

A
CENTENNIAL BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY
OF
RICHLAND COUNTY
OHIO

ILLUSTRATED

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NATHANIEL GUTHRIE.

Nathaniel Guthrie is one of Richland county's native sons, his birth having occurred October 6, 1843, on the farm which is still his home, his parents being John E. and Elizabeth (Crawford) Guthrie. His father was born in Harrison county, Ohio, and was a son of William Guthrie, who came to Richland county, Ohio, in 1815 and entered from the government the quarter section of land which adjoins Nathaniel Guthrie's present farm on the north. He was the fifth settler in Blooming Grove township. He was accompanied by his wife and eight children, and after building a log cabin he cleared an acre of land, with the assistance of his wife and three eldest sons, and sowed wheat upon it. They had no fodder for the cattle; so the latter subsisted on browse. For a time the family was compelled to live on corn that had been frosted and which the cattle had refused to eat, for the supply of meal had become exhausted before the winter was over. With the aid of his sons, William Guthrie cleared his land and developed a good farm, upon which he spent his remaining days.

John E. Guthrie remained upon the old homestead until his twenty-ninth year, having about three months' schooling in the winter season. He was then married and removed to the farm upon which our subject now resides and which he had previously purchased. It comprises a quarter section of land, for which he paid four hundred dollars, and upon it he and his wife remained until called to the home beyond. They were members of the Presbyterian church, Mr. Guthrie having become identified therewith in his boyhood, and for many years he was a deacon in the church. He gave his political support to the Democratic party, while the grandfather of our subject was a Whig. Unto John E. and Elizabeth (Crawford) Guthrie were born nine children, of whom four are yet living, namely: William, of White

county, Indiana; Eleanor, the wife of Jacob DeLancey, of Cass township, Richland county; James, a resident of Shiloh, Ohio; and Nathaniel.

The boyhood days of Nathaniel Guthrie were quietly passed on the home farm, and in the common schools he acquired his education. In his nineteenth year, however, his mode of life became greatly changed, for on the 15th of October, 1862, he volunteered for service in the Civil war and was assigned to duty in Company K, of the One Hundred and Twentieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He remained at the front for one year, and then on account of disability was honorably discharged. He took part in the engagements at Vicksburg, Arkansas Post and the siege of Vicksburg, and thence returned to Jackson, Mississippi, where he was last in active service, being mustered out October 12, 1863. His brother William was a member of Company D, One Hundred and Second Ohio Infantry, and remained at the front until the close of the war, while James joined Company I, of the Fifteenth Ohio Infantry, and served for three years. He was captured at Stone river and held for three days and was paroled on the field.

Returning to the north Nathaniel Guthrie remained at home until he had regained his health, and in the spring of 1865 went to the oil fields of Pennsylvania, where he spent the summer and fall. Owing to the death of his father he returned home to assist in the management of the farm. He was married the following year to Miss Almeda Parcher, a native of Richland county and a daughter of John and Nancy Parcher, both of whom are still living, in Butler township; the former is in his eighty-fourth year and the latter in her eighty-third year. They are both well preserved and have traveled life's journey together as man and wife through the long period of sixty-five years.

After his marriage Mr. Guthrie removed to Ashland, where he engaged in carpentering for two years, and then returned to the old homestead to care for his mother and an invalid sister. There he remained for four years, during which time he continued carpentering and then his brother James left the farm, going to a place of his own, and our subject assumed the work of cultivating the fields, being thus engaged up to the time of his mother's death. The year following he purchased the old homestead and has since made excellent improvements upon his place, which is now one of the most desirable farms of the community. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Guthrie has been blessed with ten children, of whom six are yet living, as follows: J. Luther, a farmer of Weller township, Richland county; James H., a hardware merchant of Bloomdale, Wood county, Ohio; Myron Taylor, who manages the home farm; Eva, at home; Benton W., an em-

ploye of the National Cycle Works, in Shelby, Ohio; and Ella E., the wife of Marion Houston, a farmer of Blooming Grove township, Richland county.

Mr. Guthrie is a Democrat, well informed on the issues of the day, and gives to his party a stalwart support. For six years he served as a trustee of his township, proving himself a capable officer. He is prominent in civic societies, holding membership in Spiegel Post, No. 228, G. A. R., of Shiloh; Rome Lodge, No. 158, I. O. O. F., in which he has passed all the chairs; Shiloh Lodge, No. 374, R. A.; and Shiloh Lodge, F. & A. M.

Throughout his entire life Mr. Guthrie has resided in Richland county and has made a creditable record, gaining for himself the respect and good will of his fellow men.