

HARVEY FREER.

On the 6th of October, 1899, there passed away at his home in Weller township, this honored and highly respected citizen, who was for twenty years one of the leading farmers of that locality. A native of Ohio, he was born in Trumbull county August 10, 1823, and was one of a family of fourteen children, all now deceased. His parents, Lemuel and Catherine (Phillips) Freer, were both natives of New York state. When a young man the father moved to Trumbull county, Ohio, where he was married and where he followed farming for some years. Later he made his home

with his family in Wayne county, this state, where his death occurred. He was an ardent Republican in politics, and was a man of pronounced views and of much influence in his community.

During his boyhood Harvey Freer attended the common schools and remained at his parental home until he attained his majority. He was then united in marriage to Miss Sarah Hartwell, who died nine years later. Of the four children born of that union only one is now living: Albertus, a farmer of Weller township, Richland county.

In September, 1858, Mr. Freer was again married, his second union being with Miss Mary Bruth, a native of Wayne county, Ohio, and a daughter of Henry and Polly (Duffy) Bruth. Her father was born in Germany and when a young man emigrated to America, locating first in Stark county, Ohio, where he worked as a farm hand until his marriage. He then removed to Wayne county and bought a farm, which he successfully cultivated, becoming one of the well-to-do and highly esteemed citizens of that locality. He lived to the advanced age of eighty-three years, and after his death his wife made her home with her children. She died at the age of eighty-four. By his second marriage Mr. Freer had ten children, but only four are now living, namely: Ira, a resident of Mission, Washington; Melvina, the wife of David Oswalt, a farmer of Weller township, this county; Joseph and James, who are now carrying on the home farm.

When a young man Mr. Freer learned the trade of windmill-making with his brother in Paris, Stark county, where he was first married, and was then engaged in the manufacture of windmills at Rallsburg for a time. Selling out his business at that place in 1850, he moved to Ashland, where he and his brother Jonas were engaged in buying and shipping country produce for five years. He then purchased a farm of ninety-four acres, a mile and a half south of Ashland, and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, later purchasing an additional farm of one hundred and twenty acres near his home place. He prospered in his farming operations, and on selling his property in that locality came to Richland county, and bought the farm of two hundred acres still owned by the family. For some four or five years prior to his death he practically lived a retired life, on account of his health, though he managed his place, the farm work largely devolving upon his sons. He was a man of good business and executive ability, and was able to carry forward to successful completion whatever he undertook. As such he became one of the substantial citizens of his community. By his ballot he supported the men and measures of the Republican party, but

always refused office, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his business interests. He was an earnest and consistent member of the Dunkard church and well merited the high regard in which he was uniformly held. His wife, who still survives him, is a most estimable lady and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.