

WILLIAM BROOK.

William Brook, whose pleasant residence is situated on a farm of two hundred and twelve acres in Springfield township, Richland county, is one of the native sons of England who has sought a home in America, hoping here to benefit his financial condition; and in this he has not been disappointed, for prosperity has attended his efforts and he is now accounted one of the substantial residents of his community. He was born in Kent county, England, February 26, 1832, and in 1852 crossed the Atlantic, the voyage consuming eleven days. He sailed from London to New York, but the voyage was a very rough one, the sails being broken and other damage done to the ship. He was accompanied by his brother John. They had no capital, depending upon their own resources for a living. To Cleveland they made their way, but, failing to secure employment there, they started with their trunks upon their backs, walking twelve miles to Brier, where they worked

on the new railroad, earning enough money to take them to Mansfield, where lived their uncle, John Mount, who had come to Richland county at an early day. With him they had a home until they found employment on a farm, working for eight dollars per month. Mr. Brook of this review was employed for four years, at eleven dollars per month, which was the largest pay given to any workman at that place. He was next employed as a section man on the railroad, receiving ninety cents per day, and later he secured work at another place, where he continued for six years, receiving from ninety cents to a dollar and a quarter per day.

During that time Mr. Brook was married, on the 15th of November, 1858, to Rebecca Scott, of Lincolnshire, who came to this country at the age of eighteen years with her two brothers and a sister. She is a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Holmes) Scott, and by her marriage has become the mother of six children, who are yet living, namely: Mary Ann, the wife of Theodore Forbes, of Topeka, Kansas, who is the proprietor of a grain elevator, and they have three daughters and two sons; Mrs. Emma Strofield, whose husband has a farm in Springfield township and who has two sons and one daughter; Mrs. Mattie Cornan, whose husband has a farm six miles east of her father's home; William S., who cultivates the home farm and has one son, Russell; Grace, the wife of Milo McMickin; and Laura, the wife of George Shryock, by whom she has a little daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Brook also lost two sons and one daughter in infancy.

In 1865 Mr. Brook took up his abode upon his present farm of sixty-six acres, to which he has made additions from time to time until it now comprises two hundred and twelve acres of rich and arable land. Through his own industry and capable management and the assistance of his able wife he has prospered. He has always devoted his energies to general farming, keeping his fields under a high state of cultivation and practicing the rotation of crops. He also seeds his fields occasionally to grass and is generous in the use of fertilizers. He has two sets of buildings upon the farm, his son occupying one of the residences.

Mr. Brook is but slowly recovering from a paralytic stroke which he suffered two years ago, but by the care and attention of his faithful wife he has been rendered quite comfortable. He has been a member of the Baptist church for more than forty-five years, and through a long period has served as one of its deacons. His wife and several children also belong to the same church. In politics he is a Republican, and he keeps well informed on the issues of the day, but has neither sought nor held office. In the evening

of life Mr. and Mrs. Brook reside on their good farm, there enjoying the comforts of former toil, and throughout the community where they reside many entertain for them sincere friendship. .