

#### ABRAHAM BENEDICT.

Well known in Richland county, Mr. Benedict is a worthy representative of its farming interests and is a man whose sterling traits of character have gained for him the high regard of those with whom business or social relations have brought him in contact. A native of the Keystone state, he was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, on the 11th of August, 1834, and is a son of Joshua and Margaret (Ickes) Benedict. The father

also was born in Franklin county and was there reared upon a farm. Having arrived at years of maturity he married Miss Margaret Ickes, and some time afterward came into possession of the old homestead, residing thereon until 1844, when he sold the property and removed to Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, purchasing there a farm near Shippensburg, where he spent the succeeding three years of his life. On the expiration of that period he again sold out and came to Richland county, Ohio, where he bought a farm of forty acres in Blooming Grove township and continued its management for ten years, when he removed to Williams county. Several years later he went to Hillsdale county, Michigan, where his last days were passed. His study of political questions and interests led him to give his support to the Whig party in early life, and after the organization of the Republican party he became one of its staunch supporters, but was never an office-seeker. From early manhood a member of the Church of God, he was highly esteemed through the long years of an active and honorable life. His wife was born in Maryland in 1806, and during her early girlhood accompanied her parents on their removal to Franklin county, Pennsylvania, where they lived and died. Mrs. Benedict passed away in Angola on the 3d of July, 1900, at the very advanced age of ninety-four years, one month and twenty-one days. By her marriage she became the mother of five children, all of whom are yet living, namely: William, a resident of Angola, Indiana; Abraham, of this review; Barbara, now the wife of Frank Taft, of Oklahoma; Margaret, the wife of Orlando Bennet, of Arkansas City; and Jacob, of Williams county.

Abraham Benedict was educated in the common schools and reared on the home farm, taking his place in the fields almost as soon as he was old enough to hold the plow handles. He thus received the practical training which fitted him for successfully carrying on active business on his own account. In the spring of 1858 he removed with his wife and his parents to Williams county, where he remained for eighteen months, then returned to Richland county and for twelve years devoted his energies to the operation of his father-in-law's farm. In 1871 he became a resident of Ashland county, where he cultivated a tract of rented land for some years. Again coming to Richland county he purchased eighty acres of the farm upon which he now resides and to which he has since added thirty-four acres, so that the place now comprises one hundred and fourteen acres. In 1878 he erected thereon a substantial residence and in 1882 built a barn. The place is now splendidly improved and the well-tilled fields yield to him a good return for the care and cultivation given to them.

In 1857 Mr. Benedict was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Stoner, a native of Blooming Grove township, Richland county, and to them have been born four children, all yet living, as follows: Norris, who is conducting the home farm; Sarah A., the wife of Shannon Weaver, of Blooming Grove township; Almira, the wife of Wilber Curtis, of Blooming Grove township; and Albert, who is a teacher in the public schools of Marshall county, Illinois. The mother passed away November 11, 1898. For fifteen years she had been an invalid and for eight years was entirely helpless. In politics Mr. Benedict is a staunch Republican, but has never been an aspirant for public office, the duties of the farm claiming his entire attention. A strong purpose and indefatigable energy have been the salient features of his career and have gained for him the prosperity which he now enjoys.