

JOHN J. FREEZE.

Of the farming interests of Richland county John J. Freeze is a representative, owning and cultivating a tract of land on section 12, Springfield township. He was born in Crawford county, Ohio, in June, 1848, and his father, Samuel Freeze, is an octogenarian of Crawford county, whither he was taken when a babe in his mother's arms eighty years ago. He was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, his father being John T. Freeze, whose birth occurred in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, in 1788. About 1803 he came alone to this country, having lost both of his parents, who died

at about the same time. He landed in New York city with two dollars and seventy-five cents in his pockets. He was also the possessor of a Swiss watch. Going to Philadelphia he there worked for eleven years in the employ of a baker. During that time he was married, in 1816, to Miss Eldis, who was born in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. They removed to Holmes county, Ohio, and soon afterward to Crawford county, where the grandfather of our subject purchased eighty acres of land. At his death he owned four farms, comprising five hundred and forty-three acres. He was a shrewd, enterprising business man, and his boys cultivated the farm while he speculated in stock. He reared five children,—three sons and two daughters,—but Samuel Freeze is the only one now living. The grandparents were buried in the old cemetery in Galion, Ohio.

Samuel Freeze was reared in Crawford county, and having arrived at man's estate he married Magdalena Eberly, a native of Prussia, Germany. She was born about 1826. Their marriage occurred in 1845. Four children graced their union, namely: John J.; Caroline, the wife of Frederick Tile, of Crawford; Elizabeth, the wife of John Stoley, of Bucyrus; and William Albert, who is living on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres left by the grandfather.

John J. Freeze, the subject of this review, was reared to farm labor and early became familiar with all the duties that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. By practical training he was thus well fitted for his own business career as a farmer. He received a common-school education and remained at home until his marriage, which occurred November 19, 1869, Hannah C. Snyder becoming his wife. She was the youngest of a family of thirteen children, and by her marriage she became the mother of two sons, one of whom was killed by a mule at the age of seventeen. She died May 1, 1873, and Mr. Freeze was afterward married to Miss Margaret Trumpler. Their children are: Albert R., Lulu, Samuel Frederick, Ora Minnie, Hattie, Ada, Roy Edward, Mary Elizabeth and Melvin Guy, the last named being only two years of age, the oldest child about twenty-one.

The family reside on the home farm in Springfield township, where Mr. Freeze has carried on agricultural pursuits for seventeen years. The place comprises one hundred and sixty-five acres, a part of which he purchased of his father. It is called Fountain farm, on account of a flowing well which is upon the place. The land is a rich alluvial soil and the fields are well tilled, yielding good crops, which bring an ample competence to the owner. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church and he belongs to the Masonic fraternity and to the Grange. He has served as

a school director and is deeply interested in everything pertaining to the welfare and improvement of his community. His farming methods are progressive and his well-conducted place indicates that he is one of the leading agriculturists of the neighborhood.