

Being the eldest son, Solomon Simon was early obliged to assist in the work of the home farm, and never attended an English school an hour in his life, though he received some instruction in German. He was born in Boardman township, Mahoning county, on Christmas Day, 1842, the lady of his choice being Miss Catherine Gress, who was born in Northampton county, Penn., December 18, 1822, and is a daughter of George and Elizabeth (Philman) Gress. When she was ten years old she was brought to the Buckeye State by her parents, who located near Lisbon, but later went to Springfield township, Mahoning county, where the father died. The mother later removed to Boardman township, where Mrs. Simon was married. She also had very meager school privileges. Five children graced the union of our subject and his wife: Demer S., who was a soldier in the Union army, and died in Boardman township after his return from the war; J. L., a farmer of Bloom township, Wood county; Elnora, widow of Amos Phillips of Jerry City, Ohio; Annie, now Mrs. Corvin Nestlerode, of Portage township, Wood county; and Reuben, of Oregon.

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