

A
CENTENNIAL BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY
OF
RICHLAND COUNTY
OHIO

ILLUSTRATED

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CHRISTIAN WELTY.

Christian Welty, who is now living a retired life, was for many years identified with the agricultural interests of Richland county. He was born in Washington county, Maryland, April 18, 1814.

The subject of this review spent his early years upon a farm, and at the age of eighteen was apprenticed to learn the trade of house-builder and joiner, receiving twenty-four dollars per year as the compensation for his services, and the privilege of spending two weeks in the harvest fields. At the expiration of his term of apprenticeship he had saved twenty dollars. He also earned ten dollars more by performing little services for his neighbors, and with this capital of thirty dollars in his pocket he started from Washing-

ton county, Maryland, on foot for Ohio. After visiting relatives in Carroll and Stark counties, Ohio, he began work as a journeyman carpenter in Massillon. Remaining there for a few months he then determined to see more of the world and made his way down the Ohio canal and Ohio river to Cincinnati, where he found employment at building steamboats. During the first summer he replenished his funds and procured a small kit of tools. He then resumed his travels, intending to meet the expenses of his trip by working upon the way. He left Cincinnati in the autumn and went to New Orleans and then to New York by way of the Atlantic route, and from the eastern metropolis proceeded to Philadelphia and Baltimore. Later he crossed the mountains to Cleveland, returning to Cincinnati and went on down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to Natchez, where he spent the second winter in work at the carpenter trade. He returned the following year to Massillon, Ohio, having worked at most of the principal places *en route*. In 1837, he arrived in Monroe township, Richland county, and for twelve years he followed carpentering here. Times were dull, prices low and profits small. He made only about one hundred and fifty dollars per year. Quite a number of the houses and barns that were erected by him are still standing as a monument to his handiwork, for he was very thorough in all his labors and his contracts were executed in a first-class manner.

In 1840 Mr. Welty was united in marriage to Miss Mary Crawford, who was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, in 1819, but in early girlhood was brought to Monroe township, Richland county, Ohio, by her parents, David and Lucy (Applegate) Crawford. Her father was one of the first settlers of the township. He was a man of high moral purpose, strictly temperate in all his habits, and his upright life was well worthy of emulation. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Welty were born five children, four sons and a daughter. The two older sons, John and Henry, were volunteers in the Union service during the Civil war and died from disease contracted at the front, one serving for fifteen months, while the other was a member of the army for nearly three years. Mary is wife of D. F. Tucker, a prominent and wealthy farmer of Monroe township. James resides on the old homestead; and Cary, the youngest member of the family, is also an agriculturist of Monroe township. After the death of his first wife Mr. Welty again married, in 1884, his second union being with Mrs. McCully, the widow of John McCully and a daughter of William McCreary. By her first marriage she had three children: Amanda, the wife of G. P. Brown, of Allegheny City, Pennsylvania; James M., a railroad conductor, who was killed in the yards in Chicago, Illinois, and Alice V.,

the wife of D. F. Shafer, the principal of the Hedges Street public school at Mansfield.

Mr. Welty became identified with farming interests of Richland county in 1846 when he purchased an eighty-acre farm. A few years later he bought forty acres additional and afterward added to this an eighty-acre tract, so that in 1861 he was using two hundred acres of land. About that time farm produce brought excellent prices and he was enabled to save considerable money. As the years have passed he has annually augmented his income through his indefatigable industry and business sagacity. He has thus become one of the substantial citizens of this community and the capital he has acquired enables him to live retired. He is one of the stockholders of the Mansfield Savings Bank and is a member of the banking executive committee.

In early life Mr. Welty gave his political support to the Whig party and on its dissolution joined the ranks of the new Republican party. At various times he has filled nearly all the township offices and has ever been found true and faithful to the trust reposed in him. For six years he was a justice of the peace, and his rulings were strictly fair and impartial. For two years he was the township clerk. His first presidential vote was cast for William Henry Harrison. He is a broad-minded man whose knowledge, though self-acquired, is comprehensive, for he has always been a great reader and has ever kept well informed on the questions of general interest, political or otherwise. For half a century he has been a member of the Lutheran church, and for a similar period has been affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Honor and integrity are synonymous with his name and his word is as good as his bond.