

Biographical
and Historical

MEMOIRS

OF

MUSKINGUM COUNTY,
OHIO.

EMBRACING AN

AUTHENTIC AND COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT OF THE CHIEF EVENTS
IN THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTY AND A RECORD OF
THE LIVES OF MANY OF THE MOST WORTHY
FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS,

ILLUSTRATED.



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John P. Sturtz, Adamsville, Muskingum county Ohio. Among the prosperous pioneer families, substantial farmers and valuable citizens of this part of the state we find the Sturtz family. Christian Sturtz, the great-grandfather of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania, and a farmer of Somerset county. His father came from Germany with his parents when but four years of age. A tradition in the family relates that his parents both died at sea, on the passage to America, and their son, the father of Christian, was sold to pay his passage to Philadelphia, as was the custom in those days. He finally settled in Somerset county, Penn., and for many years the family were residents of that county. Christian Sturtz, his son, married a Miss Shoemaker, was a successful farmer of Somerset county, owned about 300 acres of land, and here passed the remainder of his days. Jacob Sturtz, his eldest son, and the grandfather of John P., was born in Somerset county, Penn., in 1787, and of Pennsylvania Dutch stock. He received a common-school education in German, was reared a farmer, and married Susan Gaumer, the daughter of Jacob Gaumer, a Revolutionary soldier from Reading, Penn., who settled in Washington township, this county, in 1808, the families coming together. Jacob Sturtz settled, the same year, on land now owned by Mr. Lovett. To himself and wife were born ten children: Daniel (born in Pennsylvania, and died soon after coming to this county), Charles (born in Washington township, this county), Lucinda, Catherine, Adam, Andrew, Lydia, Martin, Solomon and Margaret. All lived to maturity, except the first. Jacob Sturtz was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, served as a rifleman, under Capt. Robert McConnell, and lived in Washington township eight years. In 1818 he settled in Adams township, on land now owned by George W. Bell, and here died, December 24, 1834. He was very handy at almost any work. He was a blacksmith, gunsmith and carpenter, and very often built houses. Among other things he prepared gunpowder and charcoal, and was considered one of the best hunters of the time in his county. He was a member of the Lutheran church in Salem township, held the office of church trustee, and assisted in the building of this church. When he died he was but forty-seven years of age.

Charles Sturtz, his son, and the father of John P., was born, February 19, 1813, on his father's farm in Washington township, and received but little education in the old log schools of that time. He attended school, in all, about three months, learning to read and write, and learned the usual work of a farmer boy, becoming very handy with a rifle. He shot his first deer when but seven years of age. In 1833, at the age of twenty-one years, he married Rachel Bainter, daughter of Adam and Elizabeth (Shroyer) Bainter, and was one of six chil-

dren: Mary, Jacob and John (twins), Catherine and Rachel (twins), and Adam C. Philip Shroyer, grandfather of Mrs. Sturtz, was the first of the family to come here, and cleared the land now owned by his grandson, P. C. Schroyer. To Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sturtz were born ten children: Elizabeth L. (married and deceased); Margaret (died at the age of twenty-two years); Adam C., Susan C., Jacob L., John P., Mary M. (died at the age of twenty-two years); Charles N. (drowned in the Muskingum river in 1873, at the age of twenty-one years); Rachel A. (died at the age of eight years); Josiah (died an infant). After his marriage Mr. Sturtz bought the land upon which he now resides, and where he has lived many years. He was very successful in farming, and bought a sawmill on Symms creek. This mill he operated until 1850, when he built a new one, and also had a store for three years, from 1847 to 1850, in Coshocton county. He was a very prosperous farmer, and now owns 320 acres of well-improved land. He is a prominent member of the Lutheran church, of Adamsville, and has been a church trustee. In politics he is a democrat and a charter member of Hubbard lodge No. 220, of A. F. & A. M. He was a strong Union man during the war, and had two sons in that war. Mr. Sturtz owns land in Salem township, the original deed for which was signed by Gen. Andrew Jackson. His two sons who served in the war were Adam C. and Jacob, both in the One Hundred and Sixty-second regiment, Ohio Volunteer infantry. Mr. Sturtz is now eighty years of age, hale and hearty, and respected by all. John P. Sturtz, his son, was born April 11, 1845, received a common-school education, and took up farming. June 10, 1869, he married Louisa C. Moser, the daughter of George A. and Anna (Hahn) Moser. After their marriage they settled in Adamsville, followed farming and teaming for a time, when Mr. Sturtz sold out and moved on a farm in Adams township, lived there one year when he moved to Hayworth farm, where he lived fourteen years. On this farm he erected a good house and barn in 1877 and 1878. In 1890 he moved to Adamsville, where he had opened a hardware store in 1889 in company with J. A. Snoots. This was the first hardware store in Adamsville, and they built up a good trade. In 1892 Mr. Sturtz retired and the business is now conducted by Ferrell Bros. In 1890, in connection with his other business, Mr. Sturtz opened a hotel in Adamsville, which has been very successful. Himself and wife are members of the Lutheran church, of which he has been elder, deacon and Sunday school superintendent for many years. Like his father he is a staunch democrat, but not an office seeker. He has held the office of township trustee. To Mr. and Mrs.

Sturtz have been born three children: Annie E. (born March 12, 1870). Clark N. (born July 31, 1876), and Roland J. H. (born September 8, 1883). Annie E. married September 30, 1890, Elbert S. Ferrell, a hardware merchant of Adamsville, and they have one child. Daniel Moser, grandfather of Mrs. Sturtz, was born in Zweybraker, Bavaria, and received a good education in German, later learning the pottery business. He was a well-to-do potter in Bavaria, and gave all his children good educations, his sons, as was the custom in Germany, following the trade of their father. He married, in Bavaria, Catherine Wenderling, and to them were born four children, who lived to maturity: Philip, Catherine, Louise and George A., all born in Bavaria. In 1843 Daniel Moser came to America with his family, and settled on a farm in Adams township, now owned by John J. Klein. Himself and family were unaccustomed to farm work, and were compelled to pay to have the work done until they gradually became farmers. They were members of the Lutheran church, and Daniel lived to be sixty-three years of age, dying in 1843. His son, Philip Moser, worked at the pottery business in Zanesville for years. George A. Moser, another son, and the father of Mrs. Sturtz, was born in 1816, in Bavaria, and received a good education, being able to speak French and German, and when he came to this country he also learned the English language. He was eighteen years of age when he came to America with his father, became a farmer and married Anna Hahn, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Boltenberrick) Hahn. Her father came from Hesse Cassel, Germany, in 1834, and settled first in Pennsylvania, where he lived about a year and a half, and in 1835 came to this county and settled in Adams township near Wills creek. Here he became a prosperous farmer and lived to be about seventy-one years of age. He was one of the founders of the Lutheran church, and with his means helped to build the church, and held the principal offices. His widow is yet living at the age of eighty-seven years. After his marriage George A. Moser remained on the home farm. Later he removed to Boone, Iowa, and remained there one summer, but not liking the climate he returned to his old home. He then opened a grocery store in Zanesville and remained there two years, when he removed to Adamsville and engaged in the same business, was also postmaster, and held the office of township trustee. Himself and wife are members of the Lutheran church, and he has held all the offices in the same, and having a good voice he was accustomed to lead the singing. He is a strong democrat in politics. Mr. and Mrs. Moser are the parents of nine children: Louise C., Mary E. (deceased at thirty-one years

of age, a widow at the time), John D., Emma M., Ella C., Annie S., William G. (died an infant), Lourena A. and Charles A. (died at the age of twenty-three years). Mr. Moser gave all his children good educations, and Emma M. and Lourena A. are successful teachers, the latter having taught ten years in Adamsville. Mr. Moser died in 1874, at the age of fifty-eight years, his widow is yet living.