

JOHN ILER.

Such a record as is made by the able man of affairs, the faithful and efficient public official and the patriotic volunteer soldier is that of the popular citizen of Jackson township, Richland county, Ohio, whose name is the title of this sketch. A native of this township, he was born February 26, 1842, on the farm now known as the Manuel Wise place, a son of Andrew Iler, who was born in Pennsylvania, married Susan Yeiger, and settled early in Ohio. Andrew and Susan (Yeiger) Iler had four children: Elizabeth, who is now the widow of John Wetz and lives in Jackson township; Sarah, who is the wife of Abraham Straub, of Shelby; Annie, who is the wife of

Charles Newcomb, of Vernon Junction, Ohio; and the immediate subject of this sketch. Mr. Iler died in 1842, and Mrs. Iler some years later married John Welsh. John Iler remained with his mother and stepfather until 1848, when, at the age of six years, he was adopted by John F. Rice, with whose family he had a home until he attained his majority.

At the age of twenty-one Mr. Iler began business life for himself on a rented farm. He was a renter for twelve years all told, but proved that he was not of the stuff of which life-long renters are made. He used his opportunities to the best advantage, saved his money and at the end of the period mentioned was able to purchase his present farm. He now owns seventy-seven acres of improved, productive and valuable land and is widely known as a successful general farmer.

In 1862 Mr. Iler enlisted as a private in Company C, Twentieth Regiment of Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was in active service about a year, participating in the fighting at Mission Ridge and in the siege of Vicksburg. He received honorable discharge from the service, having in all ways won the commendation of his superiors as a brave and faithful soldier. In 1864 he married Mary Sheets, who has proved a good helpmeet to him and who has borne him seven children, named as follows in the order of birth: Charles E., William, Robert, Ida, Elizabeth, Orpha and Annie,—the last mentioned of whom is dead.

In political affiliations Mr. Iler is a Democrat, and he is an active and enthusiastic worker for the advancement of the principles of his party. It will be seen that he is not without a good personal political influence when it is considered that he has been twice elected to the important office of commissioner of Richland county, serving from 1885 to 1892, during a period of six years, to the entire satisfaction of the voters whose interests he had in charge. He is a member of the Lutheran church and has served as one of its deacons. His public spirit has been many times put to the test and has always been equal to all reasonable demands upon it. Ever practically interested in public education, he has done everything in his power, as school director and otherwise, to elevate the standard of the schools of his township.