

#### PETER HOUT.

There is particular satisfaction in reverting to the life history of the honored and venerable gentleman whose name initiates this review, since his mind bears impress of the historical annals of Richland county. Here he has spent his entire life, and has been prominently identified with its growth and upbuilding. He was born in Mifflin township, on the 17th of November, 1821, a son of Jacob and Catherine (Simpson) Hout. The fa-

ther was a native of Virginia, where his early life was passed; and his father, Peter Hout, was born in Germany, from which country his parents came to America at an early day, settling in the Old Dominion, where they spent the remainder of their lives. After reaching manhood Jacob Hout came to Ohio and first located in Jefferson county, where he was united in marriage to the mother of our subject. After a few years' residence there he came to Richland county, about 1820, and entered the northeast quarter of section 17, Mifflin township, while his brother John, who came with him, entered the adjoining quarter section on the west. Some five or six years later Jacob Hout sold his place and bought the southeast quarter of section 7, the same township, where he continued to make his home until called from this life, July 15, 1838, at about the age of forty-five years. Thus passed away one of the honored pioneers and highly respected citizens of this county. In religious belief he was a Presbyterian and in politics a Whig. He was twice married, his first wife having died when our subject was only four years old. Of the four children born of that union Peter is the only survivor. The second wife was Mary Williams, by whom he had two children, but George alone is living.

Amid pioneer scenes Peter Hout passed the days of his boyhood and youth, and he coned his lessons in a primitive log schoolhouse common at that time. On the 30th of May, 1843, he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah A. Boals, a native of Jefferson county, Ohio, and a daughter of David Boals, one of the early settlers of Mifflin township. Seven children blessed this union,—five sons and two daughters,—namely: Susanna, the wife of M. J. Chigston, of Mansfield; William M., a farmer of Madison township, this county; David W., who is running his father's lower farm; Jacob G., a molder of Mansfield; Cyrus B., the chief engineer of the electric light and power house of Galion, Ohio; Elmer J., a farmer of Mifflin township, this county; and one daughter, Mary Effa, who died when about twenty-two years of age.

After his marriage Mr. Hout settled upon a farm of eighty acres in Mifflin township,—the west half of the northwest quarter of section 16,—which was then the property of his father. As it was covered with a heavy growth of timber, he at once began the arduous task of clearing the land and fitting it for cultivation. After his father's death he bought the land from the administrators of the estate, and has since added to it, making a fine farm of two hundred and two acres. Although now in his eightieth year, Mr. Hout is still hale and hearty and able to perform considerable work upon the farm. Politically he is a staunch supporter of the Democratic party, has served

as infirmery director six years, and as township assessor nine or ten terms. He can relate many interesting incidents of pioneer life in this region, when the land was all wild and unimproved and when wild game of all kinds was plentiful. As an honored pioneer and representative man of his community he is well worthy the high regard in which he is uniformly held.