

ELMER E. DINGER, farmer and stockman of West Mahoning township, Indiana county, living on a tract of land which he has been cultivating for more than a quarter of a century, was born April 23, 1868, in Ringgold township, Jefferson Co., Pa., son of J. L. and Susan (Cuphenaber) Dinger.

Jacob Dinger, his paternal grandfather, was born in Germany, and was the first member of the family to come to the United States. He settled in Ringgold township, Jefferson Co., Pa., where he took up a tract of wild land, and spent the rest of his life in cultivating his property and making a home for his family. He was also one of the pioneer music teachers of that section, and in every walk of life was known as a man of the utmost integrity and probity of character. He was active in the work of the Evangelical Church, in which he reared his three sons and three daughters, whose names were as follows: David, deceased, was a resident of Knox township, Jefferson county; Angeline married Solomon Shafer, of Ringgold township; Elizabeth, deceased, married Amos Shafer, of the same township; John L, was the father of Elmer E. Dinger; Hannah married James Mercer, of Somerset county, Pa.; Jacob is operating the old homestead in Jefferson county.

John L. Dinger, son of Jacob Dinger, was born in Ringgold township, and received his education in the public schools of the vicinity of his birthplace. He remained on the old homestead until his marriage, at which time he purchased property adjoining the home place, a tract of uncultivated land. Mr. Dinger has continued to reside on this property, which he has developed from a wild state into one of the best farms of its size in the township, and although somewhat advanced in years he is still actively engaged in the vocation which he early chose as his life work. A Republican in politics, his career was such as to impress his fellow citizens with his integrity, and they demonstrated their confidence in his ability and honest character by making him supervisor, in which office he was retained for seventeen years, also serving as school director for eleven years. Reared in the faith of the Evangelical Church, he was ever active in its work, and reared his children to lead upright Christian lives. His wife passed away Aug. 18, 1900, the mother of four sons and one daughter: Elmer E, is mentioned below; George, deceased, who followed farming, stock dealing, auctioneering and merchandising in Indiana and Clarion counties, married Anna Saner, and had two sons, Melvin and Claire; John, who has been chief of police of Clarion, Pa., for the last nine years, married Susan Morrison, and has two sons, Irwin and Foster; Charles, a farmer, auctioneer and constable, of Rural Valley, Pa., married Bertha Brown, and has five children, Harry, Leanna, Walter, Virginia and Helen; Effie, of Rimersburg, Pa., is married and has one child, Bertha.

Elmer E. Dinger, son of John L. Dinger, was given the educational advantages offered by the rural schools in Jefferson county, and at the age of sixteen years left the parental roof and came to Indiana county, settling in West Mahoning township, where he secured employment with W. and N. C. Coleman, for whom he worked until they died. He was married Sept. 23, 1892, to Maria Coleman, daughter of Wesley and Martha (Haskell) Coleman, the former of

eastern Pennsylvania, the latter of Huntingdon county, this State, and granddaughter of Rev. Elijah Coleman, a Methodist Episcopal minister and early settler of Indiana county. His children were: Henry, who was a farmer of West Mahoning township Susan, who married Andrew Rankin, of Armstrong county, Pa.; Martha, who married John Lias, also of Armstrong county; Wesley; N. C., who made his home on the old place; Elizabeth, who married John Cochran; and Dorsey B., who married Margaret Poneius, of Johnstown, Pa. Mr. and Mrs. Dinger have had three children: Donald C., Raymond and Martha K., of whom Raymond is deceased.

Mr. Dinger has lived on his present property since 1886, and now has seventy-eight of his ninety-two acres under cultivation, with improvements being made very year. One of the most modern barns in this section was erected by him in 1902, and in 1905 his residence, a structure of architectural beauty and substantial material, was built. Mr. Dinger is to be congratulated for the quality and volume of his mixed crops, for which he has always received the highest prices in the markets. He has the ability, the foresight and the good judgment that make the ideal agriculturist and stockman, and his standing in Republican politics is equally high, as he has served as constable for eight years, as tax collector for a like period, and as school director for seven years. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and he and his family are well known in the Smicksburg congregation, Mr. Dinger being trustee and steward and a teacher in the Sunday school, and his wife being active in all religious and charitable work. He has interested himself in fraternal work, and is one of the most popular members of Smicksburg Lodge of Odd Fellows, with which he has been connected for the last eighteen years.