

### JOSEPH WARD PALMER.

The subject of this sketch, who is one of the representative farmers of Washington township, has spent his entire life in Richland county, his birth having occurred in Franklin township July 24, 1841. His father, Charles S. Palmer, was a native of London, England, and a son of John

E. Palmer, who died when Charles S. was only three years old, leaving considerable property. In his family were three children,—John E., Charles S. and William.

The father of our subject completed his education at the age of sixteen years, and for the following two years he was employed in a bank as a collector. He then acted as a collector and bookkeeper for his guardian, who was an auctioneer. In 1819 he and his brother, John E., came to the new world and the same year located in Mansfield, Ohio, boarding for three months at the Wiler House, which was then a log structure. They brought with them a stock of dry goods, expecting to engage in mercantile business, but finding no favorable opening sold the stock to E. P. Sturges. In 1820 Charles S. Palmer purchased a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of wild land, at a dollar and a quarter an acre, and erected thereon a log house, in which he made his home while clearing and breaking his land. Later he erected more substantial buildings and continued to make his home in Weller township until 1856, when he purchased the farm in Washington township upon which our subject now resides.

In 1821 he married Miss Annie Ward, and they had twelve children, namely: Charles S., of Wyandot county, who died at the age of seventy years; Francis, a fruit-grower of Davenport, Washington; Mary, who died at the age of nineteen years; John E., of Wyandot county, who died at the age of sixty-eight; Elizabeth, the deceased wife of Michael Depler, of Upper Sandusky, Ohio; Fanny, the wife of David Hughes, of Weller township, this county; Martha, the deceased wife of Henry Gallady, also of Weller township; Amanda, the deceased wife of William Watson, of Iowa; Phoebe J., the wife of Robert Hughes, of Weller township; Henry G., a resident of Mansfield; Joseph W., our subject; and Anna M., the wife of Jacob Gallady, of New Lisbon, Ohio. Eleven of the twelve children lived to be over fifty years of age. None of the five sons used tobacco or drank intoxicating liquors, and were well worthy of the high regard in which they were uniformly held.

The first fourteen years of his life Joseph W. Palmer passed in his native township, and then accompanied the family on their removal to Washington township, where he has since made his home. He received a good practical education in the high school of Mansfield and the Normal School at Bucyrus, and at the age of nineteen years commenced teaching, a profession which he successfully followed through the winter months from 1860 to 1870, while during the summer season he engaged in farming. In the latter year he purchased his present farm of seventy acres in Washington

township, which is conveniently located three miles from Mansfield. Since then he has given his attention principally to farming, and since January, 1896, has also acted as agent for the State Grange Insurance Company in Richland county.

Mr. Palmer's wife was formerly Miss Mary Kelso, a daughter of William Kelso, a druggist of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and Jane Knox Kelso, a sister of John and Wilson Knox, of this county. Miss Kelso was a teacher and for a number of years previous to her marriage was employed in the public schools of Lexington. Their children are Grace and Alice, both graduates of the Mansfield high school and teachers in the city; Charles, an employe in Tracy & Avery's wholesale house; Fred, who graduated at the high school in 1900 and is now teaching in Washington township; Edward, who is still in school; and William, who died in infancy.

Mr. Palmer was in the one-hundred-day service during the Civil war, enlisting as a private in May, 1864, in Company E, One Hundred and Sixty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry. With his command he went first to Washington, D. C., and from there to Richmond and Appomattox, in Virginia. Politically he is a supporter of the Republican party. In 1897 he was appointed by the county commissioners as a trustee of the Children's Home, and is now serving his second term of four years in that capacity. For many years Mr. Palmer has been a consistent member of the Congregational church at Mansfield, and he is also a member of the order of Patrons of Husbandry.