

WESLEY R. McDERMUT.

Among the many worthy and prominent farmers of Richland county, Ohio, there is none more deserving of a place in this work than the well known citizen whose name appears above. Wesley R. McDermut was born in Mifflin township February 20, 1831, a son of Mark and Sarah (Hanley) McDermut. His father was a native of Mercer county, Pennsylvania, and came to Ohio in the fall of 1814 and located in Mifflin township, on land which he purchased from the government on the easy terms in vogue at that time. He built a log cabin on the land, and in 1815 his father, a Revolutionary soldier, who lived to be more than a hundred years old, came from Pennsylvania, bringing his family, and they found a home on the place. This patriot pioneer was a Mason, and was in all ways a prominent and influential citizen.

Mark and Sarah (Hanley) McDermut had seven sons and two daughters, five of whom are now living. Wesley R. McDermut, the immediate subject of this sketch, was their fourth son in order of birth. He was reared on the old family homestead in Mifflin township and remained there until he was twenty-three years old. He then went to Davis county, Iowa, where he worked for two years. He was next employed for a time in another part of Iowa and then went to a point near Iowa City, remaining there two years. On the expiration of that time he returned to Richland county, Ohio, and married Miss Lydia A. Chew, and they had three children. The two living are: James, who married a daughter of William and Harriet Rodman and lives on the old family homestead; and Sarah, who married O. H. McFarland and lives upon a farm above Lucas. Ida May died in infancy.

For three years after marriage Mr. McDermut lived on a rented farm, until he bought eighty acres in Blooming Grove township, where he lived for three years. He then sold his place there, and returning to Monroe township purchased his wife's grandfather's eighty-acre farm, on which he lived from 1864 until 1882, when he moved to the farm which has since been the family home. This place has an area of one hundred and twenty acres and Mr. McDermut owns enough other land to make an aggregate acreage of two hundred and thirty. He is recognized as a successful general farmer and makes a specialty of Poland China hogs and shorthorn cattle. Although starting in poverty he never was sued on any account he ever contracted.

Politically Mr. McDermut is a Democrat, and he is a public-spirited man who takes a deep interest in all public questions, national and local. He

has served his fellow townsmen as township trustee for two years, and his interest in educational affairs has influenced him to perform the duties of school director for twenty years.