased; George A. died in the vicinity of Johnstown, Cambria Co., Pa.; Lucy, deceased, who married Finley Cameron, is buried in the Strongstown cemetery; Daniel J. is mentioned below. After the death of his first wife Daniel Orner married (second) Mrs. Eliza (Cameron) Neff, the widow of Jacob Neff. The children of this marriage were: Elizabeth, who married Stewart Campbell, resides at Morrelville, Cambria Co., Pa.; Phoebe married Scott Steffy and resides at David City, Nebr.; Nancy married a Mr. Volk and resides near David City, Nebr.; John P. married Susan Boring, and both are now deceased; Amos D. married Joan Bracken, and resides at Dubois, Pa.; Emanuel died in one of the Western States.

Daniel J. Orner was brought to Indiana county when twelve years old by his father, and completed his educational training here. Until he was eighteen years of age he assisted in the domestic lumbering and farming, and made shingles, both lap and joint, all of which were cut with a drawing knife. For the next seven years Mr. Orner worked among neighboring farmers, until he was able to buy fifty acres of land in Pine township. This he cleared of the timber, built a small house on it, and began farming for himself. Later he added to his holdings until he had acquired 130 acres. Until 1909 he continued to conduct his farm, but in that year retired, and has since been enjoying the fruits of his years of labor.

During the Civil war Mr. Orner was one of the men who gave material proof of patriotism by enlisting (joining from Indiana county Nov. 4, 1862), in Company K, 67<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, serving under Captain Reed and Clark and Col. J. F. Stanton. The regiment was assigned to the 3d Brigade, 3d Division, 3d Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, and participated in important battles and operations, being on guard duty along the Baltimore & Ohio railroad until February, 1863; in the operations about Winchester and the battle on June 15, 1863, when Mr. Orner had the misfortune to be captured by the enemy, and

was first imprisoned in a tobacco warehouse. He was then transferred to Belle Isle, for thirty-nine days, when he was exchanged. At the battles of the Wilderness, May 5, 1864, he was wounded by a gunshot in the right arm, and again captured May 6<sup>th</sup>, but escaped; took part in the battle of Franklin Station, June 11 and 12, 1864; Petersburg, June 15 to 30, 1864; Reams Station, June 23, 1864; Winchester, Sept. 19, 1864; Fisher's Hill, Sept. 22, 1864; Cedar Creek, Oct. 19, 1864; second battle of Petersburg, April 2, 1865, and the final scenes at Appomattox Court House, April 9, 1865. On June 9, 1865, Mr. Orner was promoted to corporal, and was honorably discharged July 14, 1865, having served his country for two years, eight months, ten days.

David J. Orner was married to Martha E. Rhoads, a daughter of William and Margaret (Lower) Rhoads, and they have become the parents of the following children: Sadie J. married William W. Cramer, and both are now deceased, she dying in Johnstown, Pa., but is buried in Strongstown; William Sylvester, who married Maude Stophel, is living on the old homestead; Maggie M. married Albert Whitmore, of Pittsburg; Henry Sheridan married Catherine Gillespie, of Strongstown; Laura Etta married Benjamin Duncan, of Vintondale; Daniel grant married Mary Olive Bracken, the daughter of Henderson Bracken, of Belsano, Cambria, Co., Pa.: Lizzie Morrell married John Duncan, of Vintondale, Cambria Co., Pa.; Martha belle married William g. bracken, of Buffington township; Tillie Roselle died at the age of eight years; Harvey Wilmer, an engineer on the Pennsylvania railroad, married Ella Bracken, and resides at Youngwood, Westmoreland Co., Pa.; Ira Bert, who is a fireman on the Pennsylvania railroad, married Olive Harman, and lives at Conemaugh, Cambria Co., Pennsylvania.

William Rhoads, father of Mrs. Daniel j. Orner, moved from Williamsburg, Huntingdon Co., Pa., to Indiana county when Mrs. Orner was only two years old, so she was practically reared in this county. Settling in Pine township, he became a prosperous farmer, and lived to be eighty-eight years old. He was interred at Strongstown, Pa. William roads married Margaret Lower, of Hollidaysburg, Blair Co., Pa., and their children were: George W., David H., Mary C., Daniel Alexander, R. R., Jesse M., William L., Samuel L., Sadie, Margaret, Jane and Mrs. D. J. Orner.

Mr. Orner is a republican in political faith, and gave his party efficient and valuable service as a school director in his district for a period extending over eighteen years. For six years of this time he was treasurer of the board. Upon many occasions he was a member of the election board, and served on juries thirteen times in the county court. In addition to all his other duties, Mr. Orner was an auctioneer from 1867 to 1910, and during that long time cried many sales. Formerly of the United Brethren faith, in 1909 he united with the Methodist Church at Strongstown and gives that body faithful service. Few men can look back over so full a life as Mr. Orner with so few regrets. He has never failed to do his full duty as he has seen it, and has proved himself a real man in every emergency which has arisen. Needless to say he is held in the highest regard by his associates and in the neighborhood where he has spent the greater portion of his life, and all of his mature years.