

EDWARD B. SWITZER.

Well known in business circles, Edward B. Switzer, of Bellville, is extensively engaged in dealing in horses. He was born in Newville, Richland county, September 5, 1849, and belongs to a family that has been identified with the development of this section of the state from an early day. His great-grandfather, Jacob Switzer, was a native of Pennsylvania, and at an early period in the development of the Buckeye state took up his abode in Richland county, where he carried on farming. He was of German lineage. His death occurred in Hancock county, Ohio, when he was about ninety years of age. His son, Martin Switzer, the grandfather of our subject, was probably born in Pennsylvania and in early life came with his parents to Richland county. He was a shoemaker by trade and when a young man went to Illinois, but subsequently returned to Ohio, where he died at the age of eighty years.

Jacob Switzer, the father of our subject, was numbered among the native sons of Richland county. Throughout his active business career he carried on farming and also dealt in cattle and horses. He married Ella Kerrey, who was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and came to Richland county with her parents. His death occurred at the age of fifty-seven, but his widow still survives, at the age of seventy-two. He held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and in his political affiliations was a Republican. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Switzer were born twelve children, namely: Lodina Jane; Edward B.; Madison; Louis K., a stock-dealer in Butler, who died at the age of forty-five years; Ella, the

wife of Robert Kline, of Cleveland, Ohio; James M., who is associated with his brother Edward in business; Flora, the wife of James Pierce, who conducts a dry-goods store in Butler; Delevan, who also buys and sells stock and makes his home in Butler; Burdell, the wife of David Kars, of Chicago; and the two who died in early life.

Edward B. Switzer spent his boyhood days in the usual manner of farmer lads of that period, enjoying the sports of childhood and assisting in the labors of the home farm. He also became interested in the stock business, and at the age of twenty-eight years he abandoned the cultivation of land and began dealing in horses and cattle, buying and shipping in partnership with his father until the latter's death. Edward Switzer then removed to Bellville, where he has since made his home. He is one of the most extensive horse-dealers in the state. He travels throughout the northern portion of Ohio, buying and shipping horses, of which he is an excellent judge. This enables him to make judicious purchases and to realize a good profit on his investments. He also owned two farms in the township, all highly improved,—one tract of land of one hundred and fifty acres and another tract of forty-three acres. In addition he has a beautiful home in Bellville and sixteen acres of land within the corporation limits.

On the 5th of March, 1877, Mr. Switzer, was united in marriage to Miss Mary L. Rodgers, who was born in Galion, Ohio, and they have two children: Louie Cline, who is engaged in the stock business with his father; and Daisy Leone, at home. Mrs. Switzer is a daughter of Leslie and Hannah (Uhl) Rodgers. Her father was a native of Holmes county, Ohio, and was there reared upon a farm. In early life he engaged in teaching music and in conducting singing schools in his native locality. Soon after his marriage he removed to Galion, Ohio, where he followed his profession until his death, which occurred at the early age of twenty-eight years. He served in the war of the Revolution as a musician and there contracted consumption, which caused his death. His father, Samuel Rodgers, was also a native of Ohio and was of Irish lineage. In his family were but two children, both sons. The mother of Mrs. Switzer also was a native of Holmes county, Ohio, and belonged to a German family from Pennsylvania. Her father, Levi Uhl, was born in Pennsylvania December 11, 1807, and died at the age of eighty-nine years. He was a very successful farmer. After her husband's death Mrs. Rodgers came to Richland county, where her death occurred at the age of fifty-six. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and in her family were five children, of whom two died in early life. The others are Samuel, a farmer of Holmes county,

Ohio; Levi, the proprietor of a meat market in Millersburg, Ohio; and Mrs. Switzer, who in early girlhood came with her mother to Richland county and has since made her home here.

Mr. Switzer gives his political support to the Republican party and is a firm adherent of its principles, yet has never sought nor desired public office. His attention has been given untiringly to his business affairs and thus he has won the success that places him among the substantial citizens of his native county. He is truly a self-made man and his life indicates what can be accomplished through determined purpose, careful management and willingness to work.