

LEVI H. HUMBERT.

Levi H. Humbert has a wide acquaintance in Richland county and in agricultural circles throughout the state; and his many excellent qualities, his genial manner and kindly disposition have made him popular, gaining him many friends. His record therefore cannot fail to prove of interest to many of our readers.

He was born a mile and a half northeast of Ashland, in Ashland county, Ohio, May 26, 1846, his parents being William and Margaret (Wolf) Humbert. His father was born September 20, 1821, and died January 30, 1890. His wife's birth occurred on the 3d of May, 1821, and she passed away November 14, 1899. After her husband's death she resided on the home farm with her son, Albert M.

The father of our subject was a native of Maryland, and in that state learned the shoemaker's trade, under the direction of his stepfather, Mr. Shaffer. After his marriage he located on the old Wolf farm near Ashland, renting that tract, which he cultivated in addition to working at his trade. Seven years later he removed to Cass township, where he purchased eighty acres of land, upon which he resided for three years. He then sold the property and in 1852 bought eighty acres in Blooming Grove township, now included within the old homestead. He was a very industrious and energetic man, working in the fields from early morning until late at night, and on rainy days continuing his labors at the bench. His success enabled him to add to his property and he extended the boundaries of his farm until it comprised one hundred and forty acres. In early life he gave his political support to the Whig party and after its dissolution joined the Democratic ranks. That he was regarded as a citizen of sterling worth and fidelity is shown by the fact that he served as a supervisor and a school director in his township for twenty years. He held membership in the German Reformed church. His wife, who proved to him a faithful companion and helpmate on life's journey, was a native of Pennsylvania, and during her early girlhood came with her parents, John and Mary Wolf, to Ohio, the family locating in Ashland. They were also natives of the Keystone state, and the former died in early manhood. By the marriage of William Humbert and Margaret Wolf eight children were born, of whom six are yet living.

Levi H. Humbert spent his boyhood days at his parents' home, and in the district schools of the neighborhood acquired a limited education, his privileges in that direction being somewhat limited, for the sons performed the greater portion of the farm work, their father devoting his time to his trade. After arriving at years of maturity Mr. Humbert was married, on the 28th of November, 1867, to Miss Nancy Pifer, a native of Rome, Ohio, and a daughter of Jacob Pifer, a harness-maker and farmer of that place, where he resided for many years, his death ultimately occurring there. Mr. and Mrs. Humbert began their domestic life on a portion of the old homestead, in a log cabin which had been erected in pioneer days. For four years our subject continued to cultivate that land, and in 1872 removed to Marion

county, where he engaged in the sawmill business, having previously operated a sawmill for one year in Rome. He remained in Marion county for eighteen months and then sold his mill, returning to Rome, where he engaged in merchandising for a year. On disposing of that business he removed to Mercer county, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres, following agricultural pursuits for six months. After harvesting his crops he sold his land, on account of the excessive rains in that district, and removed to Fayette, Fulton county, where he bought another tract of land of eighty acres. During his residence in that county he purchased and operated the first thresher ever seen in the locality. After remaining there for eight years he once more sold out and at that time took up his abode in Olney, Illinois, purchasing a farm of five hundred and twenty acres, and resided in the city. He was engaged in selling threshing machines, buggies and farm implements of various kinds. Since 1897 he has been a resident of Richland county, his home being on his present farm of one hundred and ten acres in Weller township. For a number of years he was a well known representative of various firms dealing in farming implements, threshing machines, sawmill machinery and buggies, representing these firms on the road, while for two or three years he was their chosen representative at the St. Louis exposition, having charge of the displays.

After the death of his first wife Mr. Humbert married Miss Izora Pifer, of Williams county, and on the 17th of March, 1897, he wedded Sarah M. Foulks, a daughter of William Foulks, now deceased. Her father was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, in 1800, and with his parents came to Ohio in 1824, his father, William Foulks, entering a quarter-section of land from the government in Weller township. There he and his wife spent their remaining days. After his father's death William Foulks, Jr., purchased the interest of the other heirs in the home place and there carried on agricultural pursuits until his own demise. For many years he served as a justice of the peace and was widely known throughout the county as Esquire Foulks. He also served as a township trustee, proving a capable and reliable officer. His wife bore the maiden name of Mary Grimes and was a daughter of James Grimes, who lived near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and in 1821 removed from that place to Richland county, entering a farm in Weller township, which is still in the possession of the family.

Mr. Humbert became the father of nine children. By his first wife he had two children, one of whom is living, Frederick Leroy, now a resident of California. Of the seven children of the second marriage four are yet living, namely: Alfred, at home; Harry, who is engaged in the hotel

business in Olney, Illinois; Frank, at home; and Ray, who also is with his father. In political views Mr. Humbert is an inflexible adherent to Democratic principles. He belongs to the Presbyterian church and is a member of Olney Lodge, I. O. O. F. He owns one hundred and thirteen acres of land, constituting a valuable farm, and his residence is situated on the sixteen acres in Blooming Grove township, while the remainder of his land is in Weller township. Throughout the years of an active business career his industry and diligence have added to his capital, and he is now numbered among the substantial citizens of Richland county.