

LEASON BASS, Marion Township.

This family comes of Irish stock on the father's side and German on the mother's, the Bass family having come from Ireland and settled in Virginia in the 17th century. Jordan Bass, the grandfather of Leason, was born and grew to manhood in that State, where, on the breaking-out of the Revolutionary war, he entered the patriot army, and served until the American Colonies became a free and united country. He then settled in North Carolina, where he was married and resided until death. In 1818, his wife with her son Henry, moved to Fayette Co., Ind., and to Shelby Co. in 1821, where she died. Henry Bass was born in North Carolina Aug. 6, 1792, and served as a soldier in the war of 1812. He was married in that State to Judia Fox, a native of North Carolina, born July 20, 1797. She was the daughter of Michael and Mary Fox, natives of North Carolina, of German descent, who settled in Shelby Co. in 1821, where both lie sleeping in Liberty Graveyard. The following children were born of this union—Jordan, John (deceased), Michael (deceased), Lucy (deceased), Lewis (deceased), Lyndon, Elizabeth, Leason, Barbara, (deceased), Philip (deceased), Hiram, and Elias (deceased.) Mrs. Bass died Aug. 23, 1839, and Henry was again married, to Mrs. Elizabeth Daily, nee Harson, who died Oct. 11, 1865, her husband surviving her two years, and dying March 11, 1867. When Henry Bass started from North Carolina, he was a poor man, he and his family coming in the same wagon with Adam Rhodes and family to a settlement near Connersville, where he lived until 1821, when, having previously entered 80 acres of land in Sec. 29, Addison Township, Shelby Co., he settled on it that year, and lived there three years, when he sold it, and, in 1824, entered land in Sec. 34, Marion Township, on which he resided until his death. The whole country at that time was a vast forest, with perhaps a small clearing every few miles, and, to such men as Henry Bass, Shelby Co. owes its wonderful growth and development and its conversion from a wilderness into a smiling garden, teeming with life and wealth. He was a hard-working, economical farmer, and in that manner accumulated a property of about 1,000 acres of land. He was a member of the Christian Church and died in that faith. In many ways he was very eccentric, and subject to the same failings that all humanity are heirs to. He was straightforward in his dealings and scrupulously honest, paying his debts to the last farthing and exacting the same from his debtors. He left his children in good circumstances, the merited reward of long years of toil. The subject of this sketch was the eighth in the family, and was born in Shelby Co., Ind., Sept. 3, 1829; grew to maturity on the old homestead, and received a limited education in the primitive log schoolhouse of the early days. He was married in Marion Township, Aug. 30, 1857, to Miss Elmira Nigh, daughter of John and Cynthia Nigh, who died in this county. Mrs. Bass was born in Shelby Co. Sept. 28, 1834, and has had the following children: William, Huldah, Judia, Clara, Grant (deceased), Lilly and Verla (deceased). Mrs. Bass belongs to the United Brethern Church, is an energetic, economical woman, and watches with loving care over that home which Providence has placed in her charge. After his marriage, Mr. Bass received from his father 80 acres of land, on which he settled. To this he added as the years sped by until he is now the owner of about 500 acres of fine land. His home farm is one of the best in the township, and he is considered one of the leading farmers of the county. A view of his place will be found

in the atlas, also portraits of himself, wife and father. Mr. Bass has always been a hard worker, ambitious to accumulate property and to excel as a farmer, and few men have been more successful in accomplishing what they have undertaken. He is a shrewd dealer, with wonderful energy and strength of character, relying solely on his own judgment and never failing to fulfill every promise or obligation, no matter what may be the sacrifice entailed. In politics, a firm Republican, he still believes in freedom of opinion; is polite and courteous toward every one, and is a worthy type of those progressive, enterprising farmers whom "Old Shelby" may feel proud of claiming as her citizens.

HIRAM BASS, Marion Township.

This gentleman is the son of Henry and Judia Bass, and was born on the old homestead in Marion Township, Dec. 13, 1835; was the eleventh in the family and is the youngest living. His youth was passed on the old farm settled by his father in 1824, and the rough log schoolhouse of that neighborhood was where he got his education. He was married, April 1, 1860, to Mary L. Kennedy, daughter of Edmund B. and Friendow (Brown) Kennedy. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Ohio, where he married Friendow Brown, of that State. They afterward moved to Bedford, Lawrence Co., Ind., in 1840, where Mrs. Kennedy died, her husband dying in Shelby Co. Mrs. Bass was born in Columbiana Co., Ohio, March 8, 1839, and was the fourth in a family of seven children, as follows: Oscar, John, Clempson B., Mary L., Ruth B., Samuel S. and one who died in infancy. Her father was married again and had born to him one child, Caroline, by his second marriage. When Mrs. Bass was twelve years old, she came to Shelby Co. and was reared in the family of Dr. John Y. Kennedy, one of the early physicians of this county, who was a surgeon in the war of 1812. Mrs. Bass had the following children: Elias (deceased), Annie, Ruth (deceased), Henry, Herschel, Marshal, Arie Elizabeth (deceased), Josephine, John, Arthur and Nora J. Bass. After his marriage, Mr. Bass bought 160 acres of land in Moral Township, which he soon sold and bought 160 on Brandywine, in Marion Township, on which he lived one year, when he again sold out and came back to the old homestead, his father giving him 80 acres of that farm. He afterward bought the balance and has ever since remained in the home of his boyhood days. Shortly before his death, his father came to live permanently with him and died under the old roof. Mr. Bass is the owner of 300 acres of fine land well-improved, a view of which will be found in the atlas. He is energetic, industrious and possessed of good business qualifications; makes money and spends it; is public-spirited and progressive, believing that every one should do his share toward public improvements and charities. He belongs to no church, but is honest and upright in all his dealings. His wife is a member of the Christian Church, to which sect her mother adhered; her father belonging to the church of Wesley. She has always been a willing and loving helpmate, doing her share toward the success achieved by her husband. Politically, Mr. Bass is a Republican, believing that party to be the truest exponent of liberty and equality; and the champion of those rights guaranteed by the constitution. He is considered a good farmer and one of the representative citizens of his township.