

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

JOHN B. RUSH.

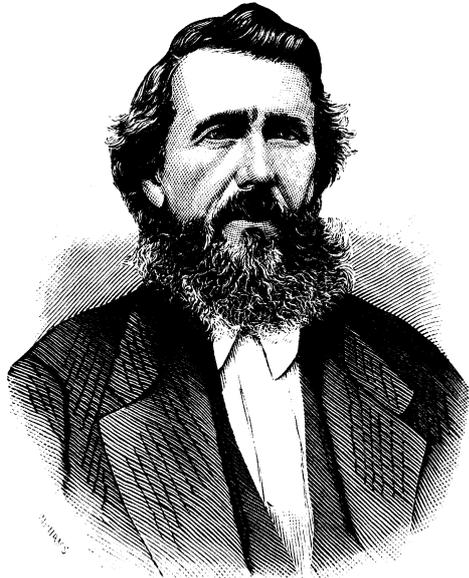
Among the representative farmers of Sodus township we find John B. Rush, who was born in Frederick Co., Va., July 18, 1825. The father—Henry Rush—moved to Ohio about one year and a half after the birth of John B., settling in Greene County, seven miles from Xenia, the county-seat, where he purchased eighty acres of land, and engaged in farming for ten years. In 1836 he moved to Berrien township, Berrien Co., Mich., where he entered ninety-nine acres of land. June 8, 1851, John B. Rush married Mahala, daughter of Joses and Hulda Reames. Of this union were born eight children, viz., Hulda J., born July 2, 1852; Uceba B., born Sept. 20, 1854; Nancy E., born Aug. 15, 1856; Ida E., born Oct. 8, 1858; Henry J., born June 5, 1861; John F., born May 18, 1863, died June 27, 1867; William E., born July 12, 1865; Almeda E., born June 1, 1871. After his marriage, Mr. Rush rented his father's farm for four years. In 1853 he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Royalton township, now Sodus; moved on this farm in 1855; built a small frame house, which is still standing, and can be seen just in the rear of his new home, a view of which, accompanied by the portraits of himself and wife, can be seen on another page of this work. He settled in Michigan when to be a farmer here required something more than plowing the ground and sowing the grain; for felling the timber, rolling logs, burning brush, etc., was the work that preceded the easier and more desirable work in farming.

Mr. Rush has been a member of the district school board ever since he has been in the township. For thirty-two years he has been connected with the United Brethren Church; ten years of that time has served as trustee of that church. Is in politics a Democrat. Mahala Rush died Jan. 11, 1873, in Berrien Co., Mich. In her fifteenth year she joined the United Brethren Church, of which she remained a faithful member until she heard the welcome summons, "Come up higher." She was ever ready to help the afflicted, and had a kind word for all. The careworn servant of God always found a home at her house. Her husband and children deeply feel their loss.

JOSEPHUS FISHER.

No citizen of Sodus township is more closely allied with all its interests than the subject of this sketch, Josephus Fisher, who was born in Portage Co., Ohio, Oct. 14, 1828. His educational advantages were limited. Schools of that day were not good, and if they had been of the best, farmers' sons were then needed at home, and usually went to school only a few months in the winter. On July 4, 1850, Josephus married Miss Phebe Ann, daughter of John and Jane Gano. They have had six children, the first-born dying before being named; John,—at this time clerk of Sodus township; Usania, Alice, George, and Edna. Four are living, two married and two living at home. After his marriage, Mr. Fisher farmed in Ohio four years on a farm given him by his father. In January, 1854, he moved to

Sodus, purchasing ninety-six acres on section 24. He found some difference in farming this land and the cultivated farm he had left in Ohio. His first home here was such as all the early settlers had,—a log house. He has made an addition of one hundred and eight acres to his farm, and many improvements on it.



JOSEPHUS FISHER.

In 1861 he was elected supervisor of Sodus township, and filled this position ten and a half years and resigned. He was elected treasurer, which office he filled five years. In 1879 he was elected highway commissioner. He is a member of the Grange Lodge, No. 123, of Sodus township, and was Master one year. At this time he is Treasurer of the lodge.

He is a Republican in politics. He has been a member of the Disciples Church for twenty-six years, serving as elder of this body for ten years. His father's family consisted of nine children,—six girls and three boys,—all living in different States. Mrs. Fisher's father was one of the early settlers of the county. Her father's family consisted of six children,—three boys and three girls,—four of whom are living in Sodus township.

CHAPTER XLIII.

THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP.*

Location and Natural Features—Original Entries of Land—Settlement of the Township—Organization and List of Township Officers—Village of Three Oaks—Avery Station—Post-Offices in the Township—Town-Hall and Library—Schools—Churches—Societies and Orders.

LOCATION AND NATURAL FEATURES.

THE territory now embraced in Three Oaks township was originally a part of New Buffalo, but was set off in 1856 by the Board of Supervisors.

The name of Three Oaks was first given when the post-office was established in 1854, in consequence of three very large oak-trees standing on the south side of the railroad,

* By Austin N. Hungerford.