

WILLIAM LEPP0.

The descendants of pioneers in Ohio are among the leading citizens of to-day in every walk of life, and this is especially true of the sons of farmers, themselves pioneers in all but actual proprietorship of the land, who helped to clear primitive farms and put them under profitable cultivation, and who, coming to the state in boyhood, or even younger, have witnessed the whole process of development from the day of small but significant things to the things of fruition which characterize the state as one of the foremost in the Union at this time. Such a citizen is William Leppo, of Springfield township, Richland county, some account of whose interesting antecedents and worthy achievements it will be attempted now to give.

Mr. Leppo was born at Hagerstown, Maryland, October 14, 1821, a son of John and Sarah (Pheasant) Leppo, and the youngest of their ten children and the only one of them now living. In 1833 his father brought his family and portable belongings to Richland county, Ohio, making the journey with a five-horse team hitched to a heavy wagon, in which the mother and smaller children rode and in which the family lived and slept by the way, except such of them as camped out by the wayside from time to time as locality and the weather offered opportunity. They located on one hundred and twenty acres of land, which is a part of the present farm of the subject of this sketch. At that time young Leppo was twelve years old. The first school he attended in Ohio was kept in a small log schoolhouse, with a stick chimney and benches of hewn slabs which were supported by hewn legs driven into auger-holes bored in the under side of the slabs to receive them. He was brought up to the hard and ceaseless round of farm work and instructed in all that makes for successful farming, and in 1846, at the age of twenty-five, took the management of the homestead and conducted its affairs in conjunction with his father until the death of the latter.

Mr. Leppo's career as a farmer and man of affairs has been so successful that at this time he is the owner of four hundred and forty-two acres of land, which he devotes to the purposes of general farming and stock-raising. In politics he is a Democrat, and he is a member and trustee of the Lutheran church.

John Leppo died April 19, 1869, in the eighty-ninth year of his age, and is held in grateful memory by the older residents of the township for patriotic service in the war of 1812 and for his long and active labors in behalf of the German Reformed church. November 28, 1854, William Leppo married Miss Margaret W. Barr, a daughter of Alexander Barr, and she died December 21, 1889, after having borne him five children, named as follows in the order of their nativity: John A., who is dead; Sarah J., the wife of Frank Davidson, of Richland county; Harriet E., the wife of J. E. Ferguson, a resident of Kansas; William H., of Richland county; and Marion F., who is a member of Mr. Leppo's household.