

PAST AND PRESENT
OF
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OHIO

ALBERT B. WILLIAMS

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JACOB LEPLEY.

One of the well known and highly revered pioneers of this section of the Buckeye state who is eminently entitled to a place in his country's history was Jacob Lepley, long since departed to that "undiscovered bourne from whence no traveler e'er returns." He is remembered as a man of many

sterling attributes of head and heart, courageous, loyal to the right as he saw and understood the right, a persistent worker and a man of public spirit. He lived in an epoch that tried men's souls and tested their mettle, and he was not found wanting in the performance of his innumerable tasks. He was a fine type of those men who redeemed the fertile farms of today from the wilderness and made possible the pleasant homes of the present generation.

Mr. Lepley was born in Pennsylvania on June 7, 1801, and there he grew to manhood, his early life not differing materially from that of other pioneer children. Upon reaching manhood he married Margaret Hoyman, who was also born in Pennsylvania on April 17, 1801. They left Somerset county, that state, in 1825 and came to Knox county, Ohio, locating on a farm in Butler township, and there by hard work developed a farm on which they spent the balance of their lives, his death occurring on October 15, 1882, and the mother on May 5, 1878. In connection with farming, he also followed carpentering. He entered a quarter section of land here, thus founding the Lepley homestead. Hunting and fishing were his recreations, and he delighted in each, being a successful sportsman, in the days when game was abundant. Politically, he was a Jeffersonian, Jacksonian Democrat and loyal to his convictions. His wife was a great worker in the church, the field and the home. She wove and spun their own clothing for her family. They were Lutherans.

To Jacob Lepley and wife ten children were born, named as follows: Caroline, born March 31, 1824, died March 29, 1891; Valentine, born January 22, 1826, lives in Hardin county, Iowa; Polly, born September 12, 1827, died September 15, 1828; William, born July 6, 1829, died June 14, 1903; George, born January 26, 1831, died March 20, 1902; Susanna, born April 25, 1833, died February 25, 1905; Adam, born April 16, 1835, died November 10, 1908, in Hardin county, Iowa; Philip, born April 11, 1837, died October 22, 1909, in Yolo county, California; Elizabeth, October 5, 1839; Nancy, October 16, 1841.

Tradition says that Adam Lepley, Sr., was the first of the Lepleys to come to America; and that he emigrated from Wurtemberg, Germany, and settled in Pennsylvania, later moving to Ohio, where he spent the balance of his days, being an early pioneer here, and he and his wife are both buried in the Lepley cemetery in Knox county. He was born on February 6, 1755, and died on August 26, 1831; his wife was born on March 22, 1755, and her death occurred on April 11, 1842. They had several children, of whom Adam Lepley, Jr., was one, and he was the father of Jacob Lepley, subject of this sketch.