

SOLOMON W. ABY.

This well known and highly esteemed citizen of Mifflin, Richland county, Ohio, was born in Ashland county, three miles east of his present home, October 6, 1842, and is a representative of one of the honored pioneer families of that county, his paternal grandfather, Jacob Aby, a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, being one of the early settlers. His father, Ephraim Aby, was born in Ashland county, where he continued to make his home until he started for California just prior to the Civil war, since which time nothing has been heard of him. He was united in marriage with Mary Vail on the day William Henry Harrison was elected president in 1840. His widow makes her home near our subject and is a well-preserved old lady of seventy-nine years. Her parents were James and Sarah (Copus) Vail, the latter a daughter of James Copus, who was killed by the Indians in 1812. Mrs. Vail died in 1884, at the advanced age of eighty-six years. She had four children, namely: John, who served as a captain in the war of the Rebellion, married Fannie Kisling, and from Ashland county, Ohio, moved to Missouri, where they reared ten children. Nancy married Scott McDennitt, a blacksmith of Ashland county, who died about thirty years ago, leaving three children, and a widow, who now lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Mary, the mother of our subject, is next in order of birth. Solomon lives on the place where his grandfather, James Copus, was shot by the Indians near a spring of water that flows from the roots of a willow tree. He married Louise Haney, and they have three children living,—John Wesley, Marida and Elizabeth,—all residents of Ashland county.

The subject of this sketch is the oldest in a family of six children, the others being as follows: Jacob, who died unmarried in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1877: he was a member of Company E, Seventy-fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil war, and was wounded in the battle of Chattanooga, but never applied for a pension; Amanda, now a resident of Mansfield, Ohio, who married John Beek, a farmer, who died about eighteen years ago, leaving four children,—Nettie, Rella, Alice and Kittie; Sarah, who married William Yoh, who died about eight years ago, and his widow and three children now live in Michigan; Fanny, who married Josiah Williams, of Michigan, and they have one child; and Mina, who married Martin Hender and lived on a farm adjoining our subject's place, where both died in the spring of 1897, only fourteen days apart: they had two children,—Clarence and Alice,—who died in June, 1896. Of Amanda's children Nettie is now the wife of William Daubenspeck, a carpenter of Mansfield; Rella

is the wife of Jefferson Swengering, of Waterford, Knox county, Ohio; Alice is the wife of Burr Gettis, a bookkeeper living in Denver, Colorado; and Kittie lives with her mother in Mansfield, Ohio.

Solomon Aby, the subject of this review, was reared in his native county and educated in the common schools. He successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits in Ashland county until the spring of 1883, when he sold his place and purchased a farm of one hundred acres in Richland county, to the improvement and cultivation of which he has since devoted his energies with marked success. He is a member of the Lutheran church, and is highly respected and esteemed by all who know him.

On the 17th of March, 1870, Mr. Aby married Miss Elizabeth Gongway, a daughter of Michael Gongway, of Ashland county, who died in 1896, at about the age of eighty years. By this union six children were born, namely: Cora B., now the wife of Wesley Keefer, a farmer of Washington township, Richland county, south of Mansfield, by whom she has two children,—Leta and Boyd; and Stella, Charles, Bert, Effie and Elta, who are all at home with their parents.