

JOHN A. NOBLE.

The Pennsylvania Scotch-Irish stock, which is so important an element in our national population, is a leading factor in the population of Richland county. Among the many citizens of Blooming Grove township who trace their lineage to Pennsylvania none is better known or more highly respected than John A. Noble.

Mr. Noble was born in what is now Butler township, Richland county, Ohio, January 15, 1836, one of the six children of William and Margaret (McWilliams) Noble, only two of whom survive. Mr. Noble's sister, Margaret, is the widow of Nathaniel Finch, of Blooming Grove township. William Noble was a native of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, born in 1803, and moved with his parents to Washington county, Pennsylvania, where he grew up and was married and where two of his children were born. He manufactured sieves in Pennsylvania until 1831, when he came into Ohio, bringing his family, and located on eighty acres of land in what is now Butler township, Richland county. He had but eighty dollars in cash, and, as the price of the farm was one hundred dollars, he was obliged to assume the debt of twenty dollars. Small as such a sum appeared to him in after years, this debt worried him beyond expression until it was finally discharged. His land was mostly covered with timber, but six acres of it had been cleared after the early style of cutting out all small timber and "deadening" all the rest. He built a log cabin on the place and lived there until 1853, when he sold his land there and bought the farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Blooming Grove township, where John A. Noble now lives and where the pioneer lived until 1887 when he died, then in his eighty-fifth year. He was a rugged, active man who did much hard work, a man of sterling character, influential in local affairs and a leader in political and religious work.

He was a Whig and later a Republican, and in early life was a member of the Presbyterian church; but some years after coming to Ohio, he united with the Disciples church, of which his wife also became a member, who, too, had been a Presbyterian. For several successive terms he filled the office of trustee of Butler township. The mother of John A. Noble was Miss Margaret McWilliams, of Scotch-Irish ancestry and a daughter of John and Betsey McWilliams, both of whom died in Washington county, Pennsylvania, where Mrs. Noble was born in 1798. William and Mary Noble, Mr. Noble's grandparents in the paternal line, were natives of Ireland and were married there. Owing to religio-political troubles in their native land, they fled to America and settled in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, whence they subsequently removed to Washington county, in the same state, where William Noble died. His widow came to Ohio and made her home with her children, living until she was in the ninety-third year of her age. Some idea of her remarkable physical strength will be afforded in the statement that not more than two months before her death she walked from the farm of John A. Noble to the farm of John Noble, a distance of more than a mile.

John A. Noble was reared and educated in his native township, and with the exception of a year and a half spent in the mining region of Montana, in the '60s, has spent his entire life thus far on the Noble homestead in Blooming Grove township. On his return from Montana in 1865 he assumed the management of the home farm, which he bought in 1884, and he has devoted himself with much success to general farming and stock-raising. In 1869 he married Miss Adeline Howard, a native of Huron county, Ohio, and a daughter of William Howard, a Virginian by birth, who was comparatively an early settler in the Buckeye state. Mr. and Mrs. Noble have had eight children, who may be mentioned as follows in the order of their nativity: Hermie, who married Jay De Witt and lives at Cleveland, Ohio, where Sumner and Wade also reside; and Lloyd, Florence, William, John and Ver-nice, members of their father's household.

Mr. Noble is a live, progressive Republican, who believes in the principles of his party and commends the official acts of President McKinley and endorses the policy of his administration. He is a public-spirited man, who is willing at all times to do everything in his power to advance the important interests of his township, county and state. He has taken an exceptionally deep interest in educational matters and has devoted himself earnestly and successfully to the maintenance and improvement of the public schools of his community, having given a number of years to the service of his township as a member of the school board. He has proved himself a useful citi-

zen, of wise judgment and methods, at the same time practical and economical, and his counsel is sought in all matters looking to the enhancement of the public weal. He is liberal in the support of churches and of all other public interests affecting the intellectual and moral development of the people.