

THE
HISTORY
OF
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY,
OHIO

CONTAINING

**A History of the County; its Cities, Towns, etc.; General and Local
Statistics; Portraits of Early Settlers and Prominent Men;
History of the Northwest Territory; History of Ohio;
Map of Champaign County; Constitution of the
United States, Miscellaneous Matters,
etc., etc.**

ILLUSTRATED.

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several years. Took a leading part in the organization of the Ohio Swine Breeders' Association, and has been for many years a contributor to one or the other of the leading agricultural journals of the country. He, as his father was, is a member of the Masonic Fraternity, and proud of his connection with it. Received the Blue Lodge degrees in Harmony Lodge, No. 8, in 1857, and the Chapter Degrees in Urbana Chapter, No. 34, the same year, and, later, the degrees of Royal and Select Master in the Council at Springfield. Has served one or the other of the Masonic bodies in official capacity continuously, except one year, since the fall of 1857. In the fall of 1865, was elected High Priest of Urbana Chapter, and served two terms. On Oct. 13, 1866, was anointed the "Holy Order of High Priesthood" at Toledo, Ohio, by Grand H. P. George, Rex. Is now a member and Secretary of King's Creek Lodge, No. 389, which office he has held a greater part of the time since its organization, in 1866. Of his six children, but one is now living—Arthur L., born Sept. 19, 1867.

EDWARD M. MORGAN, farmer; P. O. King's Creek; born on the farm where he now resides, June 19, 1839; is a son of George V. and Christenfa (Earsom) Morgan, natives of Virginia. George V. became a resident of Champaign Co. about 1814, locating on the farm where Edward now lives, being a part of the section originally entered by the grandfather, as described in the sketch of Simon Morgan, in this work. Here he spent his life. He was married May 15, 1831, and had four children, one only, our subject, now surviving. Mr. Morgan, being one of the early pioneers and a prominent man, took an active part in the organization and administration of the affairs of his township and county. He died Feb. 5, 1849; his wife died Feb. 5, 1863. Our subject was only 10 years of age at the time of his father's death, but remained with his mother on the home farm till he grew to maturity. He was married, Aug. 28, 1862, to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Michael and Catharine Walters, natives of Virginia. They have had two children—Charles Forest, living, and Albert Hugh, deceased. Mr. Morgan has always resided upon the homestead place, where he has 120 acres of excellent land, with fine buildings and improvements, constituting a beautiful home and farmer's residence. This place has now been in possession of the Morgan family for sixty-six years. Mr. Morgan is P. M. of King's Creek Lodge of A., F. & A. M., and a member of Urbana Chapter, No. 39, R. A. M., and Rapier Commandery No. 19, K. T. Politically, he is a Democrat, and is now a candidate for County Commissioner, and is spoken of in the following commendable manner by the *Champaign Democrat*: "There is no better man in Champaign County than E. M. Morgan. A man of good judgment, strict integrity, capable for any position where decision of character is required, he would make a first-class Commissioner. We know we speak the mind of every individual who knows him when we say that the affairs of the county would be carefully and judiciously looked after, in the election of Mr. Morgan as a member of the Board of Commissioners."

ABEL NORTH, farmer; P. O. Kennard; born in Champaign Co., July 26, 1832; is a son of Lyman and Lucy (Cowle) North, natives of Connecticut. The paternal grandfather, Abel, is supposed to have been from England; both he and the maternal grandfather were soldiers in the Revolutionary war. Lyman came West to Ohio and located at Cincinnati in 1815, and worked at his trade—that of a cabinet and furniture maker—one year. He returned to Connecticut, and, with his family, came back to Ohio and located in Greene Co. He entered the employ of Read & Watson, and superintended their manufactory one year. In 1817, he moved into Champaign Co., and bought and located upon the farm upon which our subject was born. He opened his farm right from the woods, lived in his log cabin four years, and then erected a brick house, which is still standing on the farm and in quite good condition. He lived, and died on this farm Dec. 21, 1860; his wife died Aug. 25, 1876. They had twelve children; eight now survive—Sallie W., John, Lucy Ann, William, Orrin, Abel, Mary Jane and Edward. Mr. North, in connection with opening out his farm and making a home, carried on his trade, manufacturing most of the furniture used in that day in

the several counties near him, and made most of the coffins for the dead. The coffin which inclosed the remains of Simon Kenton, of pioneer fame, was made by Mr. North. He continued his trade some twenty years. As an early pioneer, he saw many hardships, but prospered well and became the owner of some 300 acres of land and was very comfortably situated at the time of his death. Our subject, who had remained with his father till maturity, was married, Aug. 24, 1854, to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Abraham and Fanny Herr, by whom he has had ten children; seven now living—Mary Frances, Lucy Jane, Adelaide, Charles L., Cora Barbara, William Franklin and Birdie Muzett. After his marriage he rented the farm upon which he now lives, also some adjoining land, and went to farming in earnest; he has continued farming all his life, and, in connection, has dealt extensively in stock. His life and labors have been crowned with success; he owns 340 acres of excellent land, constituting three different farms, and has erected good buildings on his home place, with fine improvements, having a beautiful home and residence. He has never held or sought office, preferring to attend strictly to his own business. He is a man highly honored and respected by all who know him. He is a strong Baptist in faith, and has been an active member of the church for nearly thirty years.

A. B. PEARCE, M. D., physician, King's Creek; born in this county Oct. 8, 1836; is a son of Harvey and Beulah (Barrett) Pearce, natives of Champaign Co., he being the first white child born in Urbana; born in 1802. The paternal grandfather was a native of Virginia, the maternal grandfather of Kentucky. Harvey and wife were parents of eight children; five now survive—Henry C., Lucas E., Abner B., John W. and Richard S. Our subject remained with his father, occupied at farm labor till he arrived at maturity, receiving his principal education at the schools of Urbana. In the winter of 1856, he taught his first school; then in the summer attended school and prosecuted his studies. This course he continued for five or six years, teaching school winters, and prosecuting his studies through the summer, during which time he had decided to take as his profession, the practice of medicine, and consequently shaped his course of study accordingly, devoting considerable time to the reading of medicine while teaching. In the winters of 1861 and 1862, he attended a course of lectures at the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery; then took a course at the Starling Medical College, at Columbus, in the winters of 1862 and 1863, graduating in the spring of 1863; then located in practice with his brother, in Mutual, Union Township, till 1864, when he enlisted in the 100 days' service, filling the position of Assistant Surgeon in the 134th O. V. I. At the expiration of his term of service, he returned and located in Kingston, and there carried on the practice of medicine and surgery, where he has continued to the present time. The Doctor has built up a good practice, and has during his stay here enjoyed the confidence of the people, and received in return a good remuneration. As he is thoroughly qualified by a preparatory course of study and practice in the army, especially in the branch of surgery, there is no reason why he should not be successful and enjoy the confidence of the public. He was married Sept. 17, 1867, to Miss Ella, daughter of Jacob H. and Elizabeth Shepherd. They have had four children; three now survive—Carrie Effie, Minnie May and Mattie Leila.

JOHN F. RETTBERG, general merchant, King's Creek; born in the State of Brunswick, Germany, Feb. 25, 1833; is a son of J. Frederick and Angelina Rettberg, who lived and died in Germany. They were parents of five children, three now living—Ernest, Hannah and John F.; two deceased—Henry and William E. The latter came to America in 1859, and at the beginning of the rebellion in 1861, enlisted in the defense of our country in the 1st O. V. Light Artillery, Battery M; was in Rosecrans' army of the Cumberland, and was killed at the battle of Stone River, Tenn., Dec. 31, 1862, his life being thus early sacrificed for the country so recently adopted by him, and in which he had not yet become naturalized. He was certainly a strong example of self-sacrifice for patriotism and love of law and liberty. His remains now rest in the Oakdale Cemetery at Urbana; his brother, his only relative in this country, procured