

MICHAEL HESS RISINGER, of North Homer, in Center township, contractor and builder and dealer in builders' supplies, head of the firm of M. H. Risinger & Son, is widely and favorably known in his part of Indiana county, where he has lived most of his life. He was born in Center township, near his present home, Oct. 30, 1853, son of John Risinger and grandson of Daniel Risinger. He is descended from Hans Nicklaus Risinger, the emigrant, through John Peter Risinger, John Henrich Risinger, Daniel Risinger and John Risinger. A full account of the earlier generations will be found elsewhere in this work.

Daniel Risinger, the grandfather, was born in York county, Pa., and coming west with his family to Indiana county settled in Brushvalley township, where he acquired land and followed farming. He was among the first settlers in his section, and spent the remainder of his life there, dying in the early fifties. He is buried in the Fry cemetery at Mechanicsburg. In religious connection he was a member of the Evangelical Association. He married Susanna Andrews, by whom he had four children: John; George, who settled in West Virginia; Jacob, a veteran of the Civil war, who died in Brushvalley; and a child that died young.

John Risinger, son of Daniel, was born on the family farm in Brushvalley township and there attended public school. He worked at home until he reached manhood, when he settled in Center township, on a tract of 136 acres which he improved notably, making a permanent home there. He followed general farming. He associated with the Republican party in politics, and though he did not aspire to office served as school director, displaying a public-spirited interest in the general welfare which proclaimed him a good citizen. In his religious views he was liberal. His wife, Mary (Hess), was born in York county, Pa., daughter of Michael Hess, and died on the farm Jan. 5, 1907, aged eighty four years. Mr. Risinger long preceded her, his death occurring April 3, 1871, on the farm. They are buried in Greenwood cemetery, at Indiana. Mrs. Risinger was a member of the M. E. Church. They were the parents of these children: Susanna, who married Edward Chesley and (second) Archibald Smitten, and is now a widow, residing in Indiana, Pa.; Elizabeth, who is married to Samuel Stewart, of Center township; Catherine, wife of Joseph C. Long, of Indiana, Pa.; Michael Hess; Daniel Endrews; Mary, wife of Thomas S. Phillips, of North Homer; and Nancy, married to James B Grover, of Homer City, Pennsylvania

Michael Hess Risinger, son of John, obtained his education in the public schools of Center township, where he grew to manhood on the home farm. He became familiar with farming as his father's assistant, and continued to work on the home place until he was twenty-eight years old, when he became engaged in the lumber business. Then he took a position as car inspector with the Cambria Iron & Steel Company, at Johnstown, Pa.; and subsequently commenced contracting and building on his own account, at Saltsburg, this county. He was located there for several years, until 1891, building the present M. E. Church edifice, and a number of other structures, public and private, his business growing steadily. He lost heavily by fire, however, while at Saltsburg. In 1891 he moved thence to North Homer, settling on part of the homestead, where he erected a fine brick residence, store and office, having his home and business headquarters there. He carried on contracting and building and deals in builders'

supplies, and is assisted by his son Paul, with whom he is associated under the firm name of M. H. Risinger & Son. Mr. Risinger has a reputation for thoroughness and reliability which creates a steady demand for his services and he has built up a profitable patronage, keeping abreast of the times and giving eminently good satisfaction to all who have had dealings with him. He is an energetic man, taking an active part in all movements which interest him. He has been school director of his township, and is a leading member of the M. E. Church, which he served as trustee, class leader and steward; he attended the Sabbath school at Homer city, in the old brick church, for over fifty years. In politics he is a Republican. Fraternally he holds membership in the Knights of the Golden Eagle.

On May 3, 1880, Mr. Risinger married Lydia M. Frew, who was born in Allegheny county, Pa., daughter of John A. and Maria M. (Phillips) Frew. They have had three children: M. Edna, who is married to G. B. Neal, of Pittsburg, Pa.; Louella Marie, wife of Dixon Stephens, of North Homer; and Paul, now associated with his father in business, who married Beulah Duncan, and is living at North Homer.