

JOHN F. GERHART.

This gentleman, whose home is in section 34, Washington township, has throughout his active business life been actively identified with the agricultural interests of Richland county. A native of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, he was born near Carlisle, on the 3d of October, 1835, and is a son of David and Jane (Parkinson) Gerhart, in whose family were eight children,—four sons and four daughters. It was in 1837 that they came to Ohio, making the journey by team and taking up their residence in Troy township, Richland county, where the father purchased a farm, and to its cultivation and improvement he devoted his time and energies for some years. In 1853 he bought the farm in Washington township on which our subject now resides, and continued to make that place his home until his removal to Bellville in 1865. There he died, at the age of seventy-seven years, honored and respected by all who knew him.

John F. Gerhart was only two years old when brought by his parents to Richland county, and upon the farm in Troy township he grew to manhood. He assisted his father in his farming operations until the latter's removal to Bellville, when he took charge of the farm. He was educated in the common schools and early acquired an excellent knowledge of every department of farm work, so that he has met with good success in his chosen occupation. His farm comprises eighty acres of well improved land.

On the 14th of October, 1858, Mr. Gerhart married Miss Elizabeth Chronister, a native of Bellville, Ohio, and they have become the parents of eight children, namely: Mary E., deceased; William F.; Andrew L., deceased; Charles S., John O., Daisy B., and David W. and Rosha A., both deceased.

Religiously Mr. Gerhart is a member of the Evangelical church, and politically is identified with the Democratic party. He has always taken quite an active and prominent part in local affairs, and has been honored with several

offices of trust and responsibility, serving first as township clerk from 1871 to 1877, later as county commissioner for two terms, and again as the clerk of Washington township to fill a vacancy, and again as township clerk for one term. For over fifteen years he has been a member of the school board, and a justice of the peace for fourteen years, the duties of which offices he has most faithfully and conscientiously discharged.