

GEORGE AND HANNAH COX.

Mr. George Cox and his noble wife, whose maiden name was Hannah Funk, are one of the most highly respected and venerable couples of Richland county, he being ninety years of age and she eighty-five. They are living a retired life on their small farm in section 20, Sharon township, Richland county, Ohio, their postoffice being Shelby. Mr. Cox was born in Brooke county, Virginia, February 25, 1810, and came to Ohio in 1827, driving through with a team of horses, thirty sheep and two cows. He came with his father, stepmother and six other children. His father was Joseph Cox, whose first wife, though named Jane Cox before her marriage as well as afterward, was not a relative. She died in Virginia, leaving one daughter, who later was married in that state. Joseph Cox was afterward married twice, and has three other children. He managed his father's farm, that father being George Cox, who was a spy in the war against the Indians, and received from the government one hundred and sixty acres of land, by what was known as the "tomahawk right,"—wild land, upon which he settled.

George Cox, the subject of this sketch, received a fair common-school education, but in what was then known as a subscription school, conducted in a log schoolhouse. From his early youth he was for many years the main stay of the family. His father bought one-half a section of land of a Mr. McGuire's administrator, who made entry of the land and soon afterward died. Joseph Cox settled on his farm when there were but three houses and an old horse-mill in Shelby. This farm was just south of where the subject of this sketch now lives, and on the east side of the road. All his life the subject of this sketch has been a great worker, having not only chopped and logged all his own timber but has also used the sickle in the wheat, before such an implement as a reaper was known, or even a cradle for cutting the grain, working many a day in the harvest field for half a dollar per day. He was married September 8, 1836, to Hannah Funk, who was born in Pennsylvania July 3, 1815, and who is a granddaughter of the Rev. William

John Webber, whose funeral she attended when but ten days old, being carried thereto on horseback in her mother's arms. Rev. Mr. Webber was a Hollander by birth, and was the first minister of the gospel to preach in Pittsburg, riding a circuit of fifty miles in extent, carrying his saddlebags on his horse. But he began life in that then new country as a teacher of youth, finishing his life work as a teacher of men.

David Funk, the father of Mrs. Cox, was a man of unusual intelligence. He married Catherine Webber, who was born in Pennsylvania April 12, 1795. David and Catherine Funk were the parents of eight children, five sons and three daughters, one of the sons dying in infancy. William Webber, the father of Catherine Webber, was born in Holland in 1735, was a preacher of the gospel until he was about eighty years old and died at the age of ninety. A book of psalms and hymns in the German language bearing the date of 1807 is one of the precious possessions of the family. David Funk died in Shelby February 17, 1868, and his widow died August 15, 1874, in her eightieth year, he being seventy-seven at the time of his death. Of their children three are still living, Mrs. Cox being the oldest of the three. Upon her marriage to Mr. Cox they settled at once in the woods, occupying a hewed-log house, 18x20 feet in size, she doing her cooking over a fire in a huge fireplace, using a large crane from which to suspend her pots and kettles.

Mr. and Mrs. Cox are the parents of eight children—three sons and five daughters, as follows: Joseph O., who was a member of the Fourth Ohio Cavalry and died of disease during the late war of the Rebellion, at the age of twenty-five; he never married and was a great student and fine scholar; Catherine M., born in 1839, and now the wife of Dr. Kochenderfer, of Galion; she is the mother of two sons; the third child died in infancy; Margaret, who died at the age of five months; David, who was born in 1845, and who served as a soldier in the Fifteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the years 1864 and 1865, and who was an epileptic for many years, dying at the age of thirty-three years and ten months; Charles M., born in 1847, who was twice married and died at the age of fifty, leaving seven children: Elizabeth, who was born June 19, 1850, and has remained at home; and Narcissa, born March 12, 1852, and now the wife of William R. Crall, a farmer living in the immediate neighborhood.

Mrs. Cox has one brother, David W. Funk, living in Los Angeles, aged seventy-eight, and one sister, Elizabeth, the widow Rayl, living in San Diego, California, who was born December 2, 1824. She was married, in April, 1849, to Henry Rayl, at Bucyrus, Ohio, he dying December 3, 1853, at

the age of thirty one. Mr. Rayl was a farmer, and his widow is one of the best preserved women of her age, both physically and mentally. Both Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Rayl have excellent memories and much more than ordinary intelligence. Mrs. Cox, though somewhat feeble and bowed down with her four-score years and five, yet is still bright intellectually and her faculties remain sound and strong. Death has no terrors for this noble old lady, and she awaits the summons from the grim reaper with a sublime faith that enables her to approach the grave like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams.