

Elias Simon, who in his lifetime was one of the most highly respected citizens within the limits of Bloom township, is a fit representative of the honored family of that name. He was a son of Henry and Catherine (Stemple) Simon, the former of whom was born June 7, 1796, the latter on July 10, 1798; they were married October 5, 1822 and died May 15, 1872 and April 22, 1836, respectively.

Mr. Simon was born August 12, 1827 in Mahoning county, Ohio, where he attended an excellent German school. When he was but a few months over seventeen years old his parents moved to Wood county, accompanied by five of their children--Jonas, Carolus, Elias, Abigail and Joshua. They drove through the woods with three wagons, bringing their household goods. Our subject's father had met with financial reverses in Mahoning county, and he made a new start in life upon a tract of eighty acres of timber land on what is now known as the North Ridge road. A rude log house, which he had built previously, furnished a shelter for the newcomers, and their first meal was cooked by the side of a brush heap. Our subject did many a hard day's work in clearing and breaking the soil of this farm, but he also found some time to attend an English school on the old Leathers farm, where Cornelius Simon, a cousin, was the first teacher. At the age of twenty-one he began work on his own account, chopping and clearing for one year and then working in a sawmill as a laborer. His savings were invested in 120 acres of land, his brother's estate, near Bairdstown, bought from the heirs, and its purchase left him nearly \$1,000 in debt.

On August 2, 1855, Mr. Simon was married to Miss Margaret Frankford, a native of Springfield, Mahoning county, Ohio, born Mar 15, 1837, daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth (Kugler) Frankford, who came to Wood county in 1852, and located on a farm in Weston township. They were both natives of Ohio, the father born May 11, 1805, in Springfield township, Mahoning county, the mother born August 11, 1804. They were married August 27, 1826; the former died August 98, 1891, at Roca, Neb., the latter having passed away January 2, 1857, in Weston township, Wood county, Ohio. The young couple began housekeeping upon the farm which became their permanent home. Mrs. Simon continued to work in the sawmill and carried on his farm, at the same time hiring some of the work done. In 1864 he enlisted in Co. E, 144th O.V.I., and was sent to Wilmington, Del., where he was on guard duty until August 22, 1864, when he was discharged at Columbia.

In 1868 he built a sawmill on his farm, and notwithstanding many predictions of failure, his industry and thorough knowledge of the business enabled him to make a success of it, and in three years he had paid off every obligation. He has been noted for his knowledge of milling machinery, often repairing for others. In 1889 he gave up his mill to his sons, Jackson and Delton, who conducted it for some time. There are two oil wells upon the place, producing about fifteen barrels per day, and on this farm was drilled the second gas well in the township. Mr.

Simon's right wrist had been strained by overwork in lifting, and he afterward lived a semi-retired life, finding much pleasure in reading. He possessed strong intellectual powers, which should have been developed in youth. In 1878 he built one of the most substantial brick houses in the township and his old home gives evidence not only of his worldly prosperity, but his intellectual aspirations and artistic tastes. His wife had but limited educational facilities in her youth, but with ready adaptation she has availed herself of later opportunities at home, as her duties would permit. They have had five children: Mary E., born December 11, 1856, died February 6, 1857; Jackson, born March 15, 1858, now resides in Hancock county; Delton, born October 7, 1860, is farming the homestead and conducting the mill; Maud, born November 3, 1865, married Frank Elston of Garrett, Ind., a Baltimore & Ohio railroad engineer, Chicago division; and Tressie, born August 9, 1875, now a successful music teacher, at home.

Elias Simon, the subject of this sketch, died at ten minutes past eleven in the forenoon of September 21, 1896, of apoplexy, and was laid to rest September 24 in Bloom Chapel cemetery, Bloom township. He, as is also his widow, was a leading member of the Liberal U. B. Church of Bairdstown, in which he held every office, and was the principal financial supporter. When the new church was being erected he loaned a large sum of money and afterward cancelled the debt. Mr. Simon was no office seeker, but took a keen interest in public affairs, and was in early years a Republican, but in later years voted with the Prohibition party.