

SAMUEL SHAFER.

Samuel Shafer, deceased, was identified with the farming interests of Richland county for a number of years, but spent his last days in a well-earned retirement from labor in the city of Bellville. He was truly a self-made man, one who owed his advancement entirely to his own efforts, and by determined purpose and unfaltering labor worked his way steadily upward to a position of affluence. He was born in Jefferson township, August 6, 1817, and was the first child baptized in the Salem Lutheran church. His parents were Adam and Sarah (Kess) Shafer, who came from Bedford county, Pennsylvania, to Jefferson county in 1817, locating in the midst of the forest, within the present site of the city of Bellville.

Amid the wild scenes of the frontier Samuel Shafer was reared, and with the family experienced the hardships and trials of pioneer life when the comforts of civilization were difficult to secure, owing to the isolated condition of the farms and the bad condition of the roads. He assisted in clearing and cultivating his father's land until twenty-seven years of age, when he was married, his wedding day being March 21, 1844, on which occasion Miss Rebecca Durbin became his wife. At her death she left a family of eight children, all of whom reached years of maturity. She passed away May 13, 1872, at the age of forty five years, and on the 28th of February, 1875, Mr. Shafer was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Mary A. (Lemley) Weaver, who was born August 21, 1845, in Richland county, near Butler, a daughter of Caleb and Mary (Montz) Lemley. Her parents were both natives of Germany and were married in the Fatherland. They had twelve children, eight of whom are deceased, one having died while the parents were crossing the ocean. After reaching the new world they took up their abode in Butler, Ohio, in the midst of the forest, erecting a log cabin, where they spent their remaining days. The father died when about seventy years of age. He was a self-made man and a successful agriculturist. In his political views he was a staunch Democrat, and in his religious connections

was a German Lutheran. His wife died when about sixty-five years of age, and she, too, was a devoted member of the Lutheran church.

Mrs. Shafer spent her girlhood days in her parents' home and was early trained to the labors of caring for the household. She was first married to David Weaver, a native of Richland county, where he spent his entire life. He survived his marriage only four years. In March, 1875, Mr. and Mrs. Shafer took up their abode on the farm, but the same year removed to Bellville, where Mr. Shafer died, on the 17th of November, 1898. His business affairs were energetically prosecuted, and by close application, energy and sound judgment he accumulated a comfortable competence. In politics he was a staunch Republican, but the honors or emoluments of office had no attraction for him. He and his wife held membership in the Lutheran church and his life was in harmony with his professions. His word was as good as his bond, and in all his dealings he was straightforward and honorable, commanding the respect of those with whom he was associated. His widow is a thorough Christian woman, whose many excellencies of character have gained for her a large circle of friends.