

JOHN H. LAUTERMILCH.

In a witty after-dinner speech Chauncey M. Depew once said: "Some men achieve greatness, some are born great and some are born in Ohio." To this last class Mr. Lautermilch belongs, for Ganges, in Blooming Grove township, is the place of his birth, his natal day being August 20, 1844. His parents, Conrad and Sarah (Bucher) Lautermilch, had three children, of whom two are living, John H. and Elizabeth, now the wife of Reuben St. John, of Franklin township. The father was born in Baden, Germany, in 1808, but when sixteen years of age left the land of his nativity for America, settling in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, where he learned the trade of saddler and harness-maker. In the '30s he removed from the Keystone

state to Ohio, taking up his abode in Richland county. He worked for some time at his trade as a journeyman in Shelby and Ganges and then settled in Planktown, where he established a business of his own. While residing there he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Bucher, who was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, about 1811, and came to Richland county with her parents in her childhood. Her father, John Bucher, was a native of Pennsylvania and on his arrival in Ohio purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Blooming Grove township, near the village of Ganges, his remaining days being spent upon his farm. About 1843 Mr. Lautermilch removed from Planktown to Ganges, where he conducted a saddlery and harness shop for a number of years. In 1853, however, he located on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which was his wife's patrimony and which is now the home of their son John. There the father resided until 1872, when he purchased forty-five acres in Franklin township, a few miles south of Ganges. He then removed to the new home, leaving our subject upon the old homestead. At his more recently acquired home he continued to reside until his death, which occurred in 1893. He was an ardent supporter of Democratic principles, and while in Blooming Grove township was elected on that ticket to the office of trustee. In early life he held membership in the Christian church and later became a member of the Reformed church.

John H. Lautermilch spent the days of his childhood under the parental roof and the common schools afforded him his educational privileges. In 1867 he was married to Miss Mary A. Bricker, a native of Franklin township and a daughter of Levi Bricker, now deceased, who was one of the well known farmers of Richland county. Our subject took his bride to the old home place, which he operated on the shares until his mother's death, in 1894, when he came into possession of the farm, and in 1895 he purchased the Wesley Fickes farm, a small tract of land upon which stands a handsome residence. It was his intention to take up his abode there and leave his sons to care for the old homestead, but ere he had opportunity to carry out his intention he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 8th of November, 1895. This changed his plans and his eldest son took possession of the new home, while Mr. Lautermilch resided quietly at the old homestead, the land being cultivated by tenants.

Mr. and Mrs. Lautermilch had two children,—George W., a farmer of Cass township; and Austin F., who is living with his father. A Democrat in politics, he has always supported the men and measures of that party, but has never sought office. He has always been systematic in his business methods, prompt and notably reliable, and has followed progressive ideas.

His efforts have therefore been attended with a high degree of success and he is now one of the substantial agriculturists of the community. At present he is practically living retired, enjoying such a rest as should ever follow years of active and honorable connection with business interests.