

AUSTIN M. FERRELL.

As a representative of one of the honored families of Ohio, and as a man of sterling worth held in high regard for his own excellent qualities, Austin M. Ferrell well deserves representation in this volume. He was born in Ashland county on the 13th of August, 1852, and is a son of George W. and Elizabeth (Berlin) Ferrell. His father was born in Ashland county on the 10th of January, 1828, the grandfather of our subject having emigrated from Pennsylvania at an early epoch in the development of the Buckeye state, taking up his abode in what was then Richland county but is now a part of Ashland county. On the homestead farm which was there developed George W. Ferrell was reared to manhood amid the wild scenes of the frontier, experiencing with the family all the hardships and trials of pioneer life. He married Miss Elizabeth Berlin and then began farming on his own account, renting a tract of land from his brother, Obadiah Ferrell. On that farm all his children were born and he made the place his home until 1864, when he purchased what is now known as the Ferrell farm, in Richland county, removing with the family to the new home. He was an active member of the Lutheran church from his early years, and in his political faith was a Democrat. For several terms he served in the offices of treasurer and trustee of his township, and labored earnestly to promote the welfare of the community. He died March 30, 1899, but is still survived by his widow, who is now in the seventy-second year of her life. She was born in Pennsylvania, March 8, 1829. Her father died during her early girlhood and her mother removed with her family to Ohio, locating in Ashland county, where Mrs. Ferrell was married. She now resides on the old homestead in Richland county. All of her six children are living, namely: Irene, the wife of Martin Zigler, a merchant of Rome, Ohio; Austin M., of this review; Arthur W., a farmer of Blooming Grove township; Alverda, the wife of Hon. J. M. Hunter, of Blooming Grove township; Aldelfus, an agriculturist of

Franklin township, Richland county; and Ardella, the wife of George Lautermilch, who follows farming and operates a threshing machine in Cass township, Richland county.

Austin M. Ferrell spent the days of happy youth at his parental home, indulging in the pleasures common to boys of that period, assisting in the work of the farm and familiarizing himself with the branches of English learning taught in the common schools. He was married September 14, 1876, to Miss Mary E. Haun, a native of Blooming Grove township, Richland county, and a daughter of James Haun, now deceased. When a young man her father left his Virginia home for Ohio and here remained until his life's labors were ended in death.

For some years after his marriage Mr. Ferrell operated the old homestead on shares, but later removed to the Martin Zigler farm near Rome, where he carried on agricultural pursuits for a year. He then took up his abode in Ashland county on a farm belonging to his uncle, Alanson Ferrell, and three years later he removed to the Gebhart farm, where he remained for a year. At that time he determined to see something of the west, and, selling his farming implements, he left his family in Richland county and for two months traveled over Kansas and Nebraska, hoping he might find a favorable opening there. In the same spring, however, he returned to Richland county and spent the summer near Rome. He then took up his abode near Savannah, Butler township, where he occupied a tract of rented land. Later he sold out his stock and implements and removed to the county infirmary, where he remained for seven years, after which he returned home and assumed the management of the Ferrell farm, his father having become incapacitated for work by a stroke of paralysis. He has since given his attention to its conduct and the well tilled fields and excellent improvements on the place indicate his careful supervision.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ferrell have been born two children,—Leo C. and Vida,—both at home. Mr. Ferrell votes with the Democracy, and, as every true American should do, feels an interest in the growth and success of his party; yet he has never sought or desired office.