

EDWARD BERNO.

Edward Berno was born in Mansfield, July 24, 1861. His father, Peter Berno, was a native of Otterberg, Bavaria, born December 25, 1838. The ancestry of the family can be traced back in direct line to 910 A. D. In the fatherland Peter Berno spent the first fourteen years of his life and then accompanied his parents on their emigration to America. They did not tarry on the Atlantic coast but at once made their way westward, locating in Mansfield.

Here the son had the opportunity of attending school for three months each year, pursuing his studies during the winter season. He was, however, a man of studious nature, who devoted all his leisure time to reading. He was particularly fond of history and was well informed concerning the histories of the various countries of the world. He collected a library of six hundred volumes, valued at sixteen hundred dollars. By trade he was a shoemaker, but for twenty-two years he acted as traveling salesman for a boot and shoe house, and later engaged in business for himself in Mansfield along that line for eight years. Finally he became associated with his son Edward in the florist business, and the partnership was continued until the father's death, on the 4th of March, 1899. Of genial manner and courteous disposition, he was very successful in his work as a traveling salesman, and in all his business relations he enjoyed the unqualified confidence of those with whom he was associated by reason of his strict integrity, his honesty in all business matters being proverbial. He married Christina Beam, who also represented an old German family that was established in Mansfield, and was also connected with the florist and nursery business. Mr. and Mrs. Berno became the parents of four sons and four daughters: Albert J., the eldest, is connected with the Umbrella Rib Works at Shelby, Ohio. He married Olive Hill, and they have two children,—Otto and Gilbretta. Edward is the next of the family. William J., of Mansfield, occupies the position of foreman with the Novelty Sign Company. He married Serene Elliott and they have two children,—Karl and Rexford. Charles, who is a molder of Mansfield, married Maggie Stacker, and they have three children,—Robert, Nellie and Alma. Clara is the wife of William Grabler, a pattern-maker of Cleveland, Ohio, and their children are Jane, Harvey, John and Maggie.

Louisa resides with her mother in Mansfield. Lillian married George Kirschbaum, who owns and conducts a candy kitchen in Mansfield. Maggie, the youngest of the children, is the wife of Claude Cramer, who is the proprietor of a bicycle store at Garrett, Indiana.

Edward Berno pursued his education in the common schools of Mansfield and in early life learned the trade of pattern-making, which he followed until 1893. He then abandoned that occupation in order to engage in the cultivation of flowers, and is now one of the leading florists in this part of the county. He has ten thousand feet under glass and enjoys a large shipping as well as home trade. He raises plants of every variety and in large numbers, his business constantly increasing. He has made a close study of floral culture and understands thoroughly the needs and habits of different plants, so that he is enabled to produce excellent results.

On the 22d of May, 1883, Mr. Berno was united in marriage to Hettie L. Baker, who was born in Ashland county. They have one child living, Lee Edward, who is a student in school. Mr. Berno is a member of Madison Lodge, No. 26, Knights of Pythias; is the first lieutenant of White Cross Company, No. 10, of the Uniformed Rank; a member of Mansfield Lodge, No. 19, I. O. O. F.; of Courtney Camp, No. 3505, Modern Woodmen; and of Purity Council, No. 98, J. O. U. A. M.

Steadily pursuing his way, undeterred by the obstacles and difficulties in his path, our subject has achieved creditable prosperity. Steady application, careful study of business methods and plans to be followed, close attention to details, combined with untiring energy,—these are the traits of character which have brought to him success.