

BENJAMIN BERRY.

The value of character is exemplified in every walk of life, no less frequently in the career of the farmer in a rural community than in that of the financier or professional man who makes his mark in the city. Nowhere is sterling character more markedly in evidence or in a broader sense a legacy of the people than in the busy and important farming communities of the middle west. There the sturdy character of the American farmer is as highly developed as anywhere else in the United States. One of the best known representatives of this brand of Americanism in Richland county, Ohio, is the prominent and prosperous citizen whose name supplies a title to this sketch.

Benjamin Berry was born near Canton, Ohio, July 6, 1827, a son of Jacob and Mary (Albright) Berry. Jacob Berry was a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and was born March 26, 1800. He removed to Canton, Ohio, in his early manhood, and there married Mary Albright, who had come from Stark county, Ohio. In 1830 he settled in Monroe township, Richland county, on the farm now owned by his son Eli, then an "eighty" of wild and heavily wooded land, on which he erected a two-room hewn-log house, which he improved and on which he lived out the remainder of his days, which ended June 5, 1886, when he was a little more than eighty-six years old. His wife died at the age of eighty-six also, in 1884. They were faithful and helpful members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Berry was an influential citizen who was prominent in public affairs and held several important local offices. They had nine children, of whom three sons are living: Benjamin, the immediate subject of this sketch; and Adam and Eli, twins. Another brother, Samuel, served his country as a federal soldier in the Civil war and died in a hospital as the result of disability incurred in active service.

Benjamin Berry was three years old when he was brought by his parents to Monroe township, Richland county, Ohio. His boyhood and youth were spent in attending the public schools near his home and assisting his

father in the work of the farm. He remained under the parental roof until his marriage to Louisa Smith, of Worthington township, when he moved on the farm in Monroe township, which has been his home for forty-six years. The worthy woman mentioned died June 18, 1886, after having borne him nine children—Allen B., Emeline C., Frances M., Laura M., Charles O., Mary E., Edward T., and two others who died in infancy. December 24, 1889, Mr. Berry married Lovina Ferguson, who shares with him the honors of his declining years.

Mr. Berry owns a home farm of one hundred and twenty-one acres and a fifteen-acre place in Worthington township, and carries on general farming by modern methods and on a good scale. He is influential in township matters and has held the office of school director and has been township trustee two terms. He is a member and trustee and has been a deacon and elder of the Lutheran church.