

SIDNEY ELLIS.

Recent researches concerning the early history of the Ellis family in America indicate that Robert E., the grandfather of our subject, was descended from one of three brothers who came from Wales to the new world at an early period in the development and settlement of New England. He died in Pompey, New York, at the age of seventy-six years. Clark Ellis, the father of our subject, was born in Massachusetts in 1789, and during his

childhood accompanied his parents on their removal to Rhode Island and later to the Empire state, where he assisted in clearing, cultivating and improving his father's land. He wedded Miss Thirza Elwell, and afterward settled on a farm of sixty-three acres, of which he had become the possessor some time before. There he spent his remaining days, but extended the boundaries of his property by purchasing an additional tract of twenty-five acres and inheriting another portion of twenty-five acres from his father's estate, his farm then comprising one hundred and thirteen acres. He lived a quiet, but useful and honorable life and died in 1843, at the age of fifty-four years. Of the Democratic party he was a staunch supporter. Unto Clark and Thirza Ellis were born thirteen children, of whom three died in infancy, while ten reached the years of maturity, the youngest of that number being fifty-two years of age at death. Four of the family are still living, namely: Eliza, the widow of John Hunter, of Huron county, Ohio; Polly, the wife of Gorham Randall, of Nemaha, Nebraska; Sidney; and Henry, who is living in Montgomery county, Missouri.

In taking up the personal history of Sidney Ellis, we present to our readers the life record of one who is well known in Richland county. He was born in the town of Pompey, Onondaga county, New York, November 9, 1824, and the days of his youth were quietly passed on the old homestead farm. His educational privileges were limited, but he has been a great reader throughout his entire life and has ever kept well informed on questions of general interest. After his father's death he entered upon an independent business career as a farm hand, working by the month for four years. In 1840 he purchased a farm of eighty-two acres lying between the towns of Pompey and Fabius and there began farming on his own account. The year previous he had married Miss Hannah Benedict, a native of Pompey and a daughter of Stephen Benedict, one of the wealthiest farmers of Onondaga county. He had begun business as the possessor of only twenty-six acres of forest land, and with that to serve as a nucleus he added to his possessions by his energy and perseverance until his realty and bank account made him one of the most substantial citizens of his community.

Mr. and Mrs. Ellis resided at their new home for only a year, however, when they sold the property and rented a farm. He there planted a crop, but sold the harvest ere it was garnered, and in the fall of 1849 came to Ohio, where, in Ripley township, Huron county, in partnership with his brother, Henry A., he had previously purchased a farm of one hundred acres. His brother Henry and four older brothers had preceded him to Huron county. His property had been leased to a man for a term of two years and during

that time Sidney Ellis rented and cultivated other land. In 1851, however, he removed to his own home, but after a year he and his brother sold their land and for several months Sidney Ellis was a resident of Fitchville.

He next purchased one hundred and thirty-one acres of land in Butler township, Richland county, on which he resided for two years, when he sold that farm and removed to Huron county, having become the owner of fifty acres of a farm, upon which he resided for three years. During that time his father-in-law died, and disposing of his Huron county farm Mr. Ellis and his family returned to the Empire state, where his wife inherited thirty-six acres of her father's old homestead, with the buildings and residence upon the place. Mr. Ellis then purchased an adjoining forty-two acres and in New York they remained for four years, when they sold the property and returned to Ohio, once more becoming residents of Ripley township, Huron county. Mr. Ellis purchased there a tract of ninety-eight acres in the spring of 1862, and in July of the same year he became the owner of the remaining half of the farm known as the old Stiles place. In 1864 he removed to this half and made it his residence until 1873, when he sold the property for fourteen thousand dollars, and became the owner of his present home in Blooming Grove township, Richland county, where he has one hundred and fifty-eight acres of valuable land. In 1887 he bought the Burgess farm in Greenwich township, Huron county—one hundred and eight and three-quarters acres—and it is still numbered among his possessions.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ellis have been born four children: Polly M., the wife of Alanson Maynard, of Blooming Grove township, where he follows farming; Ella S., the wife of Frank L. Baker, a farmer of Shelby, Ohio; Louise C., at home; and Stephen E., who married Emma Sheely and is managing the home farm. Mr. Ellis is a stanch Democrat, thoroughly in sympathy with the principles of his party, and for many years served as a school director, doing everything in his power to promote the cause of education, for he realizes its importance in the active affairs of life as a training for the duties which a business career always brings.