

## PETER DAVIDSON.

For forty-two years Peter Davidson was a resident of Richland county and throughout that period retained the respect and confidence of his fellow men, while in his active and energetic life he won the success for which all men are striving. He was born May 10, 1810, in the parish of Inch, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and is the son of John and Margaret Davidson, the former a farmer by occupation. Our subject attended the parish school of his native town, where he pursued the studies of reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic, but at an early age he put aside his text-books in order to provide for his own support working for the farmers of the neighborhood. He was honest, energetic and cheerful and was universally trusted by his employers. Becoming convinced that he could never better his financial condition by remaining in Scotland, at the age of twenty-six years he determined to emigrate to America and landed at New York on the 10th of August, 1836, after a voyage of seven weeks in the sailing vessel. He came direct to Ashland county, Ohio, then a part of Huron county, for the division was not made until about nine years later.

The following year, as a companion and helpmeet on the journey of life, Mr. Davidson chose Miss Margaret Beattie, who also was a native of Scotland, and they began their domestic life in Ruggles, Ashland county, where, in common with the other early settlers, they endured many hardships. In times of drought Mr. Davidson had to go forty-five miles in order to obtain a grist of flour. By their marriage were born seven children, of whom two died in infancy, while five are yet living. In the spring of 1858 the family removed to a farm which Mr. Davidson purchased in Butler township, Richland county. There his first wife died October 19, 1866, and in February, 1868, he was again married, his second union being with Miss Elsie Beattie, who died in 1893. Mr. Davidson survived her until the 21st of May, 1900, when he was called to his final rest, at the age of ninety years and eleven days. He had resided in Richland county for forty-two years and throughout that period had carried on agricultural pursuits, aiding in transforming the wild lands into richly cultivated farms. In his business

dealings he was reliable and at all times was an energetic, diligent and prosperous farmer.

Three years after his arrival in Ohio Mr. Davidson applied for papers of citizenship, and when he had obtained the right of franchise he voted with the Free-soil party, being the twelfth person in the township to support that ticket. He always made it a rule not to vote for party alone but also to advocate what he believed to be the best principles for good government regardless of party affiliations. His first presidential vote was cast for James G. Birney, the Abolition candidate, who was defeated. The Free-soil and Whig parties subsequently united and formed the Republican party, to which Mr. Davidson ever afterward gave his allegiance, and he never failed to attend the elections until too feeble to make his way to the polls. He never belonged to any secret societies, but after arriving in America joined the Baptist church and subsequently he joined the Christian church, being a member of the latter for half a century. His life is upright and honorable, and he is accounted one of the leading and valued citizens of his community.