

ELMORE D. NELSON.

Elmore D. Nelson was born in Wayne county, Ohio, on the 3d of April, 1839. His father, Andrew Nelson, was a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and a son of William Nelson, who came with his parents to Wayne county, Ohio, while his son Andrew was a mere boy. A location was made on a farm of one hundred acres, one mile from West Lebanon, and there the father of our subject was reared to manhood. After his marriage to Miss Rachel Doty he located upon his father's farm, which he operated until 1853, when he came with his wife and children to Richland county, settling on a farm of eighty acres south of Olivesburg in Weller township. He purchased and improved the land and continued to make his home there until his declining years, when he retired from active business life and removed to Olivesburg, where he spent his remaining days, his death occurring in May, 1890. He was a stanch supporter of the Republican party and several terms served as a trustee of his township. In the Methodist church he held membership and took an active part in its work, and was one of the progressive and influential men of his section of the county. He prospered in his business undertakings and became the owner of a valuable

farm of one hundred and sixty-eight acres. Unto Andrew and Rachel (Doty) Nelson have been born seven children, but only three are now living, namely: Elmore D.; Amanda, the wife of Michael France, a farmer of Ashland county; and Levi, an agriculturist living in Olivesburg.

Elmore D. Nelson spent the days of his boyhood and youth under the parental roof and pursued his studies in the common schools of the neighborhood. As a companion and helpmeet on life's journey he chose Miss Angeline Ward, their marriage taking place on the 26th of January, 1860. The lady is a native of Olivesburg and a daughter of P. B. Ward, who at the time of his retirement was one of the oldest representatives of the undertaking business in Richland county, carrying on an establishment in Olivesburg and later in Shiloh. For more than forty-five years he continued operations in that line. At the time of their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Nelson began their domestic life upon his father's farm, renting the property, but they were not long permitted to enjoy their new home, for in June, 1861, the wife died, leaving a little son, who was born on the 9th of May of that year and died on the 24th of August.

On the 19th of September, 1861, Mr. Nelson offered his services to his country, enlisting as a member of Company G, Fifteenth Ohio Infantry, in which he served for three years, four months and four days. Fourteen months of that time was spent in rebel prisons. He was first incarcerated at Richland and on the 17th of February left there, arriving at Andersonville on the 23d of that month, being one of the prisoners on the first train-load to that point. On the 7th of July following he was transferred to Savannah, Georgia, where he was held for one month, and next was sent to Millen, Georgia, where he remained as a prisoner of war until the 20th of May, 1864. On that date the sick were paroled and Mr. Nelson purchased his own liberty and that of four others, being selected by a Rebel captain to act as a nurse for the sick who were taken to Annapolis, Maryland. Mr. Nelson then received a thirty-day furlough and went to Columbus, where he was discharged on the 13th of January, 1865.

His service was indeed arduous, for in addition to the time spent in Rebel prisons he participated in many important engagements, including the battles of Pittsburg Landing, the siege of Corinth, Stone River or Murfreesboro, Liberty Gap and Perryville. From that place the troops proceeded to Louisville, Kentucky, and thence to Chickamauga, where an engagement occurred, and on the 20th of December, 1863, Mr. Nelson was captured, together with Henry Satterwaith, of Bellaire, Ohio; W. G. Malin, of Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving as a member of the state legislature; John

Capper, of Van Wert, Ohio; and another comrade, who is now living in Illinois. Mr. Malin and Mr. Capper now have sons named for the subject of this review. On one occasion Mr. Satterwaith tried to escape from Andersonville and was badly lacerated by the hounds that were put upon his track, all of his clothing being torn from his body.

On the 28th of March, 1865, Mr. Nelson was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ruth, of Ashland county, a daughter of Henry Ruth. He then began cultivating the farm belonging to his father-in-law and continued for three years. In 1868 he purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres and has since made it his home. In 1895 he also became the owner of the old Clayberg place of one hundred and sixty acres adjoining his farm on the west, so that his landed possessions now aggregate three hundred and twenty acres. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson has been blessed with six children, namely: Henry S., a shoe merchant of Plymouth, Ohio; Cora, the wife of Dayton Shayne, of Cleveland, Ohio; Alice, wife of Alanson Martin, of Weller township; Myrtle, the wife of Tully Chamberlain, a merchant of Olivesburg; and William A. and Edward T., who are working their father's land.

Mr. Nelson is a stalwart supporter of Republican principles and does what he can to promote the growth and secure the success of his party, yet has refused all offices. He is, however, recognized as one of the influential men of Richland county and is classed among its leading farmers, owing to the creditable methods which he follows in his work and to the success which has attended his efforts.