

SAMUEL WILSON.

When we investigate the causes of success we find that they lie in the individual and are not to be found in some outside environment or influence; opportunities very similar encompass all individuals and it is the man whose innate ability and desire to advance enables him to improve these that thus works his way upward. Such a man is Mr. Wilson, his home being on section 2, Monroe township.

Mr. Wilson first opened his eyes to the light of day on Christmas day of 1844, his birthplace being in Vermilion township, Ashland county. His grandfather was born in Pennsylvania and was there reared to farm life. Throughout an active business career he carried on agricultural pursuits, becoming one of the enterprising farmers of Ohio at a period when this state was being opened up to civilization. He married Margaret Wilson, a native of Scotland, who came to America with her mother during her early girlhood. The grandparents were both of Calvinistic faith, being active and

earnest members of the United Presbyterian church. His father, Robert Wilson, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, in May, 1816. When only four years of age he came to Ohio with his parents, who located in Vermillion township, Ashland county, upon a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, where they spent their remaining days. His grandfather was not a very robust man and Robert Wilson early assumed the management of the farm, taking control when only twenty years of age. About 1850 he purchased the place from the other heirs and to its further cultivation and improvement continued to devote his energies. He ultimately became the owner of four hundred acres of valuable land. He was reared in the Democratic faith, but studied closely the issues and questions of the day, and when the Republican party was formed became one of its loyal adherents. Of the United Presbyterian church he was an active member and for many years he served as one of its officers. Robert Wilson married Miss Martha J. Robinson, who was born in Holmes county, Ohio, in 1814. Her parents, James and Christine (Hannah) Robinson, were both natives of Pennsylvania, and the latter died in Holmes county, Ohio. The former came to Richland county in 1861 and purchased the farm upon which Samuel Wilson now resides. His death occurred on that place in 1871. Robert Wilson, the father of our subject, passed away in February, 1892. By his marriage he had seven children, of whom four are living, namely: John, a farmer of Vermillion township, Ashland county; Samuel, of this review; Sarah M., wife of Samuel Mowery, an architect and carpenter and builder of Mansfield, Ohio; and William, who carries on agricultural pursuits in Mifflin township, Ashland county.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for Samuel Wilson during his boyhood and youth. He pursued his education in the common schools, but his opportunities in that direction were limited and after attaining his majority he gained more knowledge than he had during his attendance at the schools of his neighborhood. Reading, experience and observation have made him a well-informed man and he keeps in touch with the questions and issues of the day. As a companion and helpmate on life's journey he chose Mary E. Hannah, a native of Holmes county, Ohio, and a daughter of Robert and Christine (Hannah) Hannah. Her father was a carpenter and cabinetmaker and died in Holmes county. Ten children have been born in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, namely: Robert, deceased; Janett M., the wife of Isaac Mowers, who operates a sawmill in Monroe township; Martha E., Emrie and Anna J.,

all now deceased; Clyde; Ida B., Sarah M., George and Mary E., all at home.

After his marriage Mr. Wilson located upon a farm where he has since resided, and in 1892 he became the owner of a tract of one hundred and forty-three acres. This is a valuable place, the rich land being highly cultivated and bringing a golden tribute in return for the care and labor of the owner. From early boyhood he has been connected with agricultural pursuits and his thorough understanding of the business has enabled him to follow methods that have resulted in bringing to him creditable and gratifying success. In 1900 Mr. Wilson was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 23d of March. She was an active member of the Lutheran church, an earnest Christian woman, a loving and devoted wife and mother. Mr. Wilson is also a consistent member of the same church and has filled many of its offices. For nine years he served as a deacon, for four years was a trustee and is now an elder of the church. He is a member of the board of trustees of Mount Zion cemetery, one of the best equipped burying-grounds in the county. Socially he is connected with Mohawk Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, and in politics he is an earnest Republican, who faithfully gives his support to the measures of the party. He is a wide-awake, progressive man, widely known in Richland county, and is highly esteemed for his devotion to the public good and his fidelity to duty in all life's relations.