

THE KUHN FAMILY.

On section 24, Sandusky township, in one of the pleasant homes of the community, reside the descendants of Christian Kuhn, who was the grandfather of the present inmates of the home,—Charles, John, Amanda and Lillian E. Kuhn. These members of the household reside on the eighty-acre farm where the father and grandfather lived, the latter locating there about 1828. He was a tailor by trade and followed that pursuit in Stuttgart, in the province of Wurtemberg, prior to his emigration to America. After coming to the United States he engaged in the same line of business in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, until about 1828, when he and his eldest son came to Ohio. They made the long journey of nearly two hundred miles on foot. The grandfather was a well educated man and while carrying on business in Wurtemberg received the patronage of the nobility both in and out of the army. He was married in Germany and all five of his children were born there and accompanied him to America. The passage was made on a sailing vessel and eighty days had elapsed before they anchored in the American harbor.

All of the family resided in Pittsburg for a time, coming thence to Ohio. Finding that his health was failing, Christian Kuhn proposed that they go west, and, as stated, he and his eldest son, Charles, walked the entire distance. They spent the night after their arrival at the Riblet Inn, where they made inquiry concerning land that was for sale. Mr. Riblet, their landlord, replied that he thought they might purchase the eighty-acre farm on section 24, which was mostly a timber tract and which had a log house upon it. The purchase was effected and the property has since remained in possession of the family. Those were primitive days, while the work of improvement and progress seemed scarcely begun. The mail was brought to this portion of the county from Mansfield and distributed by the landlord of the Riblet Inn. Christian Kuhn and his son Charles returned on foot to Pittsburg and brought with them to Ohio the mother and two of the other children of the family, who in the meantime had been employed in the city. It was a new and trying experience for the family to perform the work of the farm and live in the primitive manner of a pio-

neer settlement. Christian Kuhn worked at his trade of tailoring at night, while in the day time he became familiar with farming methods through the assistance of his hired man. His patience and perseverance enabled him to continue his work and to master agricultural methods. With the aid of his son he cleared the farm and built another cabin, which was constructed of hewed logs and sided with clapboards. In 1871 that cabin was replaced by a frame residence which is now used as a buggy house. In 1896 the present commodious and palatial residence was erected by the brothers and sisters who now occupy the old homestead.

Christian Kuhn died at the age of sixty-six years, but his wife, surviving him for a number of years, passed away in 1857, at an advanced age. Their eldest son, Charles, who was his father's able assistant in all the work of improving the new place, was married in 1845, at the age of thirty-six years, to Miss Mary E. Frye, of Bucyrus, Ohio, where they met when he was marketing his produce. The acquaintance soon ripened into love and she proved a real helpmate to him,—a noble wife and mother, whose influence over her family was most marked and beneficial. She was a lady of great strength of character and like her husband was a native of Wurtemberg, her birth having occurred in the town of Ulm. Eight children were born of their union, but their first child, a daughter, died in infancy. The others are as follows: Amelia, who is now the widow of John Marthys, of Springfield, Ohio, and has five children; C. F., who conducts a farm adjoining the old homestead and has three children; Charles, who is living at the old place; Sophia, who is the widow of Henry Redeker, of Crestline, and has one son; John, who manages the farm; and Amanda and Lillian are also on the old homestead. This is a most pleasant and peaceful homestead, where harmony reigns supreme. The father died in 1889, in his eightieth year, and the mother passed away in 1894, in her seventy-sixth year. These brothers and sisters own three farms, one of two hundred and twelve acres, another of one hundred and eleven acres, and a small farm, a mile south, comprising twenty acres. Besides the extensive farming interests, Charles is engaged in shipping hay to eastern and southern markets.

The parents and grandparents were Lutherans in their religious faith, and of the first little chapel, which was located in the corner of their orchard, were charter members. The grandmother's funeral services were held there before the building was completed. About 1897 the little chapel was sold for fifty dollars and was torn down, and the proceeds spent toward the improvement of the Riblet cemetery near by. Miss Lillian Kuhn, who was educated in Crestline, was engaged in teaching there for sixteen years,

but at length decided to return home and live with her brothers. Filial love and devotion is very strong in the German race and the Kuhn family have shown a high regard for their father, whose wish it was that they would keep the old home; and thus the two brothers and two sisters remain here dispensing an old-time hospitality, and by their upright lives reflecting honor upon an untarnished name for the family. For more than seventy years the name of Kuhn has been deeply inscribed on the pages of the history of Richland county. The grandfather and sons have all borne their part in the work of development and public progress, and at all times have been true to the duties of citizenship. They have aided in the material upbuilding of the county, and no history of this portion of the state would be complete without their record.