

A  
CENTENNIAL BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY  
OF  
RICHLAND COUNTY  
OHIO

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ILLUSTRATED

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A. J. BAUGHMAN, EDITOR.

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CHICAGO  
THE LEWIS PUBLISHING CO.  
1901

## JOHN CRAWFORD.

Among the progressive men of Shiloh Mr. Crawford is numbered. He belongs to that class of representative citizens who while promoting their individual success also contribute to the general welfare, and his position in business circles in his section of Richland county is an enviable one. Born in Huron county, Ohio, on the 19th of September, 1848, he represents one of the pioneer families of the state. His grandfather, John Crawford, came to Richland county during the epoch of its early development and located on a farm in Cass township, where he spent his remaining days.

His son, James Crawford, was a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and upon the home farm in Richland county he was reared. He

first married Miss Lydia Guthrie, by whom he had two children, one of whom is yet living,—William, of Adario, Richland county.

After his marriage Mr. Crawford located near Planktown, where he followed the carpenter's trade, which he had learned in early life. Subsequently he engaged in the operation of a sawmill. Some time later his wife died and he afterward married Miss Ella Jane Turbet, who is still living, making her home with her son John. In the early '40s James Crawford removed with his family to Huron county, Ohio, locating in Ripley township, where he conducted a sawmill and also worked at the carpenter's trade. In 1850, however, he returned to Planktown and purchased the old family homestead of one hundred and twenty acres a few miles south of the village, and there he carried on agricultural pursuits until the time of his death, which occurred in 1853. He was a representative of the Democracy and at one time served as justice of the peace. A man of marked energy, the success which he achieved resulted from his own efforts. Of his family of five children, four are yet living, namely: Taylor, who is the postmaster of Shiloh; John, of this review; Porter, who is connected with the Clipper Manufacturing Company of Saginaw, Michigan; and Bell R., the wife of G. W. Harris, a business man of Bucyrus, Ohio.

John Crawford lost his father when only five years of age. He acquired his education in the common schools and in his eighteenth year assumed the management of the home farm, which in the meantime had been rented. He cultivated this land until 1872, when he came to Shiloh and in partnership with his brother Taylor built the Shiloh Grist Mills, which they operated for two years. Then they sold that property and thereby acquired the ownership of a tract of timber land. Through the following four years they dealt in lumber and also operated a sawmill. On the expiration of that period they repurchased the gristmill and admitted their younger brother, Porter, to a partnership in the business, the connection between them continuing for some years, when Taylor Crawford withdrew. The other brothers, however, continued in the milling business until 1895, when John purchased the interest of his brother Porter. In 1897 he admitted Mr. Hall and Mr. From to a partnership, and in the autumn of that year Mr. Crawford and Mr. Hall purchased the interest of Mr. From. In 1899 the former became the sole proprietor and since that time has carried on business alone. He conducts a sawmill in connection with his gristmill and thoroughly understands both branches of the business, so that this enterprise has proved a profitable source of income.

On the 11th of September, 1878, was celebrated the marriage of Mr.

Crawford and Miss Anna Koerber, a native of Shiloh and a daughter of Jacob Koerber. Four children grace this union: Jesse, who is now a stenographer in Cleveland, Ohio; Florence, an instructor in instrumental music; Hazel and Harry, who are at home. The mother died January 29, 1889, and Mr. Crawford was again married, in 1894, his second union being with Miss Lilly McGaw, a native of Shiloh, Ohio, and a daughter of Albert C. McGaw. Three children graced this union, but Grace Corene, their first born, is now deceased. Two sons are J. Mack and Albert Chauncey.

Mr. Crawford is a member of Shiloh Council, No. 374, R. A., and is a Republican in his political views. He belongs to the Lutheran church and for the past twenty-two years has served as its chorister. His success in business has been uniform. As has been truly remarked, after all that may be done for man in the way of giving him early opportunities for obtaining the requirements which are sought in the schools and in books, he must essentially formulate, determine and give shape to his own character, and this is what Mr. Crawford has done. He has persevered in the pursuit of a persistent purpose and gained a satisfactory reward.